Ger 150
Intro to German Studies: German Culture and the New Europe
Fall 2014, TTh 2-3:15 p.m.
EBA 260
Blackboard: blackboard.sdsu.edu
German Studies: german.sdsu.edu

Dr. Kristin Rebien
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Course Description
Nation or Supranation? Contemporary German identity is defined by both—national traditions and a larger European identity as it has been developing in recent decades. This course examines the contributions of fiction—i.e. writing about imagined and invented events, people, and constellations—to an actually existing, growing sense of “Europeanness” among Germans since the end of World War II. It explores ways in which fictional scenarios can give rise to novel ideas of unity and solidarity, borders, and political realities. Students will develop an understanding of the interdisciplinary field of German Studies and its methods of analysis, contemporary German literature and culture, the current political state of the European Union, and Germany’s place within it. This course is a lower-division GE course in area C.2 (Humanities). The course language is English.

Goals and Outcomes
• Analyze written, visual, and performed texts in German Studies in the context of their diverse cultural settings and historical moments.
• Develop a familiarity with various aesthetic and other value systems and the ways they are communicated across time and cultures.
• Argue from multiple perspectives about issues in German Studies that have personal and global relevance.
• Demonstrate the ability to approach complex problems and ask complex questions drawing upon knowledge of German Studies and the humanities.

Materials
• Perry Anderson, The New Old World (Verso, 2011)
• Johannes Bobrowski, Levin’s Mill (New Directions, 2010)
• Barbara Honigmann, A Love Made out of Nothing
• Ingo Schulze, Adam and Evelyn (Knopf, 2011)
Additional materials are available on Blackboard.

Prerequisites
none

Grading

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Students should attend class regularly, come to class fully prepared, and participate actively in classroom activities. Your participation grade will be lowered one full letter grade for every 2 unexcused absences.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>Quizzes provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their understanding of class materials.</td>
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<td>Exams</td>
<td>A midterm and a final exam will be given. Exams will assess understanding of materials and historical context, and sophistication of analysis. Final Exam Tuesday, December 16, 1-3 p.m.</td>
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For more information about the German Studies program at SDSU, see the program website: german.sdsu.edu, or contact the German Studies advisor, Professor Rebien: Dept. of European Studies, BA-300C, krebien@mail.sdsu.edu, 619-594-5128.
### Grades are defined as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A/A-</td>
<td>Outstanding achievement; available only for the highest accomplishment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+/B-</td>
<td>Praiseworthy performance; above average.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Slightly above average.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Average; awarded for satisfactory performance; the most common undergraduate grade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>Slightly below average.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+/D-</td>
<td>Minimally passing; lower than the typical undergraduate achievement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>INC</td>
<td>Incomplete Authorized: used only when the instructor concludes that a small, identifiable portion of course requirements cannot be met within the academic term for unforeseen, but valid reasons. A grade of &quot;INC&quot; may not be assigned to permit a student to avoid an undesirable grade.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WU</td>
<td>Incomplete Unauthorized: a student who is officially registered for the course but who has never attended or who has stopped attending after satisfactorily completing a portion of the course will receive a grade of &quot;WU.&quot; A &quot;WU&quot; counts as an &quot;F&quot; for grade-point averages, but may be removed by repeating the course. Students who are failing the course and who stop attending will receive an &quot;F.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR/NC</td>
<td>Credit/No Credit: Subject to the requirements of their major and the conditions set forth in the General Catalog, students may register for courses on a credit/no credit basis before the deadline. Work equivalent to &quot;C&quot; or above will result in a grade of &quot;CR;&quot; work equivalent to a &quot;C-&quot; or below will result in &quot;NC.&quot;</td>
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### Important Information

**Last Day to Adjust Schedule:** Add, drop or change grading basis by **September 8, 2014** (course forgiveness forms should be secured from the Office of the Registrar, SS-1641). Students are responsible for all courses on their schedule. You should check your online schedule regularly and take necessary action to add or drop during the first 15 days of the semester.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

**Cheating and Plagiarism:** Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses. You are plagiarizing or cheating if you:

- for written work, copy anything from a book, article, or website and add or paste it into your paper without using quotation marks and providing the full reference in a proper citation (footnote, or endnote, or parenthetical citation and bibliography)
- for written work, paraphrase in your own words ideas you got from a book, article, or the web without providing the full reference in a proper citation (footnote, or endnote, or parenthetical citation and bibliography)
- for an oral presentation, copy down or cut anything from a book, article, or website and present it orally as if it were your own words.
- use visuals or graphs you got from a book, article, or website without providing the full reference for the picture or table
- purchase or otherwise obtain a paper and turn it in as your own work
- copy off of a classmate
- use technology or smuggle in documents to obtain or check information in an exam situation

If you have any question or uncertainty about what is or is not cheating, it is your responsibility to ask your instructor. **Take the Tutorial:** Test your knowledge of what constitutes plagiarism through a tutorial offered by the SDSU Library. To access the tutorial go to: [http://infotutor.sdsu.edu/plagiarism/](http://infotutor.sdsu.edu/plagiarism/)

SDSU instructors are mandated to report all instances of cheating and plagiarism to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibility.

**SDSU Writing Center:** The Writing Center is a free resource open to all SDSU students. The Writing Center staff consists of peer (student) tutors who assist students in understanding writing assignments and criteria and can help students with any stage of the writing process, from brainstorming topics to revision of rough drafts. To make an appointment, please visit [www.writingcenter.sdsu.edu](http://www.writingcenter.sdsu.edu) or simply stop by for a drop-in appointment. Hours are Monday-Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Writing Center is located in the Dome, LLA 1103, next to the circulation desk.