Southeast Missouri State University

Department of Foreign Languages

Course No. GN375
Revised _____

Title of Course: The History of German Film

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:

A study of the history of German film from 1919 to the present, including the Weimar Republic, the Third Reich, Post War East and West Germany, and contemporary developments. 3 credit hours

II. Prerequisites:

German 220 (German Literature) or equivalent or consent of the instructor.

III. Course Objectives:

A. To introduce the students to the major German film directors and films of the twentieth-century.

B. To develop an approach to interpret these films as an outgrowth of their cultural, political, and socio-economic milieu.

C. To gain an understanding of Germany and appreciation of the German-speaking world based on their films.

IV. Expectations of Students:

A. Assignments: Students are expected to attend all classes, complete all assigned readings, and see all required films. All films shown are in German with English subtitles. Students will see them outside of class. Only short subjects, clips etc. will be shown in class.

B. Research Project: Students will select one film director or film for their semester project. They present their project in German during the last week of class.

C. In-Class Reports: Students are expected to complete in-class reports on events in the German-speaking world, the assigned readings, and related assignments.

D. Journal: Students are required to complete a bi-weekly journal in German as directed.

E. Deutsche Welle Fernsehen: All students are encouraged to watch German TV on a regular basis to familiarize themselves with life in the German-speaking world, and to report in their journal.
V. Course Content:

A. Overview
The films and assigned readings will include the major film directors of German Expressionism, the Third Reich, the New German Cinema of West Germany, the East German DEFA and contemporary developments in the reunified Germany.

B. Outline
Expressionism: Nosferatu. (Murnau, 1922). (3 hours)
WEEK 2: Cabinet of Dr. Caligari. (Wiene, 1919). (3 hours)
WEEK 3: Metropolis. (Lang, 1927). (3 hours)
WEEK 4: The Third Reich: Der Triumph des Willens. (Riefenstahl, 1934). (3 hours)
WEEK 5: West German Cinema: The Marriage of Maria Braun. (Fassbinder, 1978). (3 hours)
WEEK 6: Germany Pale Mother. (Sanders-Brahms, 1980). (3 hours)
WEEK 7: Marianne und Juliane. (von Trotta, 1981). (3 hours)
WEEK 8: Fitzcarraldo. (Herzog, 1982). (3 hours)
WEEK 9: Wings of Desire. (Wenders, 1987). (3 hours)
WEEK 10: Men. (Dörrie, 1985). (3 hours)
WEEK 11: East German Cinema: The Trace of Stones. (DEFA, 1966). (3 hours)
WEEK 12: Solo Sunny. (DEFA, 1980). (3 hours)
WEEK 13: Post-Unification Cinema: Beyond silence. (Undritz, 1997). (3 hours)
WEEK 14: Run Lola run. (Tykwer, 1999). (3 hours)
WEEK 15: Recent developments in German cinema and its relation to video, TV, and commercials. (3 hours)
WEEK 16: Student presentations. Review for final exam. (3 hours)

VI. Textbook Required:


VII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

Active Class Participation and Oral Reports 10%
Three exams 30%
Term project 30%
Comprehensive Final Exam 20%
Bi-weekly Journal 10%