

German R5A, Section 7: Crossing Borders
Spring 2010, MWF 9-10am, 105 Dwinelle

Instructor: Robin Ellis

Office Hours: Mon 10-12 or by appointment

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Course Overview

The primary goal of this course is to develop your ability to think and write analytically about texts and other objects, whatever they may be: a novel, a photograph, a film, a historical account, etc. Close analytical reading is an essential foundation for academic writing. Throughout the course emphasis will be placed on cultivating your ability to 1) read closely, attending to rhetoric, style, and logic; 2) produce and refine arguments based on evidence; and 3) transform these arguments into clear and convincing writing.

A selection of 20th century German-language works depicting borders and border crossings will provide the basis for our analytical investigations. Throughout the course, we will consider multiple and sometimes contradictory representations of border crossings in film, fiction, essays and other genres.

Texts

Course Reader, available at Replica Copy (2138 Oxford St., near Center St.)

Emine Sevgi Özdamar, *The Bridge of the Golden Horn*

Peter Schneider, *The Wall Jumper*

Other texts and images will be available on bSpace

Requirements and Grading

Written assignments will include the following: a diagnostic writing exercise; 3 papers of varying length; peer editing reports; periodic homework assignments; and group work. Attendance is required. 2 unexcused absences will be allowed; subsequent unexcused absences will result in a reduction of your final grade. Late arrival to class may be counted as 1/3 of an absence. Work missed due to lateness cannot be made up. Some assignments will be due by bSpace on the weekends. These grading guidelines may be revised as the course evolves.

3% Diagnostic writing exercise

12% Paper 1

21% Paper 2

24% Paper 3

18% Peer editing (participation and written reports)

12% Miscellaneous (in-class and homework assignments)

10% Attendance and participation

For each paper, you will turn in a first version and a revised version. Each version will be graded. Your final grade for the paper will be a weighted average of the two grades, in which the first version counts for 1/3 and the revised version counts for 2/3.

For example, if Paper 1 is out of 12 points, and you get a grade of 9/12 on your first version of Paper 1 and a grade of 11/12 on your revised version, your final grade for Paper 1 would be 10.3/12.

Participation

I expect that everyone will participate actively in the discussion and writing process. Course time is to be used to review and apply materials that you have read outside of class. For the most part, I will not be introducing new materials to you during class time. Peer-editing comprises a fundamental component to this course. Being present and investing your energies in your peers' writing not only strengthens their writing but your own. Your participation and presence in class is fundamental to building a mutually beneficial learning environment.

Late Assignments

No late work will be accepted, EXCEPT you may turn in one final draft late (at the next scheduled class section). First drafts must be on time because your classmates will need them to do peer-editing reports. If you anticipate a circumstance that will prevent you from turning in an assignment on time, please make arrangements with me to have it completed before the deadline.

Workload

This is a 4-unit course. The university stipulates that for a 15-week course, every unit is equal to 3 hours of work per week. Since there will be 3 hours of class time per week, please expect to use the remaining 9 hours a week reading, doing writing and homework assignments, and attending office hours.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the presentation of another's work and/or ideas as one's own. Any time another person's work is used it absolutely must be cited clearly. Plagiarism is grounds not only for immediate failure of the course, but also for disciplinary action at the university's administrative level. The same holds true for other forms of academic dishonesty. Please also see the Berkeley Campus Code of Student Conduct, Section III.B, Academic Violations, and Section IV, Disciplinary Procedures (students.berkeley.edu/uga/conduct.asp).

Special Accommodations

Please let me know as soon as possible if you require special accommodations for this course. This applies to students with DSP letters, student athletes, students with childcare responsibilities, and transfer students. You are never required to tell me personal information; however, if you are having problems that affect your ability to attend, participate, or keep up with the workload in this class, please don't wait until the end to ask for help. I may be able to help you or direct you to someone who can help you.

Non-Discrimination Statement

The University of California, in accordance with applicable federal and state law and University policy, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or status as a covered veteran (special disabled veteran, Vietnam-era veteran or any other veteran who served on active duty during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized). This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access, and treatment in University programs and activities.

Schedule of Readings and Major Assignments

Shorter assignments to be announced. Updates will be posted on bSpace.

Week 1: Introduction

8/27 What is Analysis?

Week 2: Crossing Over

8/30 *Writing Analytically* excerpt (Ch. 1) on bSpace under “Resources”

8/31 Screening: *The Edge of Heaven* (5pm MRC Group Viewing Room B)

9/1 *The Edge of Heaven*

Diagnostic Essay (2 pg) due on bSpace under “Assignments” by midnight

9/3 *WA* excerpt (Ch. 3) on bSpace

Week 3 & 4: Fluid Borders

9/6 “Where Europe Begins” - Yoko Tawada

9/8 “Where Europe Begins” (cont.)

9/10 *WA* excerpt (Ch. 8)

9/11 **First paragraph of Paper 1** due on bSpace by midnight

9/13 “The Borders of Europe” - Etienne Balibar

9/15 *WA* excerpt (Ch. 8)

9/17 Writing Workshop (WW)

9/18 **Paper 1 (3 pg)** due on bSpace by midnight

Week 5: Performing the Border

9/20 WW - Clarity

9/21 Screening: *Me Boss, You Sneaker* (5pm, Dwinelle B4)

9/22 *Me Boss, You Sneaker*

9/24 WW- Concision

9/25 **Peer Reviews of Paper 1** due on bSpace by midnight

Week 6: Literature as Transitional Space

9/27 WW - Incorporating Feedback into Revisions

9/29 “Between the Sex Pistols and the Koran” - Zafer Şenocak

10/1 WW

10/2 **Revised Paper 1** due on bSpace by midnight

Week 7, 8 & 9: Walls and Bridges

10/4 *The Bridge of the Golden Horn* (Ch 1-4) - Emine Sevgi Özdamar

10/6 *The Bridge of the Golden Horn* (Ch 1-4) (cont.)

10/8 WW

10/11 *The Bridge of the Golden Horn* (Ch 5-7)

10/13 *The Bridge of the Golden Horn* (Ch 8-9)

10/15 WW

10/18 “Against Between” (Leslie Adelson), “I Did Not Want to Build Bridges” (Yoko Tawada)

- 10/20 WW - Essay Questions
10/22 WW - Thesis Statements
10/23 **First paragraph of Paper 2** due on bSpace by midnight

Week 10, 11 & 12: “The Wall in Our Heads”

- 10/25 “Bridge and Door” - Georg Simmel
10/27 WW
10/29 *The Wall Jumper* (pp. 3-35)
10/30 **Paper 2 (4-5 pg)** due on bSpace by midnight

- 11/1 *The Wall Jumper* (pp. 37-74)
11/3 *The Wall Jumper* (pp. 75-105)
11/5 *The Wall Jumper* (pp. 106-139)
11/6 **Peer Reviews of Paper 2** due on bSpace by midnight

- 11/8 WW
11/9 Screening: *Grill Point* (5pm Dwinelle 187)
11/10 *Grill Point*
11/12 WW
11/13 **Revised Paper 2** due on bSpace by midnight

Weeks 13 & 14: Poetic Thresholds

- 11/15 “Before the Law” - Franz Kafka
11/17 WW
11/19 Poems by Paul Celan

- 11/22 WW
11/24 **First paragraph of Paper 3** due on bSpace by midnight
11/26 *Thanksgiving Break*

Week 15: Possibilities of Liminal Space

- 11/29 “The Gotthard Railway” - Yoko Tawada
12/1 WW
12/3 Last Class: New Perspectives?
12/4 **Paper 3 (6-7 pg)** due on bSpace by midnight

Week 16: RRR (no class, extra office hours)

- 12/7 **Peer Reviews of Paper 3** due on bSpace by midnight

Week 17:

- 12/14 **Revised Paper 3** due on bSpace by midnight

Campus Resources

Disabled Students Program (DSP)

260 César Chávez Student Center; 642-0518; dsp.berkeley.edu

The Disabled Students' Program serves students with disabilities of all kinds, including mobility, visual, or hearing impairments; speech impairments; chronic illnesses such as AIDS, diabetes, and lupus; seizure disorders; head injuries; painful conditions such as back injuries and carpal tunnel syndrome; psychological disabilities such as bipolar disorder and severe anxiety or depression; attention deficit disorder; and learning disabilities. Services are individually designed and based on the specific needs of each student as identified by DSP's specialists. The Program's official website includes information on DSP staff, UC's disability policy, application procedures, campus access guides for most university buildings, and portals for students and faculty/proxy respectively.

Student Learning Center (SLC)

642-7332; <http://slc.berkeley.edu>

As the primary academic support service for students at the University of California, Berkeley, the Student Learning Center (SLC) assists students in transitioning to Cal; navigating the academic terrain; creating networks of resources; and achieving academic, personal, and professional goals. Through various services including tutoring, study groups, workshops, and courses, SLC supports students in Biological and Physical Sciences, Business Administration, Computer Science, Economics, Mathematics, Social Sciences, Statistics, Study Strategies, and Writing.

Student Life Advising Services

642-7224; <http://slas.berkeley.edu>

Student Life Advising Services (SLAS) is an academic counseling/advising service that assists all undergraduate students, with a primary focus on Education Opportunity Program students and students who participated in outreach programs. The SLAS office assists students in developing the skills required to succeed at Berkeley and beyond by taking a comprehensive approach to counseling/advising on academic, personal, and social matters.

Ombudsperson for Students

102 Sproul Hall; 642-5754; <http://students.berkeley.edu/Ombuds/>

The Ombudsperson for Students provides a confidential service for students involved in a University- related problem (either academic or administrative), acting as a neutral compliant resolver and not as an advocate for any of the parties involved in the dispute. The Ombudsperson can provide information on policies and procedures affecting students, facilitate students' contact with services able to assist in resolving the problem, and assist students in complaints concerning improper application of University policies and procedures. All matters referred to this office are held in strict confidence. The only exceptions, at the sole discretion of the Ombudsperson, are cases where there appears to be imminent threat of serious harm.

Tang Center Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS)

2222 Bancroft Way. Counseling Services: 642-9494; Prevention: 642-7202; Victim Assistance and Counseling: 642-7064; Urgent Medical Care: 642-3188. <http://uhs.berkeley.edu>

The University Health Service's Counseling and Psychological Services staff at the Tang Center provide confidential assistance to students managing mental health issues that can emerge from illness, financial, academic, legal or family concerns, and more. In the realm of sexual harassment,

University Health Services coordinates education programs, crisis counseling, advocacy, and medical care for women and men who have been harassed or assaulted.