

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

German Culture Arts and Media - 54676

Last update 03-03-2025

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Cont. German Studies:politics, Soc.&Cult

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Tobias Ebbrecht Hartmann

Coordinator Email: Tobias.Ebbrecht-Hartmann@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11:00-12:00 (by prior arrangement)

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Tobias Ebbrecht Hartmann

Course/Module description:

This hybrid course, which is mostly taught online, introduces German contemporary culture in its different forms including theater, cinema, photography and visual arts. Therefore, it gives an insight into different sections and media of contemporary German culture. Furthermore, it introduces theoretical approaches in order to understand and conceptualize German postwar culture. The course is mainly based on key texts from German media theory, social science, communications and critical theory.

Course/Module aims:

The course aims to provide a complex and wide-ranging picture of German culture and to apply interdisciplinary approaches to analyze cultural artifacts, incorporating historical, political, and aesthetic perspectives.

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

Analyze the political, social, and cultural developments in post-war East and West Germany and their influence on artistic production.

Identify and critically engage with key artistic expressions from both East and West Germany, analyzing themes, stylistic choices, and ideological perspectives.

Analyze the visual strategies used by East and West German artists to convey political, social, and everyday realities.

Reflect on the ongoing influence of post-war German art, film, and photography on contemporary German culture.

Attendance requirements(%):

80

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The course will be mostly held online.

Course/Module Content:

- 1) Introduction: Culture or Kultur?*
- 2) German Postwar Culture: A complex entanglement*

-
- 3) *Rising from Rubble: Beginnings of Post-war German Cinema*
 - 4) *Images from the East: DEFA Cinema*
 - 5) *Under the Surface: New German Cinema*
 - 6) *Towards Social Reality: German Documentary Cinema*
 - 7) *Post-Unification Cinema: Reviewing German Film from the Margins*
 - 8) *West German Photography between Photojournalism and Art*
 - 9) *Dissident Photography in the GDR*
 - 10) *East and West German Visual Arts*
 - 11) *Looking at Germany: Gerhard Richter's Paintings*
 - 12) *Germany Digital: Social Media and AI*
 - 13) *Conclusion*

Required Reading:

Burns, Rob and Wilfried van der Will, 'The Federal Republic 1968 to 1990: From the Industrial Society to the Culture Society,' *German Cultural Studies: an introduction*. Ed. Rob Burns (Oxford, 2007): 257-323.

Additional Reading Material:

A full reading list will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 60 %
Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture/ Seminar / Pro-seminar / Research proposal 40 %

Additional information: