1. Contemporary German politics

The opening of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the reunification of Germany in 1990 transformed the landscape of German politics and generated a mass of unforeseen problems, many of which are only now beginning to be resolved. Fundamental were the problems of integrating the Länder of the former GDR into the political system of the Federal Republic, the socio-economic and political legacy of the GDR, the question of the identity and self-image of the newly reunited Germany. Equally important were the implications of reunification for Germany’s position in the European Union and for the development of Germany’s relations with the wider world, the latter in ways which shaped the German government’s response to the world crisis triggered by the events of 11 September 2001. The changes of government from Helmut Kohl’s CDU/CSU coalition to Gerhard Schröder’s SPD/Green coalition in 1998 both underlined continuities and introduced changes. The emergence of Angela Merkel at the head of a grand coalition in 2005 and then of a CDU/CSU/FDP coalition from 2009 was accompanied by a growing self-confidence of the Berlin Republic which was evident in the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of ‘Die Wende’ in 2009-10 and the twenty-fifth anniversary in 2015-16. However, just when it seemed that the ‘German question’ had finally been answered the European financial crisis, the refugee crisis, the emergence of a strident right-wing populist party (the Alternative für Deutschland), and the Brexit crisis have created new problems that remain unresolved.

H. Williams, C. Wright and N. Kapferer (eds), Political Thought and German Reunification (Houndmills, 2000)

P. O’Dochartaigh, Germany since 1945 (Houndmills, 2003)

Tom Heneghan, Unchained Eagle. Germany after the Wall (London, 2000)

R. Wittlinger, German National Identity in the Twenty-First Century. A Different Republic After All? (Houndmills, 2010)

Jeffrey J. Anderson and Eric Langenbacher (eds), From the Bonn to the Berlin Republic: Germany at the Twentieth Anniversary of Unification (Oxford, 2010)

H. Glaser, Kleine deutsche Kulturgeschichte von 1945 bis heute (Frankfurt a.M., 2007)


E. Wolfrum, Die geglückte Demokratie: Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland von ihren Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart (Stuttgart, 2006)
2. ‘Zwischen Kafka und Koran’: Islam in German Culture post-9/11

German-language writers from Wolfram von Eschenbach to Goethe and Lessing have long engaged with Islam, a religion often presented as bound to an exotic or dangerous ‘other’ against which the European ‘self’ might define itself. Today, however, in the wake of twentieth-century migration to Germany, the Muslim population of the FRG numbers over 4 million and many German-language writers and artists self-identify as Muslim, situating their work ‘between Kafka and the Qu’ran’. In this module, students will be introduced to literary and film texts that engage with Islam and Muslim identities. We will read these against the background of 9/11 and the increased visibility of Islam in German debates around identity and integration, engaging with issues of gender, sexuality, and orientalism as we do so.

Prescribed texts:

- Zaimoglu, Feridun, and Günter Senkel, Schwarze Jungfrauen (Reinbek: Rowohlt Theater, 2006). E-BOOK.
- Burhan Qurbani, Shahada (2010). FILM
- Feo Aladağ, Die Fremde (2010). FILM

Secondary reading:

- James Hodkinson and Jeffrey Morrison (eds), Encounters with Islam in German Literature and Culture (Rochester, New York: Camden House, 2009).
- Julian Preece et al., Religion and Identity in Germany Today: Doubters, Believers, Seekers in Literature and Film (Oxford: Peter Lang, 2010).
- Yasemin Yildiz, ‘Turkish Girls, Allah’s Daughters, and the Contemporary German Subject: Itinerary of a Figure’, German Life and Letters, 62.4 (2009), 465-481.
- Sabine Hake and Barbara Mennel (eds), Turkish German Cinema in the New Millennium: Sites, Sounds, and Screens (London and New York: Berghahn, 2012).
3. Berlin in Film

Berlin is one of the great film cities of the world. Film has played a fundamental role in fashioning the city’s image and cultural self-understanding. This option will consider some of the stations of Berlin’s post-war film history, from Staudte’s *Trümmerfilm Die Mörder sind unter uns* (1946), through Helke Sander’s *Frauenfilm Redupers: Die allseitig reduzierte Persönlichkeit* (1977), Fassbinder’s *Berlin Alexanderplatz* (1980), and Wenders’ *Der Himmel über Berlin* (1989), to the new Berlin films of the last decade, when the city has been rediscovering the sort of productivity and innovation which characterised the pre-war hey-day of the UFA production company. Particular emphasis will be given to seven post-reunification films that illustrate the variety of the new representational ‘takes’ on the city.

**Prescribed films:**

- *Ostkreuz* (Klier, 1991)
- *Das Leben ist eine Baustelle* (Becker, 1997)
- *Lola rennt* (Tykwer, 1998)
- *Lola und Bilidikid* (Ataman, 1999)
- *Sonnenallee* (Haußmann, 2000)
- *Die Unberührbare* (Roehler, 2000)
- *Schöpfer der Einkaufswelten* (Farocki, 2001)

(Copies of these films are kept in the MML Library, not in the Department of German)

**Secondary reading:**

- Guntram Vogt, *Die Stadt in Film: Deutsche Spielfilme 1900-2000* (Marburg, 2001)
4. Germany in Europe 1945-2016

Since the end of 2009, the European Union has been in a severe crisis; the Brexit vote in June 2016 has been another severe blow some say the EU’s future is now limited. On the one hand the EU faces significant financial problems. On the other hand the financial crisis has been overshadowed since 2015 by the refugee crisis and since June 2016 by the British referendum decision to leave. Germany plays a central role in each of these crises. Germany is one of the few European states that remains prosperous and dynamic and over the last year there has been intense debate about whether Germany will or can save Europe and about the conditions that the Germans might impose for doing so. At the same time Angela Merkel’s determination to help the refugees from Syria and elsewhere both generated domestic opposition throughout the EU member states and posed practical challenges which EU institutions seem to be incapable of resolving. As predictions of the failure of the Euro and the collapse of the EU become more persistent it seems appropriate to reflect on the history of the European project and on the central role that Germany has played in it from the outset. In recent years Germany has been seen as the answer, but initially European integration was a solution to the ‘German problem’. We examine how Germany’s role in the EU has evolved, the long-standing German partnership with France in EU politics, the impact of reunification on German attitudes to Europe, the implications of the rapid growth of the EU in the 1990s, and the complex nature of the present crisis. Will Germany be able to manage the continuing influx of refugees? Will the EU be able to forge a common approach that will both satisfy the European electorates and the rights and needs of the refugees? Can the EU survive if member states close their borders? Can the EU survive the exit of the United Kingdom? What would a post-EU Europe look like? This module reviews the history, present and future of European integration and the place of Germany within it.

- G. Brunn, *Die Europäische Einigung* (Stuttgart, 2009)
- Johannes Varwick (ed), *Die Europäische Union: Krise, Neuorientierung, Zukunftsperspektiven* (Schwalbach/Ts., 2011)

For reference:

5. Vergangenheitsbewältigung, culture and politics in Austria

This module explores Austrian politics and literature since the Waldheim affair in 1986, when Austria incurred international condemnation and President Kurt Waldheim was declared persona non grata by the United States and other countries for being less than frank about his service in the German army before 1945. The post-war Austrian political landscape was shaped by a remarkable reluctance to engage with Vergangenheitsbewältigung. Certain leading cultural figures succeeded in exploiting this deficit for their own purposes. Although both they and their opponents engaged in excessive polemics, the clash of the cultural with the political sector eventually resulted in a belated acknowledgement of Austria’s eager participation in the crimes of the Third Reich. We examine the impact of the Waldheim affair in its historical and political context and the resurgence of the right-wing populist Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs under the leadership of Jörg Haider from 1986. Although the party faltered following Haider’s death in 2008 its fortunes revived dramatically in 2015 as a result of the European refugee crisis. The April/May 2016 the Austrian presidential election saw the FPÖ candidate Nobert Hofer only narrowly defeated by the Green candidate Alexander van der Bellen (50.3% against 49.7%). To what extent does the revival of the FPÖ represent a continuation of the old conservative tradition with its idiosyncratic view of history, or is the contest between Greens and FPÖ in 2016 another reflection of a European phenomenon: the failure of the old mainstream parties in the face of the great crisis of the early twenty-first century?

I. Literature

Prescribed texts:

Secondary reading:
II. Politics

Prescribed texts:

Secondary reading:
- Anton Pelinka and Ruth Wodak (eds.), *'Dreck am Stecken': Politik der Ausgrenzung* (Wien, 2002)
6. Political violence in Germany from 1968 to the 2000s

This module will address protest and political violence in Germany from 1968 to the 2000s. Political violence or terrorism in postwar Germany comes from both the extreme left (the Baader-Meinhof Group and others in the post-68 period) and from the extreme right (the more recently active National Socialist Underground or NSU). Beginning with the student movement, which differentiated between violence directed against inanimate objects (‘Gewalt gegen Sachen’), which its leaders deemed acceptable, and violence against people (‘Gewalt gegen Personen’), which was deemed unacceptable, we shall look at how and in what contexts politically motivated violence that is prepared to injure and kill other people develops.

• Sarah Colvin, *Ulrike Meinhof and West German Terrorism* (Rochester, NY, 2009)
• Gisela Diewald-Kerkmann, ‘Bewaffnete Frauen im Untergrund‘, in ibid., 657-75
• Jan Philipp Reemtsma, ‘Was heißt „die Geschichte der RAF verstehen?“‘ in ibid., vol 2, 1353-69