Course Description

Vergangenheitsbewältigung examines two major German authors' responses to the Second World War and its aftermath: Günter Grass's *Blechtrommel*, for which he won the Nobel Prize in Literature, and Siegfried Lenz' *Deutschstunde*, for which he was awarded the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade.

Program Learning Outcomes

This is a general education course, and no specific program learning outcomes for a major are addressed.

General Education Course Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes

This is not a core curriculum course, and no core curriculum objectives are measured.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of Vergangenheitsbewältigung, you will have read the two seminal works of post-Second-World-War German literature, and have developed insight into how writers in West Germany attempted to come to terms with the recent Nazi past, and you will make significant contrasts and comparisons between the two works. Finally, you will ideally be able to apply the main themes of these two works to contemporary society.

Course Guidelines

Vergangenheitsbewältigung is an intensive reading course. Our class meetings are devoted to discussion and analysis of the novels. For this reason, it is imperative that you remain up-to-date with your reading.

Required Texts


Final Project

The final project in Vergangenheitsbewältigung is an 8-10 page paper in German that compares the how these authors’ novels come to terms with the Nazi past in the newly-established Federal Republic of Germany (then, West Germany).

The final project should be submitted by the last day of our regular meetings.

Grading: Testing and Evaluation Criteria

A. (40%) Final project, counts 50% toward your total course grade.

B. (40%) Contribution to class discussions and class presentations count 50% toward your total course grade.

C. (20%) Short reaction papers to each novel count a total of 20% toward your total course grade.
Policies

Class Preparation
Class preparation includes all activities necessary to participate in class discussions. Class preparation includes assigned activities that must be completed outside of the class meetings. All preparation for each class meeting is to be completed before each class meeting.

Papers
All papers are to be turned in at the beginning of class on the day which they are due. Late assignments, if accepted, will be penalized an entire grade (i.e., an “A” paper would automatically be recorded as a “B,” etc.).

Attendance
Regular attendance to all class meetings is expected and required. You will be allowed a maximum of two excused absences without incurring a penalty. Only written medical excuses, proof of participation in a university-sponsored activity or proof of a family emergency are considered legitimate excused absences. Beginning with the third absence, a penalty of 0.5% will be levied on the earned final grade. Possible exemptions may be made in the case of students who are hospitalized or who must stay at home on the advice of a physician due to an extended illness or in the case of students who must leave the university for a family emergency. You will have to provide proof of need for such absences.

Tardiness
The equivalent of ½ an excused absence will be counted for each time a student reports late to class. After 4 tardies, each additional tardy will be counted as an absence, with the equivalent consequences on the final grade.

Food
You are will be developing your German-language speaking skills in ILA 315. Please do not bring food or drink into the classroom. (One exception is a closed water bottle that is stored in your book bag or other tote.)

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp
Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Acceptable Student Behavior
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Course Calendar
Weeks 1 - 7: Die Blechtrommel
Weeks 8 - 14: Die Deutschstunde
Week 15: Discussion and final paper comparing the two authors’ approaches to coming to terms with the then-recent Nazi past in Germany.

Please note that I do reserve the right to modify the course syllabus if necessary to enhance your learning experience.