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# Deutsch 298: Jugend- und Popkulturen

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## >Kursbeschreibung<

### Overview:

German 298 is an advanced conversation and composition course designed around the topic of youth cultures and their relationship to popular culture in contemporary Germany. In addition to investigating the contemporary German idea of youth and its similarities and differences to American counterparts, German 298 provides advanced language learners with opportunities to strengthen their writing and speaking skills. In order to enhance meaningful output, students will also be required to hone their ability to comprehend written and spoken German. Over the course of the semester students will:

- increase their active and passive vocabulary in speaking and writing.
- work toward improving their fluency and comprehensibility.
- review their command of German grammar. Particular emphasis will be placed on grasping more sophisticated grammar rules.
- learn to read and interpret a wide array of fictional and non-fictional texts. Genres slated for discussion include: three novels, short stories, newspaper articles, essays, press releases, song lyrics, and films.
- gain a better understanding of cultural similarities and differences between the United States and contemporary Germany. To this end, students *will assess how fictional and non-fictional materials represent and misrepresent the idea of youth as something fleeting, bound to the 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> centuries, and superficial.*

### Course Policies:

**>Attendance:** Language proficiency is acquired through daily practice. For this reason, regular attendance is mandatory. After three absences during the semester, whether excused or not, each subsequent absence will result in an automatic reduction of the final grade by one step (e.g. B- to C+).

**>Class Participation:** Active participation in German 298 is essential. Each student's performance will be monitored on a daily basis and will be suitably evaluated. In order to complete German 298 successfully, students must regularly come to class prepared and ready to discuss assigned texts. Poor participation will significantly affect a student's final grade.

**>Class Preparation:** Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the material assigned for that day. Daily preparation includes but is not limited to: reading assigned texts, learning new vocabulary, answering reading questions, reviewing grammar points, and/or completing grammar assignments. **Texts that are made available a pdf files must be PRINTED and BROUGHT to class.**

**>Reading & Writing Assignments:** Daily preparation for German 298 entails not only reading assigned texts, but also writing out various writing assignments. Students enrolled in German 298 should recognize that this course involves a regular writing component. Writing assignments (see below) include: reading questions, grammar exercises, additional homework assignments and essays.

**>Written Homework:** Grammar exercises will be regularly assigned from the grammar review textbook. Reading questions posted on the course page will be assigned for all readings, as well as additional homework on the syllabus. Students are responsible for writing out their responses. Written homework assignments will be collected randomly throughout the semester at the instructor's discretion.

**>Quizzes and Final Exam:** There will be 5 short quizzes during the semester that will test material (literary and grammatical) covered in the past week. The final exam will test both the first and second half of the semester.

**>Film Viewings:** In addition to viewing various short film segments in class (such as *Good-Bye Lenin!*), one film will be shown in conjunction with German 298, *Baader* (2001, dir. Christopher Roth). This film will be screened prior to the corresponding discussions in class. Students are strongly urged to attend the viewing. If, however, a student is unable to attend the viewing, she/he will be expected to watch the video on her/his own time. *Baader* will be on reserve at Miller Library for the duration of the semester. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

### **Required Texts:**

- 1) Rankin, Jamie, and Larry D. Wells. *Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik*. 4th Edition. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 2001. (ISBN-10: 0618338128; ISBN-13: 978-0618338122)
- 2) *Zonenkinder*, von Jana Hensel (ISBN-10: 3499235323; ISBN-13: 978-3499235320)
- 3) *Frühlings Erwachen: Eine Kindertragödie*, von Frank Wedekind (ISBN-10: 3150079519; ISBN-13: 978-3150079515)
- 4) copies of required additional texts are available on the course wiki.

### **Writing Assignments:**

**>Essays:** Students will write a total of four short essays (two-three, double-spaced, typewritten pages using Times New Roman font size 12) over the course of the semester. Students will be required to rewrite the first two essays. The final grade of the first two papers will take into account the quality of the initial effort as well as the effort toward improvement of grammar and content. Students are requested to familiarize themselves with their computer so that they are capable of producing German characters (such as "Ü" and "ß"). Late papers are subject to a lower grade. Acceptance of late papers is at the discretion of the instructor. **See below for information on fourth essay!**

Please print your essays double-sided.

Every essay must include on the last page a handwritten statement certifying that the student did not receive any help from another person or the internet in its completion.

**>Pop-Reportagen:** Students are responsible for blogging their thoughts about the representation of, news about/for, and images distributed to youth through various websites. Links to the websites are under the "Pop-Links" on the course wiki. The link "Pop-Reportagen – Bloggen Sie was passiert!" will take you to where your blog will be. Create your own blog for this page via <https://www.blogger.com/start>

Once you have made a blog template (see mine for reference: <http://pop298.blogspot.com/>) send me the link and I will post it on this page. You must make one blog entry a week, and regularly read and comment on your classmates' blogs. Your entries do not need to be long, around 5-10 sentences, and should offer your thoughts about what you have seen. You are free to follow particular website, a particular theme/topic (say, beauty tips, politics, usw.) during the course of the semester or hop around.

**>Pop-Projekte:** Each student must take part in a project during the course of the semester that uses the weekly Pop-Reportagen to reexamine and analyze one of the topics covered during class. Students may work in groups of 2.

**Structure of the Project:** There are two parts to a semester project: an in-class presentation to take place on the last day of class and a written report on the project, background information and personal reflection on the topic.

**Preparation and Form:** At least one week prior to the presentation groups must meet with me to discuss topics, research and ideas for the presentation. Presentations should last 15 minutes and **must not be read from a script**. It is expected that the rest of the class will actively participate in the presentation. Students should take advantage of multi-media resources. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require technological assistance.

**Written Reports:** Students/groups must turn in a typed summary of the project. **This written report will count as your final essay!** Written reports should be between 2-4 pages. The written report must contain:

- Title of project
- Summary of class presentation
- Bibliography
- Reflection on the topic, presentation unto itself and in light of the semester topics

### **Grading:**

- 20% Class Participation
- 25% Four essays (plus two revisions)
- 10% Homework assignments (grammar, misc. writing assignments and questions)
- 15% Pop-Reportagen inkl. Pop-Projekt
- 15% Quizzes
- 15% Final Exam

### **Filmreihe: *LOVE* IN THE AGE OF **TERRORISM****

The German Department is screening a series of films for students of German Studies in conjunction with all courses offered this semester. More information from [cshahan@colby.edu](mailto:cshahan@colby.edu) or [rradwan@colby.edu](mailto:rradwan@colby.edu)

**German Table!:** Lust auf Deutsch zu Mittag? Mondays 12:00-1:30, place TBA (either Roberts or Foss)