Course Title
Topics in 20\textsuperscript{th}-Century German Literature: Domestic Novels

Course Number
GERM-UA.9298001; SOC-UA.9435001

Instructor Contact Information
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Neuber
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Course Details
Mondays, 5:15pm – 8:00pm
Location of class: NYU Berlin, Academic Centre, Room ‘Treptow’

Prerequisites
None

Units earned
4

Course Description
The family is the nucleus of society, as has often been claimed. It may be basically a genetic phenomenon, yet it has always been socially construed. The course will primarily study the function of social and biological families, of blessings and burdens, betrayals and bonding in German-language novels from the late 19\textsuperscript{th} to the 21\textsuperscript{st} century. Essays by Engels, Freud and Foucault provide the sociological framework for the interpretation of the literary texts and for a general understanding of how the family has been practiced, (mis)understood and theorised throughout the long 20\textsuperscript{th} century.

Course Objective
This course aims to familiarise students with diverse forms of literary and sociological representations of families as well as to enhance their historical knowledge of a formative factor in the development of mankind. Furthermore, the course focuses on developing the students’ awareness of different writing styles and scholarly approaches, which not only stand for specific genres or particular facets of the history of sociology and German-language literature, but also mirror manifold individual perspectives on the family.

Assessment Components
Class participation (including well-prepared reading: making excerpts and annotations to the
respective texts) counting 20% of total grade.  
- For class participation see also ‘Classroom Etiquette’ (below).  
Three papers (7 pages each) counting 75% of total grade (25% each).  
- NB: All papers are to be submitted as hard copies.  
Class presentation (5 to 10 minutes) counting 5% of total grade.  

Failure to submit or fulfil any required component will result in failure of the class, regardless of grades achieved in other assignments.

Assessment Expectations

**Grade A:** The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers well-structured arguments in his/her work. The student writes comprehensive essays / answers to exam questions and his/her work shows strong evidence of critical thought and extensive reading.

**Grade B:** The candidate shows a good understanding of the problem and has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy.

**Grade C:** The work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However, the work fails to organise findings coherently and is in need of improvement.

**Grade D:** The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research.

**Grade F:** The work shows that the research problem is not understood; there is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible.

Grade Conversion

Your instructor may use one of the following scales of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

\[
\begin{align*}
B+ &= 87-89 \\
C+ &= 77-79 \\
D+ &= 67-69 \\
F &= \text{below 65}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
A &= 94-100 \\
B &= 84-86 \\
C &= 74-76 \\
D &= 65-66
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
A- &= 90-93 \\
B- &= 80-83 \\
C- &= 70-73
\end{align*}
\]

Alternatively:

\[
\begin{align*}
A &= 4.0 \\
A- &= 3.7 \\
B+ &= 3.3 \\
B &= 3.0 \\
B- &= 2.7 \\
C+ &= 2.3 \\
C &= 2.0 \\
C- &= 1.7 \\
D+ &= 1.3 \\
D &= 1.0 \\
F &= 0.0
\end{align*}
\]

Attendance Policy

Participation in all classes is essential for your academic success, especially in courses that meet only once per week. Your attendance in both content and language courses is required and will be checked at each class meeting. As soon as it becomes clear that you cannot attend a class, you must inform your professor by e-mail immediately (i.e. before the start of your class). Absences are only excused if they are due to illness, religious observance or emergencies. Your professor or
NYU Berlin’s administration may ask you to present a doctor’s note or an exceptional permission from NYU Berlin’s Director or Wellness Counselor as proof. Emergencies or other exceptional circumstances must be presented to the Director. Doctor’s notes need to be submitted to the Academics Office, who will inform your professors. Doctor’s notes need to be from a local doctor and carry a signature and a stamp. If you want the reasons for your absence to be treated confidentially, please approach NYU Berlin’s Director or Wellness Counselor.

Unexcused absences affect students’ grades: In content courses each unexcused absence (equaling one week's worth of classes) leads to a deduction of 2% of the overall grade and may negatively affect your class participation grade. In German Language classes two or three (consecutive or non-consecutive) unexcused absences (equaling one week's worth of classes) lead to a 2% deduction of the overall grade. Three unexcused absences in one content course and five unexcused absences in your German language course may lead to a Fail in that course. Furthermore, your professor is entitled to deduct points for frequent late arrival or late arrival back from in-class breaks. Being more than 15 minutes late counts as an unexcused absence. Please note that for classes involving a field trip, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive in time at the announced meeting point.

Exams, tests and quizzes, deadlines, and oral presentations that are missed due to illness always require a doctor's note as documentation. It is the student's responsibility to produce this doctor's note and submit it to the Academics Office; until this doctor's note is produced the missed assessment is graded with an F and no make-up assessment is scheduled. In content classes, an F in one assignment may lead to failure of the entire class.

**Attendance Rules on Religious Holidays**

Members of any religious group may, without penalty, excuse themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Students who anticipate being absent due to religious observance should notify their lecturer AND NYU Berlin's Academics Office in writing via e-mail one week in advance. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Academics Office will schedule a make-up examination or extend the deadline for assignments. Please note that an absence is only excused for the holiday but not for any days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. See also [http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-calendar-policy-on-religious-holidays.html](http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-calendar-policy-on-religious-holidays.html)

**Late Submission of Work**

(1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

(2) Late work should be submitted in person to the instructor or to the Assistant Director for Academics, who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff may also personally accept the work, and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above.

(3) Work submitted late receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100 point scale for each day it is late (excluding weekends and public or religious holidays), unless an extension has been approved (with a doctor's note or by approval of NYU Berlin's administration), in which case the 2 points per day deductions start counting from the day the extended deadline has passed.

(4) Without an approved extension, written work submitted more than 5 days (excluding weekends and public or religious holidays) following the submission date receives an F.
(5) End of semester essays must be submitted on time.

(6) Students who are late for a written exam have no automatic right to take extra time or to write the exam on another day.

(7) Please remember that university computers do not keep your essays - you must save them elsewhere. Having lost parts of your essay on the university computer is no excuse for a late submission.

Provisions for Students with Disabilities
Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980 or see their website (http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-andwellness/students-with-disabilities.html) for further information.

Plagiarism Policy
The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism. Proper referencing of your sources avoids plagiarism (see as one possible help the NYU library guide to referencing styles: http://nyu.libguides.com/citations).

NYU Berlin takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. Your instructor may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form.

It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.

For a summary of NYU Global's academic policies please see: www.nyu.edu/global/academic-policies

Required Texts
No books need to be bought. All texts will be provided on NYU Classes or are accessible online. One copy of each book is kept in the Reading Room of NYU Berlin's Academic Centre, for you to read in the centre but not to take out.

NYU Berlin Library Catalogue: http://guides.nyu.edu/global/berlin or follow the link on NYU Berlin's website (Academics/Facilities & Services).

Internet Research Guidelines
To be discussed in class

Additional Required Equipment
None
Class Schedule

Session 1 – 30 Jan 2017
Introduction
Introduction to the course, discussion of the syllabus, getting to know each other, finding common interests.

Session 2 – 6 Feb 2017
Studies in the Sociology of the Family I: A Materialistic Approach to Its History
Read for class:
Friedrich Engels: The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State (chapters I, II, VIII, IX)
https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1884/origin-family/

Session 3 – 13 Feb 2017
Studies in the Sociology of the Family II: Psycho-Analysis
Read for class:
Sigmund Freud: Analysis of a Phobia in a Five-year-old Boy (pp. 5-21, 110-149)

Session 4 – 20 Feb 2017
Studies in the Sociology of the Family III: Psycho-Analysis
Read for class:
Sigmund Freud: Totem and Taboo (pp. 1-25, 100-108, 132-161)

27 Feb 2017 – NO CLASS

Session 5 – 3 March 2017 (make-up class, 13.30-16.15)
Studies in the Sociology of the Family IV: Discourse Theory
Michel Foucault: The History of Sexuality (pp. 1-13, 46, 75-131)

Session 6 – 10 March 2017
The Family as Tribe
Read for class:
Gustav Freytag: Ingo (chapters 1 and 2)
Text available on http://tinyurl.com/leopold-ingofirstnovelof00freyiala
First paper (7 pages) due

Spring Break – 11-19 March – No Classes

Session 7 – 20 March 2017
The Bourgeois Family I
Theodor Fontane: The Poggenpuhl Family (pp. 169-195, 230-267, 279-281)
Session 8 – 27 March 2017
The Bourgeois Family II
Thomas Mann: The Buddenbrooks (pp. 3-45, 73-81, 415-425)
Office hour before and after class to discuss the short papers

Session 9 – 3 April 2017
Questioning Kinship
Read for class:
Heimito von Doderer: The Merovingians, or The Total Family (chapters 4, 5)

Session 10 – 7 April 2017 (make-up class)
The Family as Legacy
Read for class:
Arno Geiger: We Are Doing Fine (pp. 1-33, 75-97, 255-300)
Second paper (7 pages) due

Session 11 – 10 April 2017
Competitive Troubles
Read for Class:
Uwe Timm: In My Brother's Shadow (pp. 1-44, 122-148)
Office hour before and after class to discuss the short papers

17 April 2017 – NO CLASS – Public Holiday

Session 12 – 21 April 2017 (make-up class)
Family Confusion
Read for class:
Eva Menasse: Vienna (pp. 1-20, 360-391)

Session 13 – 24 April 2017
The Relevance of Money
Read for class:
Katharina Hacker: The Have-Nots (pp. 11-37, 319-341)

1 May 2017 – NO CLASS – Public Holiday

Session 14 – 8 May 2017
Emotions as Ties
Read for class:
Julia Franck: The Blindness of the Heart (pp. 1-63)

Session 15 – 15 May 2017
Isolation
Read for class:
Classroom Etiquette
It is indispensable that students engage in the discussions of and offer ideas on the texts, films or images which need to be thoroughly prepared prior the to respective classroom meeting. Only by actively discussing the issues at stake can the students develop the ability to critically measure and appreciate a text's/film's/image's potentials. In other words, the students' active classroom participation (answering questions, offering their thoughts and discussing the issue at stake) is crucial to the success of the class. As a consequence, the students’ classroom activity counts for 20% of the overall grade in this course.

Electronic devices of any kind may not be used during class.

Your Instructor
Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Neuber teaches German Literature at Freie Universität Berlin; he was a Visiting Professor of Literature at NYU Abu Dhabi from 2010-2015 and taught three J-Terms (2013-2015) at NYU Berlin. He has been with NYU Berlin since August 2015.
https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wolfgang_Neuber
http://www.geisteswissenschaften.fu-berlin.de/we04/institut/mitarbeiter/neuber/index.html