

# **HS363 Post-war Germany: A Literary Perspective**

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Credit: 3-0-0-3

Approval: Approved in 3rd Senate

Students intended for: B.Tech.

Elective or Core: Elective

Prerequisite: Consent of the faculty member

Semester: Even/Odd

Common European Frame of Reference Norms (Level B 2)

## **Course objective:**

The course examines the trajectory of German history from the 'Stunde Null' or 'Zero Hour' in 1945 to the Fall of the Wall in 1989 through its literary reflexes. It focuses on advanced reading comprehension by a thorough study of select short stories and poems besides short excerpts from novels that dwell on major defining moments in post-war Germany.

## **Course Content:**

### **Select Reading Material on:**

'Vergangenheitsbewältigung' or Coming to terms with the Nazi past; Cold War; the two Germanys; the German Economic Miracle; the Workers' Uprising of 1953; the Berlin Wall; the Student Revolt of 1968, the RAF; Citizens' Initiatives; Glasnost und Perestroika – the route map to German re-unification; European Union and German Identity.

### **Method of Evaluation**

2 Quizzes (10 Marks each), Assignment (10 Marks), Attendance and Participation (10 Marks) and End of Semester Examination (50 Marks)

### **Prescribed Texts**

#### **Excerpts from:**

Heinz Ludwig Arnold: Deutschland! Deutschland? Texte aus 500 Jahren von Martin Luther bis Günter Grass. Frankfurt a.M.: Fischer, 2002. Pages 345-447.

#### **Select Short Stories:**

Wolfgang Borchert: An diesem Dienstag

Wolfdietrich Schnurre: Auf der Flucht

Heiner Müller: Das Eiserne Kreuz

Heinrich Böll: Der Wegwerfer

Max von der Grün: Wir sind eine demokratische Familie

#### **Select Passages from:**

Bernhard Schlink: Der Vorleser;

Ulrich Plenzdorf: Die neuen Leiden des jungen Werther.

#### **Select References**

Martin Kitchen: The Cambridge Illustrated History of Germany. Cambridge: CUP, 2000.

Moderne Erzähler Series. Paderborn: Ferdinand Schöningh. 1957ff.

Erlebnis Geschichte. Produced by the Foundation Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Bonn 2003.

Spiegel Special. The Germans. Sixty Years after the War. Intl' Edition 4/2005.