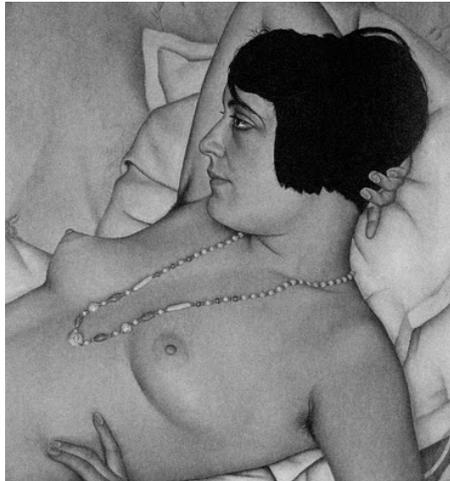


German 225I: Sex and/or the City

Autumn Semester 2012

Prof. Schuman (schuman.23@osu.edu)

Office Hours (427 Hagerty Hall): M 1-3, T 2-5 & by appointment



Christian Schad, *Halbakt* (Half-nude, 1929)



Squat in Berlin-Kreuzberg, 1980s

Course Description: From the *Nibelungenlied* (ca. 1200) to Charlotte Roche's ultra-controversial *Wetlands* (2008), the history of German-language cultural expression is in many ways a history of two things that often overlap: sex, and the city. In this survey course—taught entirely in ENGLISH—we will hone our vital criticism and communication skills as we explore the many relationships between urban life, sexuality and gender in the art, architecture, literature, philosophy, and film of Germany, Austria and Switzerland from the 13th Century to the 2000s.

GE Lit Information

This is a GE course in the category Literature. As such, it has the following expected goals and learning outcomes.

Goals: students evaluate significant texts in order to develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; and critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students analyze, interpret, and critique significant literary works.
2. Through reading, discussing, and writing about literature, students appraise and evaluate the personal and social values of their own and other cultures.

Course Specific Learning Outcomes:

1. Students analyze, interpret and critique significant works of art, architecture, philosophy, film.
2. Assignments and discussions will help students develop the following skills: information gathering, research, analysis, communication (written and oral), teamwork, leadership.

Required Texts:

In addition to numerous PDFs and films that will be made available through Carmen or other online resources, students are responsible for obtaining copies of the following books:

- Heinrich von Kleist, *The Marquise of O and Other Stories*, ISBN 978-0140443592
- Franz Kafka, *The Trial*, ISBN 978-0805209990
- Bertolt Brecht, *Threepenny Opera*, any translation or edition
- Elfride Jelinek (pictured at right), *The Piano Teacher*, ISBN 978-0802144614.
- Sven Regener, *Berlin Blues*, ISBN 978-0099449232



You may obtain these texts at the OSU Bookstore, SBX, or from any source you choose, used or new, but please obtain the editions above if they are specified by an ISBN.

Course Requirements:

1. Short Writings: 40% of final grade
 - a. Students will be assigned four (4) short essays of varying lengths (max. 2.5 pages). Two essays will be completed in-class.
 - b. Students have the option to rewrite *one* take-home Short Writing and *one* in-class Short Writing for a better grade.
2. Leadership Project + Write-up, 20% of grade (10% each)
 - a. In pairs, students will lead class discussion on the day of their choosing for approx. 30 minutes. Details and sign-up sheet in Week 3.
 - b. Individually, students will also submit a 3-page write-up of their leadership experience.
3. Annotated Portfolio: 25% of final grade (5% per submission)
 - a. Students will choose 5 visual images or film stills and provide a one-page (250-word) analytical and interpretive caption.
 - b. Deadlines for individual portfolio submissions throughout semester.
 - c. Two submissions may be revised for a better grade before or during Finals Week.
4. In-class work: 15% of final grade
 - a. There will be various in-class activities designed to foster engagement and participation. They may include: reading quizzes, impromptu answering of Study Questions, 15-minute In-Class Writings, group worksheets, and other activities.
5. This class has NO MIDTERM or FINAL EXAM, and a total writing output of 13-17 pages.
6. Extra Credit:
 - a. PARTICIPATION: Students who exhibit exemplary participation and true leadership may receive a bonus of 1-3% toward their final grades.
 - b. STUDY QUESTIONS: Students who complete and submit every Study Question on homework Worksheets before the start of the class for which they are due will receive +1/2 of an entire letter on their final grade (for example: a Calculated Final Grade of B+ will be raised to A-).

Schedule of Readings

This is a basic outline of our assignments and subject to change. Full assignments (page numbers, Study Questions, etc.) will be posted on Carmen 5-12 days before the class meeting for which they are due. It is your responsibility to check Carmen regularly.

WEEK 1, Wednesday (Aug. 22): Course Introduction, Syllabus (you're reading it RIGHT NOW!)

WEEK 2 (Aug 27 & 29): The *Nibelungenlied*, Wagner's *Ring Cycle*

WEEK 3 (Sept 3 & 5): Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *The Sorrows of Young Werther*

Saturday, Sept. 8, 8:00 p.m.: Short Writing 1 Due in Dropbox

WEEK 4 (Sept 10 & 12): Heinrich von Kleist, *The Marquise of O—*

WEEK 5 (Sept 17 & 19): Otto Weininger (*Sex and Character*),
Adolf Loos (*Ornament and Crime*), the Bauhaus

Student Leadership Presentations Begin

Saturday, Sept. 22, 8:00 p.m.: Portfolio 1 Due in Dropbox

WEEK 6 (Sept 24 & 26): Fritz Lang's *M*, New Objectivity

Saturday, Sept. 29, 8:00 p.m.: Portfolio 2 Due in Dropbox

WEEK 7 (Oct 1 & 3): Franz Kafka, *The Trial*

Saturday, Oct. 6, 8:00 p.m.: Short Writing 2 Due in Dropbox

WEEK 8 Monday only (Oct 8): *The Trial* cot'd

WEEK 9 (Oct 15 & 17): Bertolt Brecht, *Threepenny Opera*

Saturday, Oct. 20, 8:00 p.m.: Short Writing 3 Due in Dropbox

WEEK 10 (Oct 22 & 24): Elfride Jelinek, *The Piano Teacher*

WEEK 11 (Oct 29 & 31): Architecture of the GDR, *The Lives of Others* (film)

Saturday, Nov. 3, 8:00 p.m.: Portfolio 3 due in Dropbox

WEEK 12 (Nov 5 & 7): Sven Regener, *Berlin Blues*

WEEK 13 Wednesday only (Nov 14) : *Berlin Blues* cot'd

WEEK 14 Monday only (Nov 19) : *Christiane F.* (film)

Week 15 (Nov 26 & 28): *Good-Bye Lenin*, *Run Lola Run* (films)

Last Day of Student Leadership Presentations

Saturday, Dec. 1, 8:00 p.m.: Short Writing 4 due in Dropbox

Week 16 Monday only (Dec 3): Charlotte Roche, *Wetlands* (excerpt)

SATURDAY, DEC. 8, 8:00 p.m.: Portfolio 5 and Portfolio Revisions due in Dropbox.

Appendix A: Grading Rubrics

If you believe that there has been an error in calculating your grade, please email me or see me in office hours.

Short Writings (40% of Final Grade):

90-100	insightful, elegantly written
80-89	good command of material, minor writing errors
70-79	some command of material, major writing errors
60-69	little command of material, egregious writing errors
E	assignment not turned in/academic misconduct

Leadership Project (presentation), 10% of Final Grade:

90-100	excellent engagement, true leadership, shows initiative
80-89	adequate engagement, some leadership
70-79	inadequate preparation
60-69	little to no preparation
E	absent on day of presentation

Leadership Project (write-up), 10% of Final Grade: See Short Writings Rubric

Portfolio (25% of final grade): See Short Writings Rubric

In-Class Work (15% of final grade):

90-100	excellent command of material
80-89	adequate command of material
70-79	some command of material
60-69	little to no command of material
E	absent

Extra Credit:

Up to 3% bonus on final grade for exceptional participation:

1. student participates often with substantive, relevant, inquisitive communication that engages and involves the class, and/or
2. student assumes an *exceptional* leadership role in group activities

+1 half-letter (e.g. B+ to A-) on final grade for completion (turned in via DropBox *before* the start of class) of **every single study question for every assignment.**

~one more page! you're almost there!~

Appendix B: Course Policies

Attendance is mandatory. Attendance issues will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis to account for emergencies and illness. Excessive absences will result in a diminished grade.

Late policy for unexcused late work:

- 1-2 days -5%
- 3-5 days -10%
- 6-7 days -20%
- 7+ days -40%

Email policy:

- Please check your OSU mail regularly
- Please allow 24 hours for a response from me M-F
- Please allow 48 hours Sat and Sun
- For questions about assignments, please refer to Carmen and/or a classmate before emailing me
- For technical issues, please email me right away.
- For discrepancies in grading calculations, please email me right away.

Students with disabilities needing accommodation should contact the Office for Disability Services at 614-292-3307 TDD 292-0901 or in 150 Pomerene Hall (<http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu>) to coordinate reasonable accommodations. Do this as soon as possible to ensure accommodations can be made. You do not need to share personal information with me beyond what is absolutely necessary.

This class is protected by the **Federal Family Educational Right to Privacy Act (FERPA)**. For more information about your rights, please refer to <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>.

The following are unacceptable in my class:

1. Disrespectful or disruptive behavior
2. **Use of MOBILE PHONES. Every documented use of a phone will result in a half-letter deduction from your FINAL grade.**
3. Off-task technology use
4. Academic misconduct, including but not limited to: buying, stealing or “borrowing” work you yourself did not complete. All suspected cases of misconduct will be reported to the OSU Committee on Student Misconduct, and your fate is largely out of my hands. **DO NOT PUT YOURSELF OR ME IN THE POSITION OF HAVING TO DEAL WITH AN ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT CASE.** For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct.
5. Food or uncovered drink near the computers!

The following are acceptable/encouraged in my class:

1. Using the first person in essays and formal coursework
2. Leaving class to use the facilities without asking permission
3. Asking questions about anything class-related

YOU READ THE WHOLE THING. CONGRATULATIONS! Now, please **email me** (schuman.23@osu.edu) so that you can get credit for the assignment. In the body of your email, please include AT LEAST ONE SPECIFIC QUESTION OR COMMENT you have about the class, policies, assignments, etc.