GENERAL SYLLABUS
HU4273/4283
Advanced Modern Language Seminar: Technology in Literature and Film
Spring 2007

Instructors: Dr. Dieter Adolphs (German), Dr. Diane Shoos (French)

Time/Room: Tuesdays & Thursdays from 2:00 to 3:20
Combined group meetings: Walker 134

Please refer to individual syllabi for instructor's office hours, meeting rooms, and additional readings in the target languages.

Syllabus for all sections:

January 16
Course introduction; Screening of The Truman Show

January 18
Conclude screening of The Truman Show and discussion

January 23
Individual language group meetings

January 25
Individual language group meetings

January 30
Individual language group meetings

February 1
Discussion of German text “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction;” Begin screening of French film Diva

February 6
Conclude screening of Diva

February 8
No class: Winter Carnival

February 13
Combined group discussion of Diva

February 15
Individual language group meetings

February 20
Discussion of French text, interview with and selections from Paul Virilio

February 22
Individual language group meetings

February 27
Individual language group meetings

March 1
Combined group discussion of German text Homo Faber

March 6
Combined group discussion of Homo Faber

March 8
Screening of Voyager

March 9-18
Spring break

March 20
Conclude screening of Voyager

March 22
Combined group discussion of Voyager
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>Individual language group meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>Combined group discussion of Part I of French text <em>Mother Comes of Age</em> (pp. 77-73, “Being”)</td>
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<td>April 3</td>
<td>Combined group discussion of Part II of French text <em>Mother Comes of Age</em> (pp. 75-125, “Having”)</td>
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<td>April 5</td>
<td>Individual language group meetings</td>
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<td>April 10</td>
<td>Combined group discussion of German text “The Railway Accident”</td>
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<td>April 12</td>
<td>Screening and discussion of French film <em>The Jetty</em></td>
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<td>April 17</td>
<td>Individual language group meetings (Skit preparation)</td>
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<td>April 19</td>
<td>Screening of German film <em>Run Lola Run</em></td>
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<td>April 24</td>
<td>Brief rehearsals followed by skit presentations</td>
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<td>April 26</td>
<td>Conclude screening of <em>Run Lola Run</em>: Final discussion</td>
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**Required texts for all sections:**
- Walter Benjamin, “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction”
- Paul Virilio, Interview and selected excerpts
- Max Frisch, *Homo Faber*
- Driss Chraibi, *Mother Comes of Age*
- Thomas Mann, “The Railway Accident”

**Required films for all sections:**
- *The Truman Show* (Peter Weir, 1998)
- *Diva* (Jean-Jacques Beineix, 1982)
- *Voyager* (Volker Schlöndorff, 1991)
- *The Jetty* (Chris Marker, 1962)
- *Run Lola Run* (Tom Tykwer, 1998)

**Goals and Objectives:**
“Technology in Literature and Film” will broadly focus on the representation of technology in literature, film, and other selected arts from Francophone and German language communities. In the seminar we will consider how literature and film reflect, depict and often critique industrialization, mechanization, and other aspects of technology in society. In the course of this exploration we will discuss such topics as machine as metaphor, technology’s role in utopia/dystopia, and time and space.
The primary goals for this course are:

- To deepen our understanding of culture and society through literature and film selected from Francophone and German language communities
- To develop analytical and comparative skills
- To develop an understanding of relationships between literature, film and other selected arts.

Participants in the seminar will read texts in their respective modern languages as well as texts from the other languages in English translation. To further develop language skills and at the same time facilitate an intercultural perspective, the seminar will include both small group meetings in the individual modern languages and large meetings (when both groups meet) in English.

**Student Responsibilities:**

**Attendance and Participation:**
This class has been designed not as a lecture class but rather as a seminar whose primary format is small and large group discussion. For this reason a minimum requirement of the course is that you attend all classes and participate actively during each meeting. Any unexcused absence will seriously affect the course grade.

**Readings and Screenings:**
Because we will be taking an intercultural perspective on the topic of technology in literature and film, you will be completing not only the reading in your target language but also the required reading in English translation. Each individual instructor may also assign additional readings in the target language and/or translated excerpts for small group comparison and discussion. In addition, all students will view 5 required films (subtitled in English). Each individual instructor may require additional film screenings for the small groups at her/his discretion. These readings and films will be spread throughout the semester.

**Assignments:**
As part of the course you will be writing short response papers for the target language texts and films throughout the term. Your individual instructor will inform you of the specifics and due dates for these short assignments. The final assignment consists of two components: a comparative analysis of a reading or film in the target language and a reading or film from one of the other cultures (5-8 pages, written in English); and a short oral presentation to the individual language group about the main points of the comparative analysis. Your instructor will also specify the due dates and presentation schedule for this final assignment.

**Final Group Skits:**
During the last class period, each language group will present a final skit. This skit/performance is designed to summarize what the group believes are the most important issues, questions, problems and insights raised by the class. The skit can be as formal or informal as the group desires, but each individual should participate. Please note that, because this performance is worth 5% of the course grade, attendance is mandatory.
Evaluation: Grading Scale:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in all class meetings</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>93-100 A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short written responses</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>88-92 AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final comparative paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>83-87 B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral presentation of paper:</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>78-82 BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final group presentation/skit</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>70-77 C</td>
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MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). If anyone in this class has a disability that requires a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education and services at MTU, please call the Dean of Students office at 487-2951. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head/chair, or the Affirmative Action Office at 487-3310.

The instructors reserve the right to change or amend the syllabus as required throughout the semester to better meet the instructional needs of the class.