

Willkommen bei GERN 347-101



Molecule Men, Berlin. Image by [wal_172619](#) from [Pixabay](#).

Land Acknowledgment

UBC Vancouver is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəy'əm (Musqueam) people. The land it is situated on has always been a place of learning for the Musqueam people, who for millennia have passed on their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.



The Musqueam street signs contribute to a visible Musqueam presence and bilingual experience on campus.
<https://indigenous.ubc.ca/>

As we learn together in this class, it is important to consider our presence on this territory, and, further, how we might support efforts to protect Indigenous land rights.

It's also important to acknowledge this land in all the languages we use. Here is how you might do so in German:

Die UBC Vancouver befindet sich auf dem traditionellen angestammten und nicht abgetretenen Territorium des xwməθkwəy'əm (Musqueam) Volkes. Das Land, auf dem der Campus liegt, war immer und ist bis heute ein Ort des Lernens für die Musqueam, die hier über Jahrtausende ihre Kultur, Geschichte und Traditionen von einer Generation zur nächsten weitergegeben haben.

If you speak languages other than English, think about how you might speak about these topics in those languages. If you're not sure, reach out to someone who might!

Where did you grow up? Have you traveled anywhere recently? Check out <https://native-land.ca> for an introduction to the territory of the Indigenous peoples in the regions of the world most familiar to you.

When & Where



UBC Vancouver Campus <https://ires.ubc.ca/ubc-aerial-580x377/>

Class Meetings

Winter Term 1 2024-25

Mondays & Wednesdays,
2:00pm–3:30:pm

BUTO 997

Your Instructor

Dr. Daniela Hempen

Department of Central, Eastern, and Northern European Studies
(CENES)

Office hours:

Mondays and Wednesdays 3:30pm-4:30pm
in person (Office: Buchanan Tower 904)
or by appointment

How best to contact me:

Email: daniela.hempen@ubc.ca
or via Canvas email



Course Structure & Objectives

GERN 347 is an interactive, discussion-based course. You must keep up with your assigned readings, and participate actively in all activities, exercises and discussions in class.



In this course, you will:

Develop an understanding of important social, political and cultural issues in German society in the second half of the 20th century

Critically read, analyze and evaluate different types of German texts

Complete written and oral assignments that reflect your understanding of the topics covered in class

Practice your German reading, writing and speaking skills

UBC Policies and Helpful Resources

The following policies and procedures are considered part of the class syllabus and policy. Feel free to talk them over with your instructor!

[UBC Attendance Policy](#)

[Applying for Academic Concession](#)

[UBC's Academic Code of Honour](#)

[UBC's current COVID-19 Policy](#)

[Resources to support Student Success](#)

[Accommodations for Religious Holidays and Days of Significance](#)

[Using Online Netiquette](#)

[Use of Electronic Devices at UBC](#)

[Center for Accessibility: Support for Disabled Students](#)

Course Readings

We will read and discuss a variety of short texts including poems, song texts, radio plays, short stories, magazine articles, short book excerpts.

The texts are available on Canvas.

Unit 1: The Traumas of World War II

Bertolt Brecht, "Deutschland, bleiche Mutter" (poem)
Elisabeth Langgässer, "Jetzt geht die Welt unter" (short story)
Wolfdietrich Schnurre, "Auf der Flucht" (short story)
Wolfgang Borchert, "Die Küchenuhr" (short story)
Sabine Bode, *Kriegsspuren* (book excerpt)
Christoph Hein, "Der Krüppel" (short story)
Sönke Wortmann, *Das Wunder von Bern* (film)

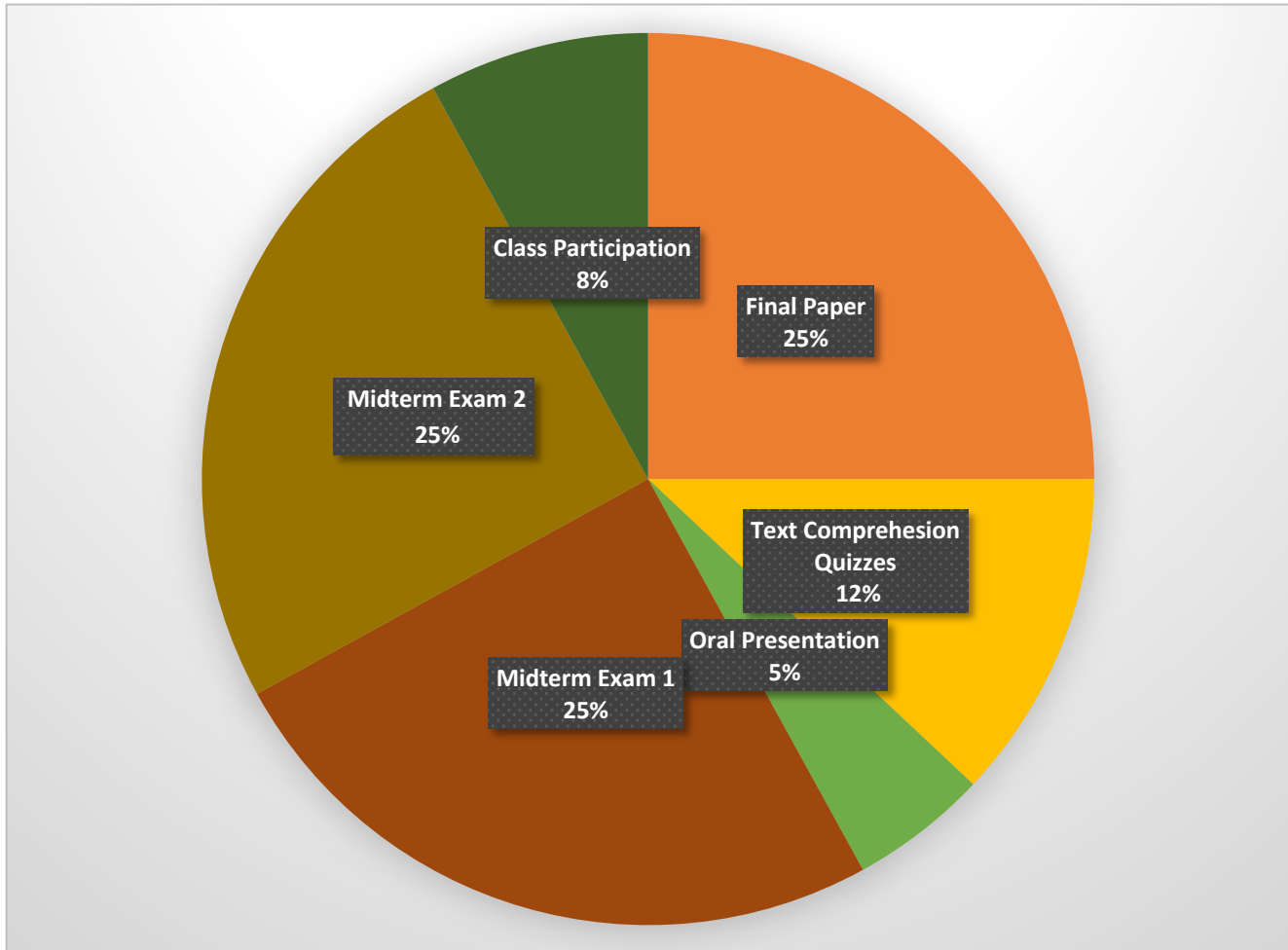
Unit 2: The Cold War and the Berlin Wall

Fechter, Peter – Chronik der Mauer (magazine article)
Reiner Kunze, "Schießbefehl" (short story)
Bernd Jentzsch, "Ein Wiesenstück" (poem)
Walther Petri, "Grenzer" (poem)
Christoph Hein, "Die Vergewaltigung" (short story)
Karat, "Der blaue Planet" (song text)

Unit 3: Environmental Pollution and Nuclear Catastrophe

Der Spiegel, Titelseiten (magazine cover pages)
Gänsehaut, "Karl der Käfer" (song text)
Jörg Zink, "Die letzten sieben Tage der Schöpfung" (poem)
Lothar Streblow, "Der Fisch" (radio play)
Günther Weisenborn, "Ein gleichgültiger Mittwoch" (short story)
Gudrun Pausewang, *Die letzten Kinder von Schewenborn* (novel excerpt)

Assessments & Grading



Class Participation

To be successful in this course, you must attend class regularly, keep up with your readings, and be prepared to take part in any activities, exercises, and discussions in class. The class language is **German**.

Text Comprehension Quizzes

You will complete three short online quizzes at home. These Canvas quizzes are in **German** and include questions on the texts discussed in class and on materials presented in the background lectures. The

quizzes are open book, and typically consist of short information questions.

Midterm Exams

The midterm exams are open book exams on Canvas that you will complete at home. A midterm exam typically includes a text or film clip covered in class **and** a short new text or film clip related to the same topic. You will discuss the newly introduced text or film clip in light of the text or film clip covered in class. The format will be paragraph answers or mini essays. The exam questions and any other materials on the exams are in **German** but you may answer **in English** (with no penalty attached). The time limit for a midterm exam is typically 60-75 minutes.

Term Paper Outline Presentation

You will give a short 5-minute presentation to the class outlining the topic of your term paper. The language of the presentation is **German**.

Final Term Paper

You will submit a final term paper of 1200-1300 words at the end of the semester. The language of the term paper is **German**.

Course Plan

September 4	Introduction	
September 9 & 11	Brecht, Langgässer	
September 16 & 18	Schnurre, Borchert	
September 23 & 25	Bode, Hein	
October 2	Das Wunder von Bern	Reading Quiz 1: Oct 1-2
October 7 & 9	Fechter	Midterm Exam 1: Oct 7-8
October 16	Fechter, Kunze	
October 21 & 23	Jentzsch, Petri, Hein	
October 28 & 30	Hein, Karat, Gänsehaut	Reading Quiz 2: Oct 30-31
November 4 & 9	Zink	Midterm Exam 2: Nov 4-5
November 11 & 13	Reading Break	
November 18 & 20	Streblow, Weisenborn	
November 25 & 27	Weisenborn, Pausewang	
December 2 & 4	Pausewang	Reading Quiz 3: Dec 2-3 Presentations: Dec 4 Final Paper due: Dec 9