Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Term 1 2019-2020

Course Code & Title:	GERM2200 Contemporary German Cinema	
Language of Instruction:	English	**Units**: 3

Course Description
The 1990s were a decade of renaissance in German cinema and since the turn of the millennium German cinema has been acclaimed as having "returned" - through new vitality, dynamics and commitment, the German cinema has again captured the attention of the world. This course is an introduction to the history and major developments in German cinema since the 1990s. It explores the language of cinema and the aesthetic strategies used by filmmakers. Through analyzes and discussions about the making and content of the films, we not only get to know the films as entertaining art, but embed them in a social and historical context. This course will be a fun opportunity to learn more about German culture and history through the eyes of these films. Films are screened outside class hours. All films are with English subtitles, all readings and discussions in English. No knowledge of German is required.

Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of the course, students can: • analyze key works of German cinema since the 1990s • explore the relationship between film and culture/history. • talk about differences and similarities between film and one's own perception of culture • analyze several aesthetic and cultural concepts related to film. • analyze film scenes using tools learned during the course.

Course Content			
Week	**Movie**	**Film language**	**Culture/ History**
Week 1		Filme language: Introduction	Contemporary German Cinema: Introduction
Week 2	**Run Lola Run** Original: Lola rennt Year: 1998 Director: Tom Tykwer	Genre	A thriller film following several runs of a woman (Lola). Short, innovative, and highly unique. Symbols and motifs
Week 3	**Run Lola Run**	*Camera*	contemporary urban life

Week 4	**Run Lola Run**	*Editing, Sound*	free will vs determinism
Week 5	**Good Bye Lenin**! Year: 2003 Director: Wolfgang Becker	Light	A comedy film about a boy who keeps the life of his mother firmly rooted in a world that no longer exists for the sake of her heath. A lighter film set in the rapidly changing world. Fall of the Wall (East and West Germany) German reunification
Week 6	**Good Bye Lenin**!	*Mise-en-scene*	Values (loss of GDR culture) Attitude towards life
Week 7	**The Edukators** Original: Die fetten Jahre sind vorbei Year: 2004 Director: Hans Weingartner	Set & Costumes	The film is about the unconventional methods, opportunities and difficulties of young adults to engage in social injustice. social injustice (methods, possibilities, difficulties)
Week 8	**The Edukators**	Script	The 1968 generation (today's social status, ideational legacy)
Week 9	**The Lives of Others** Original: Das Leben der anderen Year: 2006 Director: Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck	Sound	"Lives of Others" is one of the most powerful films depicting the dystopian invasion of personal privacy and political murder committed by the East German regime. The GDR regime The secret police of GDR
Week 10	**The Lives of Others** Original: Das Leben der anderen Year: 2006 Director: Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck	Directors and Acting	"Lives of Others" is one of the most powerful films depicting the dystopian invasion of personal privacy and political murder committed by the East German regime. surveillance and privacy protection
Week 11	**Downfall** Original: Der Untergang Year: 2004 Director: Oliver Hirschbiegel	Colour	Downfall" is a film depicting the last days of the Nazi party. It is a critically acclaimed movie that gives a personal look into the face of evil. Nazi Germany

Week 12	**Downfall**	Field size	Right-wing extremism
Week 13			Summary and discussions

Learning Activities			
Interactive classwork[1] (hr/day) in / out class	Extra-curricular activities (hr/course) in / out class	Web-based teaching (hr/day) in / out class	Homework / Self-study (hr/day) in / out class
3	2	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	Participation includes: watching the movies outside class, preparing for class, arriving on time, attending lessons and making active contributions during class	15%
Homework Preparation	The assigned tasks (Moodle and/or worksheets) will acquaint you with the language of film, the critical, historical, theoretical and methodological aspects of film. Completing the tasks before class will develop better analytical viewing and discussion skills and will also prepare you for the final exams!	20%
Film analysis paper	The film analysis paper is considered to be a short essay in which film is analysed in terms of, narrative structure, cultural context, and mise-en-scene, among other methods.	20%
Group presentation project	Presenting a specific topic by incorporating a discussion of a chosen film of our syllabus, either through close formal analysis of one-two scenes, or an informed (!) discussion of medium-specificity (production, structure, content. Leading class discussion after the presentation.	25%
Final exam	In-class final exam	20%

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
General	Outstanding performance in all learning outcomes and meeting all specified assessment requirements. The student demonstrates relevant, comprehensive and in-depth knowledge and understanding of the elements of film, using a range of subject terminology aptly. The student demonstrates detailed knowledge and understanding of the history, contexts and technology of film production. The student produces perceptive analysis and critical evaluation of films (or screenplays) seen and made. The student applies thorough knowledge and understanding of the elements of film skillfully and effectively to produce convincing film or screenplay extracts.	Good performance in all learning outcomes. The student demonstrates mostly accurate and appropriate knowledge and understanding of the elements of film, using some subject terminology appropriately. The student demonstrates some appropriate knowledge and understanding of the history, contexts and technology of film production. The student produces coherent analysis and some credible evaluation of films (or screenplays) seen and made. The student applies mostly appropriately knowledge and understanding of the elements of film competently and coherently to produce effective film or screenplay extracts.	Satisfactory performance in the majority of learning outcomes. The student demonstrates basic awareness of the elements of film, using everyday language. The student demonstrates some basic knowledge of the contexts of film production. The student describes and comments simply on films (or screenplays) seen and made. The student applies basic knowledge and understanding of some elements of film to produce simple film or screenplay extracts.	Barely satisfactory performance in a number of learning outcomes. The student rarely demonstrates basic awareness of the elements of film, using everyday language. The student rarely demonstrates some basic knowledge of the contexts of film production. The student describes and comments very simply on films (or screenplays) seen and made. The student rarely applies basic knowledge and understanding of some elements of film to produce simple film or screenplay extracts.	Unsatisfactory performance in a number of learning outcomes and/or failure to meet specified assessment requirements. The student cannot demonstrate awareness of the elements of film, using everyday language. The student cannot demonstrate knowledge of the contexts of film production. The student cannot describe and comment on films (or screenplays) seen and made. The student cannot apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film to produce film or screenplay extracts.

Learning Resources

Recommended Materials

- Brockmann, Stephen, *A Critical History of German Film* (Rochester, NY: Camden House, 2010)
- Barsam, Richard and David Monahan, *Looking at Movies* (W. W. Norton & Company; Fifth edition (2015)
- Bordwell, David and Kristin Thompson, Film Art: An Introduction (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2009).
- Elsaesser, Thomas and Michael Wedel, The BFI Companion to German Cinema (London: British Film Institute, 1999).
- Hake, Sabine, German National Cinema (London: Routledge, 2008).
- Cooke, Paul and Chris Homewood, *New Directions in German Cinema* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2011)
- Clarke, David (ed.), *German Cinema since Unification* (London: Continuum, 2006)

Course website: Moodle@Keep

https://moodle.keep.edu.hk/
Announcements over the Blackboard site GERM0000

Online resources:

- German-Films: http://www.german-films.de/
- Goethe-Institut: https://www.goethe.de/en/kul/flm.html
- The Film experience: http://thefilmexperience.net/
- Rotten Tomatoes: https://www.rottentomatoes.com/

- Quizlet: https://quizlet.com/

Schedule (Subject to change):

Week	Date	Remarks	Assessments	Content
1	Sep 2 – 6			German Cinema: Introduction
2	Sep 9 - 13	Online add drop (until Sep 15 (Sun))		Film: Lola rennt Film Language: Genre, Camera, Music, Editing
3	Sep 16 - 20	Department add drop (until Fri 20 (Fri) **(only in exceptional cases)**		
4	Sep 23 – 27			
5	Sep 30 –Oct 4	Oct 1 (Tue) Public Holiday – National Day	Group presentation project 1	Film: Good Bye Lenin Film Language: Light, Mise-en-scene
6	Oct 7 – 11	Oct 7 (Mon) Public Holiday - Chung Yeung Festival	Group presentation project 2	
7	Oct 14 – 18		Group presentation project 3	Film: Die fetten Jahre sind vorbei Film Language: Script, Editing
8	Oct 21 – 25		Group presentation project 4	
9	Oct 28 – Nov 1		Group presentation project 5	Film: Das Leben der anderen Film Language: Sound, Directors and acting
10	Nov 4 – 8	Nov 7 (Thu) 87th Congregation for the Conferment of Degrees – classes suspended	Group presentation project 6	
11	Nov 11 – 15		Group presentation project 7	Film: Der Untergang Film Language: Field size, Colour
12	Nov 18 – 22		Film analysis paper	
13	Nov 25 – 29		Final exam	

Class sections and teachers' contact details:

Class	Time	Classroom	Teacher	Email
GERM2200	8:30 – 11:15	WMY 404	Mr. Alexander Markus KLING	alexander.kling@cuhk.edu.hk

For further information and inquiries you are welcome to contact the Course Coordinator:

Contact	Telephone	Email	Office
Mr. Alexander Markus KLING	3943 3219	alexander.kling@cuhk.edu.hk	R00m 209, Leung Kau Kui Building
General Office	3943 9836	lin@cuhk.edu.hk	Rm G17, Leung Kau Kui Building **Office Hours:** Monday to Thursday: 8:45am to 1:00pm and 2:00pm to 5:30pm Friday: 8:45am to 1:00pm and 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.