Instructor: Dr. Iris Bork-Goldfield
Office: Fisk 409
Office hours: M/W 11:00-12:30 p.m. or by appointment
Class meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:40 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. in FISK 312

Course Materials
- Will be provided by the instructor
- Websites for various topics, grammar, vocabulary, and music are listed on Moodle

Course Description
This course for advanced students of German offers a theme-based approach to better understand German society and how its past shaped its present. A weekly five-minute news report presented by a course participant will keep us up-to-date with current events in Germany. In addition to reviewing specific grammar, we will also work on various writing styles and genres. Furthermore, you will be presented with fresh and challenging material to practice, explore, and broaden your competencies in conversation, reading, and listening comprehension. This semester, on September 26-28, Wesleyan will host an international conference to mark the 50th year since the publication of Hannah Arendt's Eichmann in Jerusalem. On the final day of the conference, there will be a roundtable discussion about Arendt’s time at Wesleyan and a screening of Margarethe von Trotta’s film, Hannah Arendt. All students are expected to attend at least one panel and the film screening and discussion afterwards with co-screenwriter Pam Katz.

We will start the course by defining the terms “Heimat and Identität,” an important motif explored in the course. Among other topics, we will also explore the following:

- Leben im Nationalsozialismus, Widerstand – Holocaust und Vergangenheitsbewältigung
  - Hannah Arendt und ihre Aufzeichnungen zum Eichmann Prozess
- Gründung der zwei deutschen Staaten und Bau der Mauer
- Das Leben in der DDR
- Das Leben in der BRD
- Deutschland seit 1989
  - Alltagskultur
  - Umwelt und Umweltschutz
  - Multi-Kulti: Migration und Integration

Reading texts, viewing films, and listening to audio materials of varying lengths are major components of this course, as are writing weekly essays and giving short oral
presentations on various topics. Emphasis will be placed on developing and refining skills for written and oral expression, including mastery of advanced grammatical structures and vocabulary.

Oral proficiency and progress will be evinced by active participation in the classroom that will include informal and directed conversation, group work, grammar review, and vocabulary exercises. Each student will give several short oral presentations, including news reports.

You will strengthen your writing skills throughout the course by a model-based, process-oriented and genre-focused approach. Short essays will be assigned weekly, and you will submit two major compositions during this course. The first version of each essay and composition will be returned to you with my suggestions for corrections and improvements; the mandatory revised version will be graded.

The final exam will consist of a 1,000-word (double-spaced) typed composition written at home and a 10-15 minute oral presentation in class.

Homework assignments and all other information related to this course can be found on Moodle 2.

Goals
At the end of the course you will:

- have a good understanding of how Germany’s recent past shaped its present
- have become familiar with contemporary German authors, filmmakers and musicians and their works
- have read about and discussed issues relevant to Germany in the 20th and 21st century
- have improved your ability to understand a variety of authentic texts, including audio and visual materials of varying lengths in German
- have improved your writing, listening, reading, and speaking skills.

Attendance and Participation
Learning a language is a cumulative process. Therefore, attending class and actively participating are vital. You cannot just get the notes from another student. You will want to keep up—and keep speaking, listening, reading, and writing! You don't have to get everything correct right away, but you will want to try! Attendance is required. Excused absences include family emergencies, illness or medical complications (substantiated by a doctor’s or nurse’s signed note). If you miss class, it is your responsibility (not your instructor’s) to find out what was done in class and what the homework is before the next class. You are allowed two unexcused absences. Note that attendance is calculated as a strict percentage of the number of times you were in class—in other words, every unexcused absence in class counts against your overall semester grade for attendance.

Homework
No late homework will be accepted. You should expect to spend at least two hours to prepare/do the homework for each class. This might include watching a film or listening to audio materials.

Grading and Academic Honesty
Upon matriculating, you were required to pledge to uphold the Honor Code. You are expected to write your own papers, not to copy from others, and to state your sources. If you are unsure about what is considered plagiarizing, please consult Wesleyan’s Student Handbook or me.
Grading and Assessment

30% Class Discussion and Short Presentations. Participation in class discussions will be assessed based on frequency, willingness, appropriateness and improvement over the course of the semester.

35% Compositions (short and long essays). I will be paying particular attention to: (1) your level of written expression in terms of grammar and vocabulary and; (2) your level of critical thinking skills in terms of the meaningful organization of your thoughts and comments in relation to the material covered.

20% Final written paper

15% Final oral presentation

The final semester grade will be calculated according to the following scale:

- A+= 98.3 - 100
- A = 95 ↑
- A- = 91.7 ↑
- B+ = 88.3 ↑
- B = 85 ↑
- B- = 81.7 ↑
- C+ = 78.3 ↑
- C = 75 ↑
- C- = 71.7 ↑
- D+ = 68.3 ↑
- D = 65 ↑
- D- = 61.7 ↑
- E+ = 58 ↑
- E = 55 ↑
- E - = 51.7 ↑
- F = 45 and below

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of Wesleyan University to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Please register with Disabilities Services at Student Affairs. If you need special accommodations in class, please make an appointment with me during the first full week of classes so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

German Cultural Events at Wesleyan

Mandatory

Attendance of at least one panel of the Conference on Hannah Arendt, September 26-28, 2013, and the film screening and discussion of the film Hannah Arendt, directed by Margarethe von Trotta on Friday, September 27, at 8 p.m. at the Goldsmith Family Cinema. Introduction by Leo Lensing (Professor of German and Film Studies, Wesleyan University), followed by a Q&A with Pam Katz P’16, the film’s co-screenwriter.

Strongly recommended

- The German House invites all German students to attend its Kaffeestunde and other cultural events (TBA). Please attend at least two of these events.
- Mittagstisch: This semester a student from Germany and/or I will host a monthly German Mittagstisch (TBA). You will have the opportunity to converse in German there with other advanced and native German speakers.
- German Movie: Im Herz, im Bauch, im Juli by Fatih Akin to be aired on November 5th with an introduction by me.

If you have any questions, please contact me as soon as possible, either during my office hours or via email. I look forward to working with you this semester.

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1 Please visit our News and Events Blog for more detailed information.
### Vorläufiger Semesterplan – Herbst 2013

#### September

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#### September / Oktober

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20. November: Abgabe der 1. Fassung der PowerPoint
22. November: Abgabe der 1. Fassung der Seminararbeit
2./4. Dezember: Mündliche Vorträge
11. Dezember: Abgabe der 2. Fassung der Seminararbeit