

Department of Languages, Literatures & Linguistics

GER 3793/HUMA 3983/CMA 3794 – Family Fiction: Narrating the Family in German Cinema

Course Description

In political, social, and cultural discourses, the family has always been the site of emotionally charged ideological battles. Regardless of whether the focus is on the traditional multigenerational or the nuclear parent-child family model, often the family is seen as the core of social cohesion and as the fundamental basis for a 'healthy' society. This course will examine popular and 'canonical' German films and explore ways in which these texts construct the social unit of the family. Our analysis of the cinematic (de)construction of the 'ideal family' in a variety of films (taken from different genres, e.g. comedy, road movie, melodrama, historical drama, and from different periods of German film history) will illuminate ideological struggles and further students' understanding of the connections between social mechanisms, political processes and cultural production.

Course Format and Organization

in person, 3-hour seminar

Language of Instruction

English

Pre-requisites/Exclusions

None

*Course Evaluation

Assessment	Weight %
Class discussion (preparation and participation)	10%
Weekly in-class and online activities	30%
Term project	20%

Midterm test	20%
Final conversation (1:1 student – instructor)	20%
	100%

***Required Course Materials**

All reading materials and most films will be made available on the course website. Some films are available through SMIL.

For more information, please contact us:
<https://www.yorku.ca/laps/dlll/about/our-staff/>

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* May be adapted depending on the year and instructor