# Spring 2015: Multicultural Literature in Contemporary Germany

## GRMN 332L/ MCLG 332L

## Contact:

* + Dr. Liz Ametsbichler
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  + Language of instruction is English

## Goals:

1. To give an introduction and a survey of contemporary multicultural literature in Germany.
2. To learn about the historical, legal, social, and political context of postwar immigration (post 1945) to the Federal Republic and to understand the history of existing minorities (Roma & Sinti, Afro-Germans, Jews) within Germany.
3. To examine literature and films produced by minority writers and artists to gain a nuanced insight into their literary production.
4. To obtain knowledge through the texts (primary and secondary texts) on issues of immigration, identity, nationality, multilingualism, gender, diversity, and transnational and cross-cultural concerns regarding Germany, Europe, and the world.

## Required Texts:

\* Antje Harnisch, ed. *Fringe Voices. Texts by and about minorities in the Federal Republic of Germany*

\* Katharina Oguntoye, May Opitz, eds. *Showing our colors: Afro-German Women speak out*. [*Farbe bekennen*]

\* May Ayim. *Blues in Black and White: A collection of Essays, Poetry, and Conversation*. [*Grenzenlos und unverschämt/ nachtgesang/ blues in schwarz weiss*]

\* Barbara Honigmann. *A Love made out of Nothing/Zohara’s Journey: 2 Novels*. [*Eine Liebe aus Nichts*]

\* Rafik Schami. *Damascus Nights*. [*Erzähler der Nacht*]

\* Zafer Senocak. *Atlas of a Tropical Germany*. Transl. and ed. Leslie A. Adelson [*Atlas des tropischen Deutschlands*]

\* Yoko Tawada. *Where Europe begins* [*Wo Europa beginnt*]

\* Emine Sevgi Özdamar. *The Bridge of the Golden Horn* [*Die Brücke am Goldenen Horn*]

## Format:

The class consists of short introductions and some lecture about the material and context, but the focus will be class and/or smaller group discussions of primary and secondary sources. Students are also asked to present certain themes/writers and give an individual presentation towards the end of the semester. The language of this course will be English, although some knowledge of German will be helpful (but not necessary).

## Expectations:

It is expected that all students will be in attendance daily. Regular class participation is the essence of this course. Therefore, in addition to any subsidiary detrimental effect of absences, absences in excess of 3 during the semester will lower the course grade 1/2 grade for every three classes missed: A- to B, B to B-, etc. It is also expected that all students will complete assigned work (both oral and written) as requested and will be prepared for each class session.

## Grading:

**FINAL GRADE BREAKDOWN: POINTS**

Attendance 80 points

(Oral) class participation 140 (14 x 10)

3 shorter essays 150 (3 x 50)

Midterm 100

1 Final essay with presentation 180

(10 pages minimum)

Final Exam 150

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Total 800

## Electronic Devices (Cell Phones, Laptops, Music Players, etc.)

If you bring a cell phone to class, please set it either on vibrate or mute. Unless specified for a class activity, personal computers, music players, and messaging devices are not to be used in class.

## Students with Disabilities

This course offers equal opportunity in education for all participants, including those with documented physical and learning disabilities. For information regarding documentation of disabilities, approaching your instructor with pertinent information, and establishing guidelines for potential accommodation, you may consult the [Disability Services for Students (DSS) website](http://life.umt.edu/dss) at http://life.umt.edu/dss. The DSS Office is located in Lommasson 154; the phone number is 243- 2243.

## Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

Please refer to the Student Conduct Code of the University as it pertains to your responsibility to hand in work and/or perform activities assigned to be your own as indeed representing your own efforts and research. The [Student Conduct Code](http://www.umt.edu/SA/vpsa/index.cfm/page/2585) is available for review online at: http://www.umt.edu/SA/vpsa/index.cfm/page/2585.

**Schedule (tentative) during the semester:**

WEEK One

Monday, 1/26 Introduction and Context

Wednesday, 1/28 Introduction / *Fringe Voices* Introduction p.3-22

Friday, 1/25 Introduction / *Fringe Voices* / *Germany in Transit* Introduction(scanned article)

WEEK Two

Monday, 2/2 Introduction / *Gender, Nation, Immigration to New Europe (*scanned article)

Wednesday, 2/4 *Gender, Nation, Immigration to New Europe*

Friday, 2/6 German Jews / *Fringe Voices* p. 25-30, Part II;Wladimir Kaminer*: Russian Disco* (excerpt; scanned copy)

WEEK Three

Monday, 2/9 German Jews / *Reclaiming Space* (scanned article)

Wednesday, 2/11 Barbara Honigmann: *A Love made out of Nothing*

Friday, 2/13 *A Love made out of Nothing*

WEEK Four

Monday, 2/16 **Presidents’ Day/ UM Holiday / No Class**

Wednesday, 2/18 *A Love made out of Nothing*

Friday, 2/20 Fringe Voices Part III, Afro Germans / *Showing Our Color: Afro-German Women speak out*

WEEK Five

Monday, 2/23 *Showing Our Color* **/ 1st Essay due**

Wednesday, 2/25 May Ayim*: Blues in Black and White*

Friday, 2/27 *Blues in Black and White*

WEEK Six

Monday, 3/2  *Blues in Black and White*

Wednesday, 3/4 *Ein Wort, ein Ort or How Words create Places:* Interview with Yoko Tawada (scanned); Yoko Tawada: “Canned Foreign*” in Where Europe begins*

Friday, 3/6 Yoko Tawada*: “*The Talisman*”* *in Where Europe begins*

WEEK Seven

Monday, 3/9 *Where Europe begins*

Wednesday, 3/11 *Where Europe begins*

Friday, 3/13 Film: Dorris Dörrie: *Enlightenment Guarenteed*  (*Erleuchtung garantiert*)

WEEK Eight

Monday, 3/16 *Enlightenment Guarenteed*

Wednesday, 3/18 *Enlightenment Guarenteed*

Friday, 3/20 *Fringe Voices*, Part V and VI Intro: *Migrant Workers* / *Turks in Germany*

WEEK Nine

Monday, 3/23Zafer Senocak*: Atlas of a Tropical Germany /* Intro Essay by Adelson

Wednesday, 3/25 *Atlas of a Tropical Germany*; **2nd Essay due**

Friday, 3/27 **Midterm**

WEEK Ten

3/ 30 - 4/3 **SPRING BREAK**

WEEK Eleven

Monday, 4/6 **No Class**

Wednesday, 4/8 Emine Sevgi Özdamar: *The Bridge of the Golden Horn*

Friday, 4/10 *The Bridge of the Golden Horn*

WEEK Twelve

Monday, 4/13 *The Bridge of the Golden Horn*

Wednesday, 4/15 *The Bridge of the Golden Horn*

Friday, 4/17 *The Bridge of the Golden Horn*

WEEK Thirteen

Monday, 4/20 Arab-Germans / Intro Essay by Khalil in Dagmar Lorenz, ed. *Transforming the Center* (onReserve and scanned article)

Wednesday, 4/22 Rafik Schami: *Damascus Nights*

Friday, 4/24 *Damascus Nights*

WEEK Fourteen

Monday, 4/27 *Damascus Nights*

Wednesday, 4/29 *Damascus Nights* **3. Essay due**

Friday, 5/1 Ethnic Germans from Eastern Europe / *Fringe Voices* Part IV

WEEK Fifteen

Monday, 5/4 Herta Müller: Nobel lecture of 2009 (scanned)

Wednesday, 5/6 Presentation of Final essay

Friday, 5/8 Presentation of Final essay

Discussion, conclusion, review

### Final Exam: Tuesday, May 12: 10:10 am – 12:10 pm LA 334