




Term 2 2023-2024

|                                 |  |   |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Course Code &amp; Title:</b> | <b>GERM3100 Special Topics in German Memories and Realities of Germany</b> |  |
| <b>Language of Instruction:</b> | English  | <b>Units:</b> 3   |

### Course Description

Germany is a previously divided nation with a complex historical background and today is an important player in addressing global challenges and shaping international affairs.

The past is present in today's Germany in the form of collective memories. Collective memories can be similar across countries, for example global events such as WW II might have comparable impact even in conflicting countries. At the same time, collective memories will be distinct with regards to events particular to the individual country. Those memories influence a society in the form of contemporary realities.

How memories and realities are intertwined and form the fabric of the society and important topics in Germany is the subject of this course.

The course content will be presented through readings and audiovisual materials.

No knowledge of German is required.

### Learning Outcomes

The aim of this course is to gain an understanding of major topics currently discussed in German society. Students should be able to illustrate current situations and interpret them from a historical perspective. They will apply insight gained in this course to analyze current situations. They will evaluate the pros and cons of these issues while comparing the situation with their own background culture. In their own reflections they will assess the scope of their learning.

After taking this course, students are expected to be able to evaluate the memories and realities of Germany in regards to:

- (1) The dark past and how Germany deals with it
- (2) Germany after 1945: Once Divided, now United
- (3) German: A language for men?
- (4) Kim de L'Horizon and the LGBTQ+
- (5) Migration in Germany
- (6) The Franco German Relationship: From Animosity to Affinity

| Course Content (subject to change) |  |   |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
|                                    | Topic  | Details   |
| 1                                  | The dark past and how Germany deals with it                | This section focuses on the historical events that took place in Germany and examines the country's approach to addressing its past, and discusses if the actions adequately address the historical events.   |
| 2                                  | Germany after 1945: Once Divided, now United               | Section 2 explores motivations behind the construction of the wall, delves into the historical context of its eventual fall, and examines the subsequent transformations that have occurred over the years leading up to the present day.   |
| 3                                  | German: A language for men?                                | This section addresses the topic of gendered language, explores the critique of its usage in contemporary society, and examines how language influences the roles and identities of individuals within a society.   |
| 4                                  | Kim de L'Horizon and the LGBTQ+                            | Kim de L'Horizon is the recipient of both the German Book Prize and the Swiss Book Prize 2022 for their debut novel Blutbuch. They hold the distinction of being the first non-binary individual to achieve this recognition. This section explores the landscape of LGBTQ+ experiences within German-speaking countries. |
| 5                                  | Migration in Germany                                       | In recent years, Germany has undergone a transformation and become a nation of migration. In this section, we focus on events in that past which resulted in Germany being more open to refugees and examine the successes and failures in handling migration.  |
| 6                                  | The Franco German Relationship: From Animosity to Affinity | Germany and France have been adversaries for centuries but today collaborate closely to shape the European landscape. Historical backgrounds and significant developments in the relationship of the two countries are discussed.   |

| Learning Activities                                     |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| Interactive classwork [1]<br>(hr/day)<br>in / out class | Extra-curricular activities<br>(hr/course)<br>in / out class | Web-based teaching<br>(hr/day)<br>in / out class | Homework / Self-study<br>(hr/day)<br>in / out class |
| 3   | 0  | 0.5  | 3   |
| M   | O  | M  | M   |

M = Mandatory / O = Optional

[1] Interactive classwork focuses on student-centered activities as pair work, group work, role-playing and student-teacher interaction.

| Assessment Scheme                 |  |        |
|-----------------------------------|--|--------|
| Task nature                       | Description  | Weight |
| Participation and oral expression | Participation includes preparing for class, arriving on time, attending lessons and making active contributions during class.  | 10%    |
| Presentation                      | Students present a chosen topic individually or in groups of two or three students. Topics are to be confirmed with the course teacher. A draft of the presentation must be submitted 1 week in advance. | 30%    |
| Written assignment                | Reflection Paper on a topic discussed in class.  | 30%    |
| Final Exam                        | Multiple choice and open-ended questions on topics discussed in class.   | 30%    |

Notes: You are required to arrive on time.

You are required to attend at least 75% of the class. Treat 75% attendance as the minimum, not the maximum. The success of your own learning will highly depend on your attendance.

**Should you miss more than 25% of the class, you will automatically fail the course.**

**Unauthorised absence from any assessment will result in grade F for that assessment.**

If you are unable to attend, get informed about what content and homework you missed and make it up yourself.

| Grade descriptors |   |  |  |   |   |
|-------------------|---|--|--|---|---|
|                   | A   | B  | C  | D   | F   |
| <b>General</b>    | Outstanding performance in all learning outcomes and meeting all specified assessment requirements. | Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, or high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance. | Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses. | Barely satisfactory performance in a number of learning outcomes. | Unsatisfactory performance in a number of learning outcomes and/or failure to meet specified assessment requirements. |

| Learning Resources   |
|--|
| <b>Course Reading</b>  |
| • Information provided by the German Government: <a href="http://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de">http://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de</a><br>Detailed reading list will be provided in class. |
| <b>Course website:</b>   |
| <a href="https://moodle.keep.edu.hk/">https://moodle.keep.edu.hk/</a>  |

**Schedule (Subject to change):**

| Week | Date            | Remarks   | Content   |
|------|-----------------|---|---|
| 1    | Jan 8 - 14      |   | The dark past and how Germany deals with it                   |
| 2    | Jan 15 - 21     | Online add-drop 15-21 Jan (Mon-Sun)                           | The dark past and how Germany deals with it                   |
| 3    | Jan 22 -28      | Department add drop (Mon-Fri) <b>(exceptional cases only)</b> | Germany after 1945: Once Divided, now United                  |
| 4    | Jan 29 - Feb 4  |   | Germany after 1945: Once Divided, now United                  |
| 5    | Jan 5 – Feb 11  | CNY: 9.2.-15.2. (Fri -Thu)                                    | German: A language for men?                                   |
| 6    | Feb 12 - 18     | CNY: 9.2.-15.2. (Fri -Thu)                                    | <b>no class</b>   |
| 7    | Feb 19 - 25     |   | German: A language for men?                                   |
| 8    | Feb 26 -Mar 3   |   | Kim de L’Horizon and the LGBTQ+                               |
| 9    | Mar 4 – Mar 14  | Reading Week<br>March 5: German Night                         | <b>Submission of Reflection Paper</b>                         |
| 10   | Mar 11 - Mar 17 |   | Kim de L’Horizon and the LGBTQ+                               |
| 11   | Mar 18 – Mar 24 |   | Migration in Germany  |
| 12   | Mar 25 - Mar 31 | 29.4: Good Friday   | Migration in Germany  |
| 13   | Apr 1 - Apr 7   | Monday 1.4.: Easter Monday<br>Thursday, 4.4. Ching Ming       | no class  |
| 14   | Apr 8 – Apr 14  |   | The Franco German Relationship:<br>From Animosity to Affinity |
| 15   | Apr 14- Apr 21  |   | <b>Final Test</b>   |

**Class section and Lecturers' contact details:**

| Class           | Time                   | Classroom                     | Week | Teacher            | Email                     |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>GERM3100</b> | Monday,<br>14:30-17:15 | Wu Ho Man<br>Yuen Bldg<br>304 | 12   | Ms. Annette Frömel | annettefromel@cuhk.edu.hk |

**General Contacts:**

| Contact        | Telephone | Email                     | Office   |
|----------------|-----------|---------------------------|--|
| Coordinator    | 39437699  | annettefromel@cuhk.edu.hk | G31, Leung Kau Kui Building  |
| General Office | 3943 9836 | lin@cuhk.edu.hk           | G17, Leung Kau Kui Building<br><b>Office Hours: Monday to Thursday:</b><br>8:45am to 1:00pm, 2:00pm to 5:30pm<br><b>Friday:</b> 8:45am to 1:00pm, 2:00pm to 5:45pm |

**Academic Honesty and Plagiarism**

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>. With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration. For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

**Feedback for Evaluation**

Our language programme highly values students' feedback and comments and is happy to use them for reflection on our teaching and improvement. Students are very welcome to provide comments and feedback on the course any time to their course teacher or the course level coordinator through email or in personal conversation. In addition, students' feedbacks will be collected in the middle of the term through an open-end questionnaire and the teacher will discuss the feedbacks in class and make improvements if necessary. The course will also follow the university's course evaluation exercise at the end of the term, and students' feedbacks will be used for future course planning and teaching.