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2024

German 250W (German Film and Media)

Christa Spreizer
CUNY Queens College, christine.spreizer@qc.cuny.edu

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Fall 2024
German 250W: German Film and Media
Online Synchronous

German Film and Media - Weimar German Cinema (1918-1933).

Course Description:
This course will look at various iconic Weimar German silent and sound films of the early 20th century such as *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*, *Nosferatu*, *The Nibelungen*, *Metropolis*, *M*, *Dr. Mabuse*, *Blue Angel* and others. We will analyze the extraordinary development of German cinema during a period of great political and economic instability, and an all-encompassing cultural revival. Lectures will be in English; films will be in the original language with subtitles. Students must view the films in their entirety before class and participate actively in synchronous and asynchronous activities. **Fulfills "Writing Intensive" requirement. Counts towards the QC German major and minor. May be taken more than once provided the topic is different.**

This class uses open educational resources and zero-textbook-cost materials.

All readings, discussions and writing assignments are in English. All films are in the original German with English subtitles. This course counts towards the QC German major and minor. German 250 may be taken more than once provided the topic is different.

This course is a Writing Intensive (W) course and fulfills one Writing Intensive requirement. W classes include a significant portion of time devoted to writing instruction. This may include things such as revision workshops, discussions of rhetorical strategies, or reflective writing about writing assignments. Writing-Intensive objectives of the course include: improving skills related to articulating a focused argument, developing ideas through techniques such as outlining and revision, writing in clear prose, using language appropriate to an academic audience.

For more general information on Writing Intensive courses, see:
https://www.qc.cuny.edu/academics/gened/writing/

Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:
- Become familiar with the cultural, political and historical context of Weimar era film-making and identify German historical and cultural references through film.
- Become more conversant in vocabulary related to cinematic topics
- Analyze and describe character, plot development, and other cinematic conventions and techniques
- Express, support and defend opinions on film, cultural, and historical topics raised during class discussions and assignments
- Develop a more critical understanding of the film medium and mass media in general

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ZTC COURSE MATERIALS:

Required Films:

All films must be viewed in their entirety "before" class. Weekly discussion questions must also be completed before class sessions. They will guide our in-class analysis of the films.

All videos are available free at the following links. It is important that you use these links for this course as they link to the most complete versions. These links are also listed on our E-Reserve site.

Weimar Expressionism and Gothic Horror:
Das Kabinett des Dr. Caligari / The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (Robert Wiene, 1920)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lfEp5t2FlE

Nosferatu, eine Symphonie des Grauens / A Symphony of Horror (FW Murnau, 1922)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KdYZGHC9tpI

German Sagas and the Fantastic
Die Nibelungen / The Niebelungs (Fritz Lang, 1924)
Part I: Siegfried. Approx 2.5 hrs.
Silent film with English summaries: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mPUaDyGCiU
Part II: Kriemhild's Revenge. Approx. 2 hrs.
Silent film with English summaries: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLCISO9-w84

Crime and Debauchery in Urban Life
The Blue Angel / Der Blaue Engel (Josef von Sternberg, 1930)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sdww58D6rhc

M (Fritz Lang, 1931)
Sound film with English subtitles: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdSL9FvCv0U
English subtitles with English commentary: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkLHcUYGB30

Futurist Cityscapes and Class Conflict
Metropolis (Fritz Lang, 1927)
Silent film with English summaries: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_4no842TX8

Berlin and the New Objectivity
Berlin: Sinfonie einer Großstadt / Symphony of a Metropolis (Walther Ruttmann, 1927)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBCGTp3egbc

Menschen am Sonntag/People on Sunday (Edgar G. Ulmer, Robert Siodmak, 1930)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3Lowi90F8I

Film as Politics
TBA

Grading:

Collegiality and Preparedness	25%
Online Writing Activities (Discussion Boards etc.)	15%
3 Response Papers	30%
Final Examination (cumulative)	30%

Collegiality and Preparedness. 25 percent. Your engaged interest in the course will be assessed by general class preparedness and informed participation in class discussions. As participation is 25 percent of the grade, it is important that you contribute actively and often. Participation will take place during class meetings and via asynchronous activities.

Online Writing Activities. 15 percent.
Weekly discussion board responses will serve as a springboard for synchronous sessions. These must be completed before the class session.

Three (3) Response Papers. 30 percent.
Written assignments must be completed as scheduled. The initial submission will need to be a substantial and well-informed effort to meet the assignment criteria. The final version should take into account fellow student and/or teacher critiques.
You must submit **BOTH** the **original draft** and the **final version** in order to receive a grade. Failure to submit both will result in an "F" for the assignment. Late submissions will be penalized.*

Final Examination. 30 percent.
The examination will include both short answer and essay length questions. A study sheet will be distributed and discussed in advance of the final.

*Regarding Late Work.
Late assignments will be penalized one (1) grading increment for each BUSINESS DAY (not meeting day) it is late. For example, if a version of your writing assignment is one week late, it will be penalized 5 grading increments (i.e. your submission will receive a B- or lower).

Please contact the instructor directly via email or during office hours regarding any absences or late work due to personal or family emergencies.

Regarding Writing Assignments and Academic Integrity.
All submitted assignments must be good-faith original efforts on your part. Any evidence of cheating or plagiarism (i.e. cutting/pasting from another source into your paper, not attributing proper credit for ideas or materials, having someone else or AI write your assignment etc.) will result in an "F" for the assignment.

Please see the following for QC's policy on academic integrity:
https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/policies-procedures/academic-integrity-policy/.

QC LEARNING PLATFORMS:

To participate in this class, you will need access to a computer/laptop and have a reliable internet connection. It is not possible to take this course using a cellphone. Some of the media we will access require a highspeed internet connection to be effective.

All students must have their camera on at all times during online sessions.

All students must activate their Queens College email account. This is required for basic communication, and to access the platforms and software we will be using this semester.

This course will be using the Brightspace and Zoom learning platforms.

The Zoom course link will be located on our Brightspace course site and will be emailed to students before the first session. The CUNY Zoom access point is: https://cuny.zoom.us/

Students should not use a private Zoom account as this may interfere with the stability of the connection and the use of break-out rooms.

If you require technical help with any of your accounts, please contact the Queens College Helpdesk located in the I-Building helpdesk@qc.cuny.edu.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR ALL QUEENS COLLEGE STUDENTS:

Reasonable Accommodations for Students With Disabilities
Candidates with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: 1) register with and provide documentation to the Special Services Office, Frese Hall, Room 111; 2) bring a letter indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. For more information about services available to Queens College candidates, visit http://www.qc.cuny.edu/studentlife/services/specialserv/Pages/default.aspx, or contact: Special Service Office; Director, Miriam Detres-Hickey, Frese Hall, Room 111; 718-997-5870 (Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. & Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4 pm.).

CUNY Policy On Academic Integrity
Academic Dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension, and expulsion as provided at http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/Academic_Integrity_Policy.pdf. Please read this document, paying careful attention to the sections on plagiarism and Internet plagiarism. If you are not sure how to cite work you have found on the internet, please review the APA Guidelines provided by the Purdue OWL.

Netiquette
Please maintain a professional demeanor when posting online. You can be respectful even when you have a difference of opinion. Treat others as you'd want to be treated yourself. Don't type in all caps, as that is the online equivalent of shouting. If you need to emphasize a word or phrase, use italics.

Statement on student wellness
As a student, you may experience a range of challenges that can interfere with learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, substance use, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may diminish your academic performance and/or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. QC services are available free of charge. You can learn more about confidential mental health services available on campus at: https://www.qc.cuny.edu/StudentLife/services/counseling/counseling/

Use of Student Work
All programs in New York State undergo periodic reviews by accreditation agencies. For these purposes, samples of student work are occasionally made available to those professionals conducting the review. Anonymity is assured under these circumstances. If you do not wish to have your work made available for these purposes, please let the professor know before the start of the second class. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Course Evaluations
During the final four weeks of the semester, you will be asked to complete an evaluation for this course by filling out an online questionnaire. Please remember to participate in these course evaluations. Your comments are highly valued, and these evaluations are an important service to fellow students and to the institution, since your responses will be pooled with those of other students and made available online, in the Queens College Course Information System (http://courses.qc.cuny.edu). Please also note that all responses are completely anonymous; no identifying information is retained once the evaluation has been submitted.

Technical Support
The Queens College Helpdesk (http://www.qc.cuny.edu/computing/, (718) 997-4444, helpdesk@qc.cuny.edu) is located in the I-Building, Room 151 and provides technical support for students who need help with Queens College email, CUNY portal, BrightSpace, and CUNYfirst.

Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools
Use of an AI Generator such as ChatGPT, iA Writer, MidJourney, DALL-E, etc. is prohibited unless otherwise noted by the instructor. The information derived from these tools is based on previously published materials. Therefore, using these tools without proper citation constitutes plagiarism. Additionally, be aware that the information derived from these tools is often inaccurate or incomplete. It's imperative that all work submitted be your own. Any assignment that is found to have been plagiarized or to have used unauthorized AI tools will receive a zero/no credit and students may be reported for academic misconduct.

GENERAL LINKS OF INTEREST:

For information on the QC German Program:
https://www.qc.cuny.edu/academics/ell/german/

German Program Resources and Special Opportunities page:
https://www.qc.cuny.edu/academics/ell/german-resources/

QC Study Abroad
https://www.qc.cuny.edu/academics/sa/

The QC Berlin Summer Program
http://www.fubis.org/

The "Easy German" series on youtube has fun and informative short clips on learning German at all language levels:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbxb2fqe9oNgglAoYqsYOtQ

Netflix, Amazon, Hulu, Youtube etc. offer a large selection of foreign films. German subtitles and dubbing are available for many movies and TV series.

Selected German language media (streaming videos, DVDs) are also available free via **QC OneSearch:**
https://cuny-qc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

This schedule is subject to change. For the most up to date information and activities, always refer to Course Announcements on BrightSpace site ("Announcements" page). Watch and read actively and come prepared to discuss the assignment(s) for that day.

August 2024

28 Wednesday **Weimar German Cinema**. Introductions.

September 2024

2 Monday **College Closed**

4 Wednesday **Weimar Expressionism and Gothic Horror**
Das Kabinett des Dr. Caligari / The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (Robert Wiene, 1920)

9 Monday *Das Kabinett des Dr. Caligari / The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (Robert Wiene, 1920)*

11 Wednesday *Nosferatu, eine Symphonie des Grauens / A Symphony of Horror (FW Murnau, 1922)*
Response Paper #1 Draft Due

16 Monday *Nosferatu, eine Symphonie des Grauens / A Symphony of Horror (FW Murnau, 1922)*

18 Wednesday **German Sagas and the Fantastic**
Die Nibelungen / The Niebelungs (Fritz Lang, 1924)
Part I: Siegfried (approx 2.5 hrs)

23 Monday *Die Nibelungen / The Niebelungs* (Fritz Lang, 1924)
Part I: Siegfried.

25 Wednesday *Die Nibelungen / The Niebelungs* (Fritz Lang, 1924)
Part II: Kriemhild's Revenge (approx. 2 hrs. viewing time)
Response Paper #1 Final Version Due

30 Monday *Die Nibelungen / The Niebelungs* (Fritz Lang, 1924)
Part II: Kriemhild's Revenge.

October 2024

2 Wednesday **No Classes Scheduled**

7 Monday **Futurist Cityscapes and Class Conflict**
Metropolis (Fritz Lang, 1927)

9 Wednesday *Metropolis* (Fritz Lang, 1927)

14 Monday **College Closed**

15 Tuesday **Classes follow Monday Schedule**

Metropolis (Fritz Lang, 1927)

16 Wednesday *Metropolis* (Fritz Lang, 1927)
Response Paper #2 Draft Due

21 Monday **Crime and Debauchery in Urban Life**
Blue Angel / Der Blaue Engel (Josef von Sternberg, 1930)

23 Wednesday *Blue Angel / Der Blaue Engel* (Josef von Sternberg, 1930)

28 Monday *Blue Angel / Der Blaue Engel* (Josef von Sternberg, 1930)
Response Paper #2 Final Version Due

30 Wednesday *M* (Fritz Lang, 1931)

November 2024

4 Monday *M* (Fritz Lang, 1931)

6 Wednesday *M* (Fritz Lang, 1931)

11 Monday **Berlin and the New Objectivity**
Berlin: Sinfonie einer Großstadt /Symphony of a Metropolis (Walther Ruttmann, 1927)

13 Wednesday *Berlin:Sinfonie einer Großstadt /Symphony of a Metropolis* (Walther Ruttmann, 1927)

18 Monday *Berlin:Sinfonie einer Großstadt /Symphony of a Metropolis* (Walther Ruttmann, 1927)

20 Wednesday *Menschen am Sonntag/People on Sunday* (Edgar G. Ulmer, Robert Siodmak, 1930)
Response Paper #3 Draft Due

25 Monday *Menschen am Sonntag/People on Sunday* (Edgar G. Ulmer, Robert Siodmak, 1930)

27 Wednesday **Classes follow Friday Schedule**

December 2024

2 Monday **Film as Propaganda: The Works of Leni Riefenstahl**
Triumph des Willens / *Triumph of the Will* (Leni Riefenstahl, 1935) (tentative)
Response Paper #3 Final Version Due

4 Wednesday *Triumph des Willens* / *Triumph of the Will* (Leni Riefenstahl, 1935) (tentative)

9 Monday Concluding Remarks

11 Wednesday Concluding Remarks

16– 20 December **Final Exam**