



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Culture in Germany after Nazism - Literary and Philosophical reflections 1944-1966 - 32803

Last update 21-08-2017

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: german, russian & east european studies

Academic year: 2018

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof Birgit Erdle

Coordinator Email: birgiterdle@aol.com

Coordinator Office Hours: Monday, 14:30-16:00

Teaching Staff:

Prof Birgit Erdle

Course/Module description:

In 1944, whilst living in exile in the USA, the philosopher, sociologist and musical theorist Theodor W. Adorno noted: "The idea that after this war life will continue 'normally' or even that culture might be 'rebuilt' – as if the rebuilding of culture were not already its negation – is idiotic." This remark goes directly to the centre of the question we shall be concerned with in this seminar. We shall read fundamental literary and philosophical texts that deal with the intrinsic links between Nazism and culture – or, which, on the contrary, attempt to deny these connections – in order to come to terms with the horror of the mass murders committed under Nazism. Apart from essays by Theodor W. Adorno – which frequently were first broadcast by German radio – we are going to study and discuss texts by, among others, Siegfried Kracauer, Gottfried Benn, Hans Fallada, Heinrich Böll, Jean Amery, Hannah Arendt, and Paul Celan.

Course/Module aims:

the course intends to make students familiar with seminal essayistic, literary and philosophical works which deal with the idea/question of "rebuilding culture" in Germany after 1945

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

know and critically analyze some of the key texts of important thinkers in 20th century;
explain various aspects of intellectual history post 1945 in Germany;
discuss different views on how Nazism and German culture are interrelated;
discuss different concepts of memory and of the aftermath of Nazism in Germany

Attendance requirements(%):

80

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: seminar discussion
reading reports
student presentations

Course/Module Content:

close reading of exemplary texts (in english) of important authors in 20th century, such as Theodor W. Adorno, Siegfried Kracauer, Gottfried Benn, Hans Fallada, Heinrich Böll, Hannah Arendt, Paul Celan, Jean Amery

Required Reading:

All primary texts and secondary literature will be provided

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

*End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 30 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 35 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 35 %
Activity in seminar discussion*

Additional information: