This course examines the relationship between the arts and politics in 20th century Germany by focusing on film and literature under two very different regimes: the democratic Weimar Republic (1919-1933) and communist East Germany (1945-1989). We will do so by viewing seminal films like *Nosferatu*, *Berlin: Symphony of a Great City*, *M: A City Searches for a Murderer*, *The Murderers Are Among Us* and *Goodbye Lenin*. We will also read together several significant novels of from both era: Joseph Roth’s *The Spider’s Web*, Vicki Baum’s *Grand Hotel*, Erich Kästner’s *Going to the Dogs*, Hans Fallada’s *Nightmare in Berlin* and Christa Wolf’s *They Divided the Sky*.

**Course requirements:** Class members are expected to attend all sessions **with your camera on**, do the reading on time and participate in class discussions (30% of grade). In addition, students will write 4 two-page response papers (double-spaced, 12 point). Each paper should address some aspect of the week’s reading that you found **surprising**, **provocative** or **inspiring**. These papers should be submitted through Turn It In on: June 2, June 9, June 16, June 23 (40% of grade). Finally, a **5 page take home exam will be distributed on Wednesday, June 30 at 9am EST and is due back on Thursday, July 1 at 9am EST** (30% of grade). **Any cases of plagiarism will result in an F on the assignment in question and the reporting of the incident to the appropriate dean of your college.**

Professor Ertman can best be reached by e-mail (te11@nyu.edu). If you wish to speak to him please make an appointment either just before or after class.
SCHEDULE OF FILMS AND READINGS

Week 1:  (May 25): Course Introduction; Film: The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (1920).
(May 27): The Early Crises of the Weimar Republic; Film: Nosferatu (1922)

Week 2:  (June 1): Weimar’s Golden Years; Film: Berlin Symphony of a Big City (1927)
(June 3): Weimar’s Golden Years; Film: People on Sunday (1929/30)
Reading: Vicki Baum, Grand Hotel (1929) (NYRB Classics, 2016), entire. Available in Kindle form through Amazon or in an older edition online via NYU Bobcat.

Week 3:  (June 8): The Crisis of Weimar; Film: M (1931).
(June 10): The Crisis of Weimar; Film: Kuhle Wampe (1932).

Week 4:  (June 15): Post-War Berlin; Film: The Murderers Are Among Us (1946).
(June 17): Post-War Berlin; Film: Somewhere in Berlin (1946).

Week 5:  (June 22): Communist East Germany; Film: The Story of a Young Couple (1952).
(June 24): Communist East Germany; Film: Just Married (1988).

Week 6:  (June 29): The Collapse of East Germany; Film: Goodbye Lenin (2003).
(July 1): No Class—Work on Final Paper.


TAKE-HOME EXAMS DUE BACK ON THURSDAY, JULY 1 BY 9am EST