Fall 2017

FEMINIST THEORY AND GERMAN-LANGUAGE FILM
(ENG 6138 Studies in Film and GET 6901 Special Studies German Literature)

Associate Professor Barbara Mennel
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00-3:00pm and by appointment
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Course objectives:
The cross-listed graduate pro-seminar has a two-fold objective: one, introduction to academic research processes, scholarly writing, professionalization, and teaching; and two, a study of feminist theory in relation to German-language film. In addition to reading feminist theory and discussing its applicability to film, we will host scholars Hester Baer and Erica Carter for public lectures and seminar discussions of their scholarship and academic careers. Films include Murderers Are among Us (Wolfgang Staudte, 1946), The Girl Rosemarie (Rolf Thiele, 1958), Passing Summer (Angela Schanelec, 2017), Toni Erdmann (Maren Ade, 2016), The Devil is a Woman (Josef von Sternberg, 1935), and La Habanera (Detlev Sierk, 1937). The seminar will address research and writing for graduate school, as well as for conference participation and publication. Members of the seminar will have ample time and opportunity to apply materials to their areas of research interest. Course assignments include preparatory research activities, professional exercises, academic genres (e.g. abstract), drafts and responses on research projects, and active involvement in hosting guest speakers.

Required Reading:
Additional articles and weblinks accessible through Library West Reserve; articles and other materials in PDF and weblinks in Canvas.
Grading:
Oral participation and attendance (letter grade) 10%
Participation in organizing visiting speakers 10%
Bibliography (letter grade) 10%
Proposal/Abstract for Final Paper (letter grade) 10%
Draft of Final Paper (no letter grade) 10%
Response to Draft (letter grade) 10%
Final Paper (letter grade) 40%

Attendance:
You need to attend all class meetings and submit papers on time. You are required to provide documentation for absences or late submissions because of sickness or extenuating circumstances, which will not affect your grade negatively. In such cases, you should try to reach me before class meeting and communicate with the student with whom you are collaborating.

Disability accommodation:
Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Student evaluations:
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/. I will set aside time for student evaluations in our last meeting.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Oral participation
Participation in scholarly conversation is part of the professionalization process as a graduate student. Contributions should reflect preparation of the material and advance the dialogic conversation. I call on graduate students who do not volunteer contributions to seminar discussion.

Participation in organizing visiting speakers:
We will host two scholarly speakers this semester. You will work in groups in preparing their visit. This includes advertising, introducing their lectures, preparing discussion in the seminar, and organizing and attending social events. Visiting professors Hester Baer
and Erica Carter are aware that the seminar is organized around their work and the
introduction to graduate school. Thus, your questions may address the content of their
scholarly work and questions about process (motivation, research, writing, time
management, etc.).

Bibliography:
Librarian Hélène Huet will introduce you to research and management systems for
references in a library session. This will include one hour of time for you to search for
titles as you begin to explore a possible topic for your final paper. This should be an
exploratory bibliography with correct and consistent entries based on one of the
management systems for references.

Proposal/abstract:
I require that you submit a proposal/abstract for your final paper, which should be
about 250 words single-spaced with a bibliography of five titles. The proposal/abstract
has to include the following:
1) Tentative title of your final paper
2) A brief description of your topic with research question(s), methodology, and the
titles of the film(s) that you will discuss
3) A short and representative bibliography
You will hand in the proposal (abstract) to me and three other students. You will receive
feedback from me in written form and from your fellow students in a small-group
discussion. Please keep in mind that good questions are often very helpful in clarifying
research projects.

Draft of Final Paper:
You will hand in a draft of your final paper to me and one other student in class and you
will receive written comments from both of us. This feedback will help you revise your
research paper for final submission. Because I will have provided written comments on
your abstract, my comments on your draft will be in the form of track changes or hand-
written comments on paper. The feedback from your fellow-student will be in form of a
written response modelled on the anonymous review process of scholarly journals. I will
provide examples and two texts about format and ethics prior to the submission date.

Response to Draft:
You will read and respond to the draft of the final paper by one of your classmates. Your
response should point out strengths and areas of possible improvement and be as
specific as possible. The response should be approximately 1-2 pages single-spaced. You
will submit one copy of your response to your fellow student and one to me. I will
create pairs based on your research interests.

Final Paper:
The final research paper of 12-15 pages may address a topic developed from course
material or reflecting your own research interest. MFA students may develop a creative
project, which similarly may connect to the content of the course or be self-directed. I will attempt to pair MFA students with each other.

**Plagiarism and Cheating:**
Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional use of the intellectual works of others, including websources, friends’ papers, published and unpublished work. I prosecute plagiarism and cheating to the fullest extent possible at UF. If I find that you plagiarized, you will fail this class and that I will submit your name, an account of the incident, and documentation to the graduate coordinator of your major.

**Classroom behavior and cell phone, ipad, and laptop use:**
I also expect that graduate students have completed assigned readings and viewings and participate actively, regularly, and voluntarily in discussion. It should go without saying that in a graduate seminar texting and surfing the web is absolutely inappropriate and unacceptable. During class time, you should use cell phones, ipads, or laptops only for course materials.

**Schedule of workshops in the library for Endnote, Refwork, and Library Orientations:**
http://apps.uflib.ufl.edu/Registration/public_workshops_scheduled.aspx

**Events for graduate students in fall semester:**

"Humanities PhDs at Work: Career Paths in Librarianship."
Monday, 18 September 4:00 pm Smathers 100

Hélène Huet, Megan Daly, and Jessica Aberle are assistant librarians at the George A. Smathers Libraries. Though each presenter received a doctorate from their respective fields in the Humanities, Huet, Daly, and Aberle all chose to transition into the field of librarianship. If you are curious about the work that librarians undertake and whether a career in an academic library might be a good fit for you, this presentation will offer guidance. They will speak about their roles in the library and provide a brief overview of their work, followed with a discussion of their different career trajectories and the hurdles they encountered along the way. Then they will explain their decisions to pursue librarianship and why they love their work. Finally, they will provide resources and advice to those interested in libraries, archives, and information science.

Presenters:
Hélène Huet, Ph.D. European Studies Librarian.
Megan Daly, Ph.D. Classics, Philosophy, and Religion Librarian.
Jessica Aberle, Ph.D. Architecture Librarian.

"Humanities PhDs at Work: Museums
Friday October 27, 4 pm in Keene-Flint 005 (History Conference Room)
Peggy MacDonald, Executive Director, the Matheson History Museum: "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Working at a Museum But Were Afraid to Ask!"

Eric Segal, Director of Education and Curator of Academic Programs, the Harn Museum of Art at UF: "Clio in the Galleries: Installing your Doctorate in the Museum"

COURSE OUTLINE:

Week 1

Wednesday, August 23 Introduction

Week 2

Monday, August 28 Screening: Murderers Are Among Us (Wolfgang Staudte, 1946)
Reserve links to streaming via Kanopy

Wednesday, August 30 The Dream Factory

Week 3

Monday, September 4 --No Screening: Labor Day
Watch outside of class: The Girl Rosemarie (Rolf Thiele, 1958)

Wednesday, September 6 The Dream Factory

Week 4


Wednesday, September 13
Week 5
Monday, September 18 Screening: *Toni Erdmann* (Maren Ade, 2016)

**Wednesday, September 20 @ 4:00pm in Smathers 100**

**Public Talk: Hester Baer (University of Maryland)**

“Disorganizing Comedy: Genre, Normativity, and Neoliberalism in Maren Ade’s *Toni Erdmann***

This talk investigates the relationship between changing socioeconomic contexts and the emergence of new aesthetic forms in contemporary German cinema, focusing particularly on the critically acclaimed box-office hit *Toni Erdmann* (2016), written and directed by Maren Ade. I contend that Ade’s film is a landmark in the cinematic representation of neoliberalism. In its narrative, the film strives to depict the contemporary economy in all of its facets and employs a father-daughter generational narrative to track the transformations of ordinary life in the present. More significantly, Ade’s film intervenes into film form and especially the comedy genre, employing sight gags in new ways in order to reveal the clashing realities of its characters and the incommensurabilities of life in global capitalism. As I suggest, *Toni Erdmann* disorganizes the conventions of comedy and disrupts the affective expectations that attach to the genre, reflecting on a formal level the insecurity of the present that forms the matrix of the narrative. In considering how genre and aesthetic form help make aspects of the neoliberal present visible, my analysis attends particularly to *Toni Erdmann*’s sustained focus on the way economic transactions shape and are shaped by normative conceptions of nation, ethnicity, race, class, gender, and sexuality today.

6:00 pm Seminar discussion
7:00 pm Piesanos

Hester Baer’s CV is also available on Canvas

Week 6

Monday, September 25 No screening

**Wednesday, September 27 Introductions**


Week 7

Monday, October 2 No screening
Wednesday, October 4 The Consuming Woman and the Graduate Seminar

Week 8

Monday, October 9 No screening

Wednesday, October 11 Library Session with Hélène Huet, 211 Library West
Introduction to research and reference managers. You should spend one hour developing your tentative research topic for your final paper.

Week 9

Monday, October 16 No screening

Wednesday, October 18 The Consuming Woman and the Seminar Paper
Due: Bibliography of 5-10 titles (Endnote, Refwork, or Zotero)

Week 10

Monday, October 23 Screening: The Devil is a Woman (Josef von Sternberg, 1935)

Wednesday, October 25 Dietrich’s Ghosts, Teaching, and Exams

Week 11

Monday, October 30 Screening: La Habanera (Detlev Sierk, 1937)

Wednesday, November 1 Dietrich’s Ghosts, Dissertation, Attending Conferences
5:30pm Speakers: Professors Roger Maioli and Delia Steverson


Week 12
Monday, November 6 Screening: Film TBA

Wednesday, November 8 @ 4:00pm in Smathers 100
Public Lecture: Erica Carter Title TBA
6:00 pm Seminar discussion
7:00 pm Piesanos

Friday, November 10 @ 5:00pm
Due: Abstract
ABSOLUTELY NO EXTENSION: I HAVE TO READ ALL ABSTRACTS AND RESPOND TO ALL ABSTRACTS BY WEDNESDAY—MEETING DEADLINES IS PART OF PROFESSIONALIZATION

Week 13
Monday, November 13 No screening

Wednesday, November 15 Publishing and Grant-applications
Guest Lecture: Sophia Acord: Grant Applications
Discussion of abstracts in groups of three
Week 14
Monday, November 20 No screening

Wednesday, November 22
Cancelled: Thanksgiving

Week 15
Monday, November 27 No screening

Wednesday, November 29 **Job-market and Alt-Ac**

**Guest speaker: Dr. Maggie Galvan, English Department, UF**


The following links are available on Canvas:
[https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2013/01/14/essay-preparing-academic-or-alt-ac-careers](https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2013/01/14/essay-preparing-academic-or-alt-ac-careers)

Ashley Sander. “Going Alt-Ac: How to Begin.” *Inside Higher Ed*

Please also visit the following websites:
[http://altac.web.unc.edu/](http://altac.web.unc.edu/)

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**Friday, December 1 @ 5:00pm**

**Drafts of paper due to Prof. Mennel and one other student**

**ABSOLUTELY NO EXTENSION: I HAVE TO READ ALL PAPERS AND RESPOND TO ALL PAPERS BY WEDNESDAY—MEETING DEADLINES IS PART OF PROFESSIONALIZATION**

Week 16
Monday, December 4 No screening

Wednesday, December 6

COPE-Committee on Publication Ethics “COPE Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers” (PDF on Canvas)
Barbara Young Welke. “The Art of Manuscript Reviewing: 10 Guidelines from Peggy Pascoe, a Master of the Art.” *Perspectives on History* (September 2011): 38-41. (PDF on Canvas with samples of anonymous review and journal criteria)

**Due:** Written response to final paper draft of your fellow-student to said student and Barbara Mennel in hard-copy or via email by beginning of class

**Discussion of revision, final discussion in class, and evaluations**

**Final paper due: Monday, December 11, by 5:00pm**

You may submit your paper before the deadline and by the deadline electronically. Consider your paper as successfully submitted when you receive my response email that I have was able to open you attachment.