

**742 /804 Transnational Perspectives on German Studies**  
**Mani, T. 3:30-5:20**

This course seeks to evaluate the term “transnational” and its efficacy as a qualifier for a discipline such as German Studies, institutionally categorized as a “national language and literature” department. Through discussions on literary, historical, linguistic/pedagogical, philosophical, political, and sociological texts, the course aims to explore multi- and interdisciplinary perspectives on German Studies in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Along with spotlighting key texts that form and inform German self-imagination and German imagination of the non-German/non-European ‘Other,’ the course collates and examines reactions to German nationalism and cosmopolitanism, migration, colonialism and modernity from outside the geo-cultural boundaries of Europe. In addition, this course discusses contemporary scholarship on the German-speaking world that focuses on nationalism and cosmopolitanism, migration, and colonialism. The course analyses the modes in which the above-mentioned political and ideational phenomena have shaped and informed ‘modern’ Germany, and the actual processes by which migrant, colonial, and cosmopolitan subjects have challenged, innovated, and revised the very definitions of the German nation and modernity. The course situates the discipline of German Studies in the larger investigation of the Humanities through filters of globalization and postcolonialism, in order to surmise new directions for the field. The course is offered in English and is open to interested graduate students from any field/discipline.

This is a reading intensive course. The course reader includes texts by literary authors such as Herman Hesse, Thomas Mann, and Aras Ören; historians such as Dipesh Chakrabarty, Friedrich Meinecke, and George Mosse; philosophers and cultural critics such as Theodor Adorno, Jürgen Habermas, and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak; socio-political thinkers such as Arjun Appadurai, Ulrich Beck, Seyla Benhabib, and Max Weber; and a few contemporary scholars of German Studies working on cultural studies, history, literature, linguistics, film, sociology, political theory, and theater.

**Course Requirements:**

(Active) Participation: 10%

Book review of a recent publication in German Studies relevant to the course (2004-2009; 2-3 pages): 10%

Abstract for a conference paper (1 page): 5%

One presentation (15 minutes): 15%

Mid-term paper (8 pages; conference format): 25%

Final Paper (expanded version of the mid-term paper; 20-25 pages): 25%

Attendance of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Workshop “On the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall” and a short response (1.5-2 pages) to one of the papers: 10%

**Texts:** Course Reader [available through learn@uw and College Library Reserves; in German and English]