



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

GERM 317.11

Topics in German Cultural History: Imagining Social Isolation

Summer 2020

COURSE OUTLINE

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME:** Martin Wagner

**OFFICE LOCATION:** CHD 421

**OFFICE HOURS:** Remotely, by appointment via email.

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** *Please arrange phone calls via email. I may not have access to my office phone or its mailbox.*

**E-MAIL:** martin.wagner@ucalgary.ca

**DESCRIPTION** This literature and film course explores the theme of social isolation in the German imagination from Romanticism to the present. Students will draw on theoretical and historical texts to discuss this theme and reflect on the present condition. The course will be taught in English, and all readings will be in English.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Students gain familiarity with broad trends in German literary, intellectual, and political history from the late eighteenth century to the present.
- Students become acquainted with fundamental questions concerning the ambitions, potential, and limitations of the arts.
- Students are presented precise guidelines for how to construct an academic paper in the humanities.

**OUTCOMES**

- Students are able to explain broad trends in German intellectual and cultural history from the late eighteenth century to the present.
- Students command the theoretical background and practical experience to discuss the potential of historical artistic works to shed light on contemporary social problems.
- Students are versant in good practices in academic writing in the humanities.

**DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES**

- Lecture quizzes: 30% (5 x 6%)
- Participation: 9 %
- Creative Assignment: 15 %
- Feedback on creative assignment: 5 %
- Statement of intent for essay: 5 %
- Essay: 36 %

**GRADING SCALE**

**A+** (97-100%), **A** (92-96%), **A-** (86-91%)

**B+** (81-85%), **B** (76-80%), **B-** (71-75%)

**C+** (67-70%), **C** (62-66%), **C-** (58-61%)

**D+** (54-57%), **D** (50-53%), **F** (0-49%)

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

All required readings are either available online through the library or will be made available on D2L.

**COURSE NOTES**

**Course Expectations:**

- **Quizzes:** In five quizzes, consisting of multiple-choice questions, students' knowledge and understanding of the lectures and assigned readings is tested.
- **Statement of intent for essay (150 words; +/- 20%):** Before completing their final paper (see below), students write a brief statement in which they indicate on which topic they wish to work in



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their essay. This statement will name the creative work(s) that will be analyzed and include a preliminary thesis statement. Additionally, this text should provide a rationale for why the respective work(s) have been chosen.

- **Essay (1000 words; +/- 10%):** Students work on the following task: What can creative works of the past teach us about the contemporary experience of living in isolation? Please answer this question with specific reference to one or two works (these should be works from the German tradition, broadly conceived, but they don't necessarily have to be works explicitly treated in the lectures). The essay will be graded based on the following criteria:
  - o Construction of argument (24/36): Does the paper have a clear and specific thesis statement in the introduction (6)? Does the paper productively discuss counterarguments (6)? Does the paper have a clear and comprehensive introduction and conclusion (6)? Are the transitions between sentences and paragraphs clear and does each paragraph clearly contribute to the main thesis (6)?
  - o Productive and nuanced work with primary and secondary sources (6/36): Does the paper provide evidence for its claims by clear references to primary and/or secondary sources (2 [please note that no consultation of secondary sources is required])? Does the paper introduce quotations with sufficient clarity (2)? Does the paper include a nuanced discussion of the cited texts (2)?
  - o Clarity of writing and form (6/36): Is there a consistent and transparent citation system (2)? Does the essay comply with standard English grammar and spelling and is it stylistically appropriate (2)? Does the paper have a clear and productive title (2)?
- **Participation:** Students are expected to participate in class discussions and to come to class with questions and comments related to the assigned readings and film screenings. To receive a perfect grade, students must make 9 substantial contributions over the course of the semester (in the form of questions, comments etc.). Students may choose to supplement their contributions with short reflective statements (c. 250 words each) about individual class meetings. Each of these statements will be worth up to 3 points (to achieve a perfect score, the writing must be clear, and the statement must demonstrate familiarity with the content of the assigned reading, film screening, or class discussion). These statements have to be emailed to the instructor no later than 48 hours after the meeting on which they comment.
- **Creative Assignment:** Informed by the historical case studies presented in the lectures, students prepare a creative reflection on what it means to live in isolation. This work can consist in a short film (3-5 minutes); a short story or long-form poem (750-1,500 words); a comic (consisting of at least 15 panels); or a drawing or collage (bearing clear traces of detailed work). Students post this assignment on D2L visible to their fellow students the class. **The assignment can be completed alone or in teams of up to three students.** This assignment will be graded based on completion (on time) only.
- **Feedback on Creative Assignment (250 words; +/- 20 %):** Students provide respectful feedback on one of the publicly posted creative works by their fellow students. In their feedback, they state what the main insight is that this work provides for our understanding of the topic of social isolation. Please also comment specifically on the question of whether the artwork appears to treat the topic too directly or too indirectly to allow for a productive reflection on the topic. With the consent of the author(s) of the respective work, this feedback can be posted publicly on D2L.

**All written assignments have to be uploaded to D2L—except for the optional written assignments to satisfy the expectation for class participation (see above). Please use Word documents for all written assignments. The quizzes have to be completed by the due date to receive credit. Other submissions will receive a 1-point deduction per 24 hours delay.**



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#### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

- a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
- c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

#### **COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

#### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT**

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

#### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this



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need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>).

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

**FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES**

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: [arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate](https://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate).

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).

**INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

**SUPPORT AND RESOURCES**

A link to required information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources, can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.