

GRMN 390-01:

# Behind Crumbling Walls

Tales of Love, Violence and the Stasi



GRMN 390-01 | Spring 2019 | M&MW 2:00-3:15 p.m.

BellSouth Building 404 | Dr. Sarah Koellner | Office hours:

M&MW: 3:30-5:00 pm & by Appointment | Office: JC Long 421

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## Course Description

When the East German border guard Martin Rauch is sent as an undercover agent to the Bundeswehr in West Germany, his life turns completely upside down. His mission is to gain access to key information about a prospective nuclear attack from the West in 1983. While his spy training focuses on assimilation into

Western German society, his success of shifting between his old and new identity depends upon his developed cross-cultural competency when it comes to making friends, falling in love, and not losing his moral compass in the fight of “good vs. evil.”

The aim of this course is threefold. Besides engaging with the history, politics, and (popular)culture of divided Germany in the 80s, we will focus on strengthening our German language skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. To do so, we will improve our narrative skills, learn how to analyze scenes, how to express opinions, observations, and reactions. By the end of the





semester we will be able to argue for a standpoint and to participate in discussions in German. Lastly, in a collaborative project, we will write short filmic scenes ourselves and visualize them with the help of digital storytelling tools.

GRMN 390: “Behind Crumbling Walls: Tales of Love, Violence, and the Stasi.” This special topic German culture and language course focuses on the cultural history of the GDR and West-Germany through the lens of the TV-Show *Deutschland 83* (2015, Trailer: <https://youtu.be/m4WIfro0aig>) & *Deutschland 86* (2018, trailer: <https://youtu.be/10DOQeN2ggQ>).

### Language Skills Emphasized in the Course

- **Speaking:** Narrating the plot of a literary work and expressing reactions (B1) Taking active part in a discussion and supporting and sustaining viewpoints. (B2)
- **Writing:** Write simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. (B1) Writing an essay or report, passing on information or giving reasons in support of or against a particular point of view. (B2)
- **Reading:** Understanding texts that consist mainly of high frequency everyday language. (B1) Understanding contemporary literary prose. (B2)
- **Listening:** Understanding extended speech and follow even complex lines of argument provided the topic is reasonably familiar. (B2) Understand the majority of films in standard dialect. (B2)



### Department of German and Russian Studies Mission Statement:



The Department of German and Russian Studies seeks to provide students with a broad range of courses, degree programs, study abroad opportunities and internships to develop proficiency and cultural literacy in German and Russian. The department's mission is to prepare all students for success as professionals for life-long critical engagement as global citizens through the study of language, literature and media as an integral part of the liberal arts education.

## Artistic Works & Media

### Films:

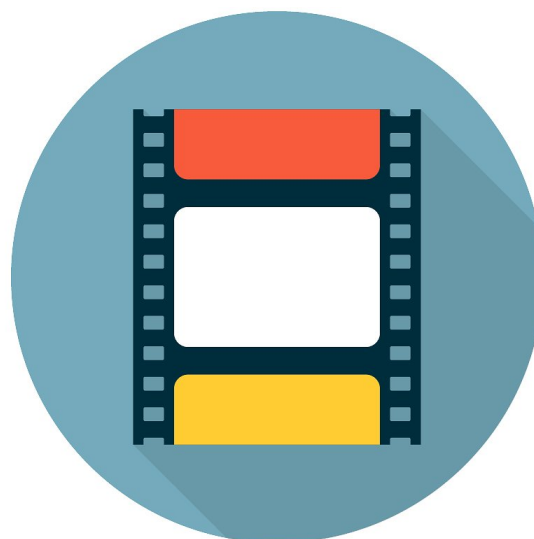
- We will discuss how to access the selected TV series in advance in class.
- *Deutschland 83* [Hulu]  
<https://www.hulu.com/watch/884949>
- *Deutschland 86* [Hulu]  
<https://www.hulu.com/series/deutschland-86-b46283b9-ebb1-4bee-b28b-a383511edc63>

### JSTOR:

- Literary works and secondary articles which have not been posted on OAKS can be found through the indicated links.
- Please consult me if you need any help with locating the articles through the links or the CofC library catalog  
<http://cofc.edu/library/>

### CofC WordPress Blog & StoryMap JS

- Over the course of the semester, each student will present twice on a selected historical, fictional, and (pop)cultural theme of *Deutschland 83* & *Deutschland 86*.
- Each presentation will be supported with StoryMap JS (<https://storymap.knightlab.com>), which will be embedded in our WordPressBlog “Behind Crumbling Walls.” By taking this course you agree to the digital publishing of your work and accessibility through our CofC blog: <http://blogs.cofc.edu/grmn390/>



## Learning Goals

- A greater understanding of the complex German-German history with a particular focus on the artistic representation of transcultural dynamics between West & East Germany during the 1980s.
- We will be able to reflect upon the roles of gender, ethnicity, citizenship, and economic class as determined factors for the scope of the experienced socio-political dynamics of the last phase of the Cold War.
- By the end of the course, we will be able to reflect upon the shifting notion of the concept of identity and the tension between individual remembrance and cultural memory and its representation and evaluation in artistic works.
- We will gain confidence in reading authentic German texts and watching authentic German TV series as they begin to recognize and comprehend more complex discursive structures in written and verbal German.
- We will strengthen our analytics skills and German writing over the course of the semester, and we will be introduced to methodological tools to analyze different forms of media.
- We will enhance our multimedia competence by exploring versatile digital mapping tools throughout the semester.



## General Education Student Learning Outcomes: Humanities

- Research and Communication in Multiple Media and Languages, including proficiency in: Foreign language. Organized around different topics and themes each iteration of the course continues to develop students' proficiency in the language beyond the third year of our language sequence (101-314). Conducted entirely in German, the course improves students' German reading and writing skills as well as their spoken German and listening comprehension. The goal is to improve every student's proficiency level.
- International and Intercultural Perspectives: Experiencing, understanding, and using multiple cultural perspectives. This course explores film, literary texts, and cultural readings from German language cultures and thus necessarily promotes an understanding of multiple cultural perspectives from different German-speaking nations.

## Course Evaluations

- You will have an opportunity to evaluate this course and the quality of instruction via an online evaluation form. We will take 15 minutes on April 22 to fill out the evaluations. This process will require that you bring a mobile device to access the online evaluation system. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns, or comments about the course, your very own learning experience, and the class in general. My office hours are a great way to meet with me and discuss how I can support you to succeed in this course. You are always welcome to make appointments or reach out via email.



# Course Policies

## Attendance:

A major factor in the steady progress of acquiring proficiency in a foreign language is sustained practice. Thus, it is imperative that you attend every class and complete all reading and written assignments. Your participation in the class means that you arrive on time, bring the relevant text(s), are prepared for the day's work, and contribute to a positive learning environment by your *active participation*: making the effort to speak *only* German and to remain on task during group activities. You may miss **two classes** (the equivalent of one week) unexcused without penalty. After that, each missed class period will drop your participation grade by 10 percent unless accompanied by a valid excuse. *Valid excuses entail notification from the Associate Dean of Students or the Moderator of an activity. You may fill out the absence form online at: <http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/services/absence.php>.* Accommodations will be made for College-approved religious holidays and students with SNAP certification. If you miss 6 or more classes without an acceptable excuse, you will be dropped from the course.

## Participation:

15% of your grade will be based on your participation in the class discussion. You are expected to have read the class material and to contribute to discussion constructively, in a thoughtful and informed way.

## Absence Memo Office:

If you miss a class due to a legitimate reason, you may bring documentation to the Absence Memo Office located at 67 George Street.

## Technology in the Classroom:

Please make sure your cell phones are turned off or silenced during the class. Texting or otherwise working with your electronic devices in class displays not only a visible lack of attention but also a profound lack of respect for your classmates, for your instructor, and for your learning environment. The use of electronic

communication devices is therefore not permitted in class if not otherwise advised by the instructor. Such devices include smart phones, tablets, digital recorders, iPods, digital cameras, and laptops. Turn them off and put them away before the start of each class session. Any extensive use of a phone, or other electronic communication device during class will result in a zero in participation for the day. If you want to look up a word, ask the instructor for a dictionary or to look it up for the whole class online. If you absolutely need to know the time, ask the instructor in German. If you have finished your task, make small talk in German, work ahead, or ask the instructor what to do.

## Equal Access:

I am happy to work with all students to ensure that they have equal access to the educational experience of this class. The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply at the Center for Disability Services / SNAP, located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. If you are approved for accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. All such discussions will be held in confidence unless you stipulate otherwise.

## Late Work:

Late work will not be accepted. I will, however, consider brief extensions for written assignments due to extenuating circumstances, such as illness or other unforeseen events. Note that extensions requests must be made via email before the deadline.

## Statement of Religious Accommodation:

CofC supports the concept of reasonable accommodation for religious observance in regard to class attendance, but students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives, requirements, and prerequisites as defined by the instructor and by the College.

## Honor Code

- I enforce without exception the College's Honor System and Classroom Code of Conduct. By choosing to enroll in this course, you indicate that you understand the Honor Code and are going to abide by it. The academic honor code forbids lying, cheating, and plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined as presenting the work of others as your own and copying sources without citation. Plagiarism or cheating will result in an XF grade for the course.
- You can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the *Student Handbook* at: <http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/documents-pdfs/2014-2015-student-handbook.pdf>.



## Some basic ground rules:

- It is expected that you will show courtesy towards other speakers in the class.
- If you want to continue a discussion with me outside of class, or if you fall behind, please come to one of my office hours, or make an appointment. That is why I'm here.
- Plagiarizing ideas from books, websites or others, and submitting written work that is not your own is a violation of the College of Charleston's Honor Code and will be prosecuted.
- If you are experiencing any difficulties in this class, please come see me. My office hours are listed at the top of the syllabus, and I am also available to make an appointment with you.
- If you are unprepared on any given day, please let me know. Do not miss class because you feel unprepared.

## Course Requirements & Grading

10 % Presentations D83 & D86  
15 % Class Participation  
15 % Worksheets & Filmtagebuch

20 % Writing Assignments (3)  
15 % Screenplay  
10 % Deutschland 89 Trailer  
15% Final Analytical Paper (GenEd assessment tool)

## Grading Scale

100–93 (A)  
92–90 (A-)  
89–88 (B+)  
87–83 (B)  
82–80 (B-)  
79–78 (C+)

77–73 (C)  
72–70 (C-)  
69–68 (D+)  
67–66 (D)  
65 (D-)  
64–0 (F)

# Assignments

## Worksheets and Filmtagebuch (FB) best 11/16:

All the texts for this course—with the exception of the TV series Deutschland 83 and Deutschland 86—will be available on OAKS on our course site. The rule of thumb for most classes is that you should expect two hours of work outside of class for every hour spent in class. This time should be devoted to watching *Deutschland 83 & 86*, reading supplementary texts and, and preparing the writing assignments and questions for the discussion. That said, set yourself a limit of *no more than two hours* for each watching/reading assignment. Anything you do not understand can then be the focus of your questions about the text. I reserve the right to hold pop quizzes. *You are responsible for printing out a copy of the worksheets and the FBs. I will accept only one via email.*

For each *FB* you must:

These are due at the start of class - you may want to keep a copy for yourself for discussion purposes. I will not accept work conducted during class time.

- A short (5-7 sentence) **synopsis** of the development of one character in each episode
- Write out and define **5** new words (if a word is a strong or irregular verb, be sure to note the following: Infinitive (Present tense form of *er/sie/es*), Simple Past form, Perfect form)
- **2 questions** about the episode; these can be related to content, form, or context

## WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS (300 Wörter):

In order to provide you with the opportunity to demonstrate your mastery of the topics and texts in this course, we will spend a great deal of time writing in this course. There are three (3) longer written assignments in this course which are designed to increase your comfort with writing in German and develop your vocabulary and grammar skills. The due dates for these assignments are listed on the *Kursplan*, although, as always, I reserve the right to adjust the schedule if needed.



It is only through editing and revision that one improves as a writer and critic. You are strongly encouraged to revise and resubmit each of the written assignments for an averaged grade on the assignment. Late work will be graded down a half grade per 24 hours late.



Please note:

- *No outside help* on essays that is permitted *except for* the tutors in the Study Skills Lab who may help you to formulate and correct your work. Please indicate who helped you when you turn in your essay. Help from friends, family and roommates is considered plagiarism and will be prosecuted. If you are unsure about getting help from someone, ask me first.
- As in all courses at the College of Charleston, the Honor Code is taken very seriously. Violations will be brought before the Honor Board.

## Individual Presentations

Each learning unit on *Deutschland 83* and *Deutschland 86* is followed by individual presentations and a final discussion of each season. Each student will be assigned to work on a (pop)cultural, historical, and artistic aspect of the series and prepare a 5-7-minute presentation that is supported by StoryMap JS (<https://storymap.knightlab.com>). Each presentation will introduce us to further background information, central themes, or character development of the TV series and its relation to geo-political spaces portrayed in the series. The presentation must focus on how the historical, (pop)cultural, and artistic reference grapple with the history of East and West Germany and challenge the political divide. Questions that might be asked could be, but are not limited to: What are the limits posed to the mobility of the selected fictional character? What are the spaces that the fictional character can occupy? What is the significance of the selected historical event? How was the (pop)cultural reference perceived in East and West?



## End of the Semester Screenwriting Project & Analytical Paper

The end of the Semester Screenwriting Project will consist of a collaborative screenplay that you will write together with 2-3 students. After you finalize the screenplay in our last day of classes, you will film your screenplay together with your team (*Deutschland 89* Trailer). In addition to the creative team-based assignment each team member will write an individual analytical paper that will also be used as the assessment tool for the General Education requirement in the Humanities. It is designed to allow you to demonstrate your development as a critical reader of different media and sophisticated writer of texts in German. The final analytical paper is due on April 26.

# Schedule

Subject to change due to extenuating circumstances.

## Woche 1: Einführung

### Mittwoch, 9. Januar:

- Einführung in den Kurs
- Überblick über die Repräsentation der DDR im (pop)kulturellen Gedächtnis des 21. Jahrhunderts „Hinter bröckelnden Mauern: Geschichten von Liebe, Gewalt, und der Stasi.“

# 1983

## Week 2: Martin Rauch geht nach Westen

### Montag, 14. Januar:

- Deutschland 83, Episode 1 „Quantum Jump“ [*bulu*]
- Füllen Sie das **Worksheet für Deutschland 83 „Quantum Jump“** [*Oaks*] aus und bringen Sie es mit zum Kurs.
- 🎵 Nena, *99 Luftballons* [*Oaks*]



Extra Credit Opportunity: LCWA World Affairs Colloquium: Dr. Steven Lee, “Beyond Interference: Soviet and Russian Lessons for American Multiculturalism” Rita Auditorium, Rita Hollings Science Center. January 14th, 6pm.

### Mittwoch, 16. Januar:

- Deutschland 83, Episode 2 „Brave Guy“ [*bulu*]
- Füllen Sie das **Worksheet für Deutschland 83 „Brave Guy“** [*Oaks*] aus und bringen Sie es mit zum Kurs.
- 🎵 Bob Dylan, *Just Like a Woman* [*Oaks*]
- Vorbereitung auf die 1. schriftliche Arbeit

Extra Credit: Conversation and Q&A with the German Ambassador to the US Emily Haber, Addlestone Library, Room 360, January 18th, 4pm.

## Week 3: Generationenkonflikte

Montag, 21. Januar:

- Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. No class!

Mittwoch, 23. Januar:

- *Deutschland 83*, Episode 3 „Atlantic Lion“ [bulu]
- Füllen Sie das **Worksheet für Deutschland 83 „Atlantic Lion“** [Oaks] aus und bringen Sie es mit zum Kurs.
- **Schriftliche Arbeit fällig.**



## Week 4: Friedensbewegung und Proteste

Montag, 28. Januar:

- *Deutschland 83*, Episode 4 „Northern Wedding“ [bulu]
- Füllen Sie das **Worksheet für Deutschland 83 „Northern Wedding“** [Oaks] aus und bringen Sie es mit zum Kurs.
- Heinrich Böll, *Garten* [Oaks]

Mittwoch, 30. Januar:

- *Deutschland 83*, Episode 5 „Cold Fire“ [bulu]
- Füllen Sie das **Worksheet für Deutschland 83 „Cold Fire“** [Oaks] aus und bringen Sie es mit zum Kurs.
- Franz Kafka, *Die Verwandlung*, [Oaks, Auszüge]





## Week 5: Von Assimilation und Integration

- *Deutschland 83*, Episode 6 „Brandy Station“ [bulu]
- Füllen Sie das **Worksheet für Deutschland 83 „Brandy Station“** [Oaks] aus und bringen Sie es mit zum Kurs.
- Franz Kafka, *Die Verwandlung* [Oaks, Auszüge]

### Montag, 4. February:

- *Deutschland 83*, Episode 7 „Bold Guard“ [bulu]
- Füllen Sie das **Worksheet für Deutschland 83 „Bold Guard“** [Oaks] aus und bringen Sie es mit zum Kurs.
- Franz Kafka, *Die Verwandlung* [Oaks, Auszüge]
- **Korrekturen für die 1. schriftliche Arbeit sind fällig.**

Extra Credit opportunity: 3<sup>rd</sup> German-American Business Summit. Gaillard Conference Center, 95 Calhoun St. 5. Februar, 11.00-18.00 Uhr.

### Mittwoch, 6. Februar:

- *Deutschland 83*, Episode 8 „Able Archer“ [bulu]
- Füllen Sie das **Worksheet für Deutschland 83 „Able Archer“** [Oaks] aus und bringen Sie es mit zum Kurs.
- Aleida Assmann, „Soziales und kollektives Gedächtnis“ [Auszug, Oaks]
- Besprechung der Präsentationsthemen

## Week 6: Verortung von 1983

### Montag, 11. Februar:

- Individuelle Präsentationen mit Unterstützung unserer digitalen Weltkarte

### Mittwoch, 13. Februar:

- Individuelle Präsentationen mit Unterstützung unserer digitalen Weltkarte
- Abschlussdiskussion zu *Deutschland 83*



# 1986

## Week 7: Martin Rauch geht nach Süden

Montag, 18. Februar:

- *Deutschland 86*, Episode 1 „Tar Baby“ [bulu]
- **Eintrag in das Filmtagebuch (FB)**
- Vorbereitung auf die 2. schriftliche Arbeit

Mittwoch, 20. Februar:

- *Deutschland 86*, Episode 2 „Ommegang“ [bulu]
- Max Liebermann, „Blumengemälde“ [Gemälde, Oaks]
- **Schriftliche Arbeit 2 ist fällig**



## Week 8: Auf den Spuren des Terrors

Montag, 25. Februar:

- *Deutschland 86*, Episode 3 „Dragon Rouge“ [bulu]
- Mary Pratt's *Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation* [Oaks, Auszug]
- **Eintrag in das Filmtagebuch (FB)**

Mittwoch, 27. Februar:

- *Deutschland 86*, Episode 4 „Le Cafad“ [bulu]
- **Eintrag in das Filmtagebuch (FB)**
- 🎵 Falco, *Der Kommissar geht um* [Oaks]
- **Korrekturen für die schriftliche Arbeit 2 sind fällig.**



## Week 9: Transkulturelle Dynamiken

Montag, 4. März:



- *Deutschland 86*, Episode 5 „Green Book“ [hulu]
- **Eintrag in das Filmtagebuch (FB)**
- Frank Wedekind, *Lulu* [Oaks, Auszüge]

Mittwoch, 6. März:

- *Deutschland 86*, Episode 6 „Tjello“ [hulu]
- **Eintrag in das Filmtagebuch (FB)**
- Frank Wedekind, *Lulu* [Oaks, Auszüge]  
Vorbereitung für die schriftliche Arbeit 3

## Week 10: Die Flucht in die Freiheit

Montag, 11. März:

- *Deutschland 86*, Episode 7 „Dorado Canyon“ [hulu]
- **Schriftliche Arbeit 3 ist fällig**

Mittwoch, 13. März:

- *Deutschland 86*, Episode 8 „Vula“ [hulu]
- **Eintrag in das Filmtagebuch (FB)**
- Auszüge aus der Antrittsrede von Nelson Mandela [Oaks]

## Week 11: „Drehpause“

Montag, 18. März:

- Frühlingsferien (Spring Break) Kein Unterricht!

Mittwoch, 20. März:

- Frühlingsferien (Spring Break) Kein Unterricht!





## Week 12: Endgültige Heimkehr

Montag, 25. März:

\*Last day for students to withdraw with a grade of “W” from full semester classes.

- *Deutschland 86*, Episode 9 „Chickenfeed“ [hulu]
- **Eintrag in das Filmtagebuch (FB)**
- **Korrekturen für die schriftliche Arbeit 3 sind fällig**

Mittwoch, 27. März:

- *Deutschland 86*, Episode 10 „Total Onslaught“ [hulu]
- **Eintrag in das Filmtagebuch (FB)**
- Besprechung der Präsentationsthemen

## Week 13: Verortung von 1986

Montag, 1. April:

- Individuelle Präsentationen mit Unterstützung unserer digitalen Weltkarte

Mittwoch, 3. April:

- Individuelle Präsentationen mit Unterstützung unserer digitalen Weltkarte
- Abschlussdiskussion zu *Deutschland 86*



