



School of English, Journalism  
& European Languages

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## Unit Outline

HEG407  
Special Topic in German Language & Linguistics  
Semester 1, 2007  
<http://www.utas.edu.au/german/>

<b>Convenor:</b>	Dr E Meidl Room: HUM 571 Phone: 6226 6226 2019 Email: E.Meidl@utas.edu.au
<b>Consultation Hours:</b>	Tuesday 10-10.50 and Wednesday 1.10-2pm
<b>Unit Description:</b>	Offers a diachronic approach to the study of the German language and literature. Beginning with the tension of the Vormärz (1814-1848 which are reflected in Büchner's drama the unit moved to the period of unrest during the Weimar Republic and the rise of Nazism. Plays by Brecht, Dürrenmatt and Frisch take account of this period.
<b>Unit Aims and Objectives:</b>	Provides an insight into the way drama relates interculturally to the wider European context.
<b>Learning Outcomes:</b>	Ideal conditions prevailing, this unit will provide students with a knowledge of representative major German plays from the period of enlightenment to the period after the Second World War.
<b>Required Texts:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Büchner, G: <i>Woyzeck</i>, Reclam</li><li>• Brecht, B. <i>Der gute Mensch von Sezuan</i>, Suhrkamp</li><li>• Frisch, M: <i>Biedermann und die Brandstifter</i>, Suhrkamp</li><li>• Dürrenmatt, F: <i>Der Besuch der alten Dame</i>, Reclam</li></ul>
<b>When Taught:</b>	Wednesday 12.00 -12.50 HUM565 Thursdays 10-10.50 HUM565
<b>Assessment:</b>	Continuous assessment (comprising of 2 essays) (50%), 2-hr exam (50%)

## LECTURE/SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Week Beginning	Topic	Lecturer
Week 1	a. Einführung b. Lecture on Georg Büchner	Dr Eva Meidl
Week 2	a. Georg Büchner: <i>Woyzeck</i> (1836/37) b. cont'd	
Week 3	a. cont'd b. Video: <i>Woyzeck</i>	
Week 4	a. Lecture on Bertold Brecht b. Brecht: <i>Der gute Mensch von Sezuan</i> (1941)	
Week 5	a. cont'd b. cont'd	
Week 6	a. cont'd b. cont'd	
<b>5-11 April Easter Vacation</b>		
Week 7	a. cont'd b. cont'd	
Week 8	a. Lecture on Friedrich Dürrenmatt b. Dürrenmatt: <i>Der Besuch der alten Dame</i> (1956) <b>N.B. Wed 25 April is a public holiday</b>	
Week 9	a. cont'd b. cont'd	
Week 10	a. cont'd b. cont'd	
Week 11	a. Lecture on Max Frisch b. Frisch: <i>Biedermann und die Brandstifter</i> (1957)	
Week 12	a. cont'd b. cont'd	
Week 13	a. cont'd b. Revision	
	<b>Study Period: 4 June – 8 June 2007</b>	
	<b>Examination Period: 9 June – 26 June 2007</b>	

## ASSIGNMENTS

Write two essays of approx. 2500 words each in English or German (50%) on one of the topics below. Note that you must choose different topics as exam questions.

The first essay is due on the Friday of Week 10; the second essay is due on the Friday of Week 13.

### Topic 1

Woyzeck has no material possessions, but Marie and his child bring meaning to his life. Discuss this statement with reference to Georg Büchner's drama *Woyzeck*.

### Topic 2

Goodness, Brecht has been saying, is natural to man. Cruelty needs intense effort. But the price of goodness in a world like ours too often runs high! Discuss this statement with reference to Bertolt Brecht's drama *Der gute Mensch von Sezuan*.

### Topic 3

Güllen changes from bad to worse. Dürrenmatt does not believe in his own ability to reform his audiences through direct means, through an exemplary action. *Der Besuch der alten Dame* is one of his answers to Brecht's maxime about the changeability of the world. Discuss.

### Topic 4

Biedermann's charity is all but Christian. In playing up to Schmitz and Eisenring, he seeks to persuade himself and the world that, being such a kind man, he could not possibly be responsible for the death of his former employee Knechtling. Discuss this statement with reference to Max Frisch's drama *Biedermann und die Brandstifter*.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Submission of Assignments

Students are required to submit all assignments in this unit directly to their unit coordinator unless otherwise directed.

All assignments must be submitted in hard-copy (not by email, unless otherwise directed). Students are required to keep copies of all submitted assignments.

### Difficulties with your Studies

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, have personal or life planning issues, disability or illness which may affect your course of study, you should raise these with your lecturer and/or one of the following Student Services staff as soon as possible:

- Learning Skills Adviser
- Disability Adviser
- Careers Adviser
- Student Counsellor

### University Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

**"Plagiarism** is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own; for example, using an author's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source, using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation, copying another student's work.

If you have any doubts about how to refer to the work of others in your assignments, please consult your lecturer or tutor for relevant referencing guidelines, and the academic integrity resources on the web at <http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/supporting/academicintegrity/index.html>.

The intentional copying of someone else's work as one's own is a serious offence punishable by penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, to exclusion from a unit, a course or the University. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline – Part 3 Academic Misconduct, see <http://www.utas.edu.au/universitycouncil/legislation/>."

**The University and any persons authorised by the University may submit your assessable works to a plagiarism checking service, to obtain a report on possible instances of plagiarism. Assessable works may also be included in a reference database. It is a condition of this arrangement that the original author's permission is required before a work within the database can be viewed.**

### Assignment Presentation

The German discipline uses MLA Style, which is characterized by in-text referencing and a list of works cited. See the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th ed. Ed. Joseph Gibaldi (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2003). For a brief introduction, refer to [http://www.utas.edu.au/english/english1/mla\\_citation\\_syst.doc](http://www.utas.edu.au/english/english1/mla_citation_syst.doc), MLA Citations System: A Brief Guide.

### Marking Scale

The following distribution of marks and grades is applied in assessing your work:

- High Distinction (HD)—80-100%
- Distinction (DN)—70-79%
- Credit (CR)—60-69%
- Pass (PP)—50-59%
- Fail (NN)—0-49%

All marks are subject to moderation.

### Assessment Criteria

The following criteria apply to assessment of the essay:

- Grammatical correctness
- Syntax
- Choice of vocabulary
- Attention to expression, spelling, proof-reading.

### IT Support

Learning online—for online learning and Vista support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/>  
Information Technology Services—for general IT Support (includes link to UTAS download website)  
<http://www.utas.edu.au/servicedesk/student/index.html>

Library Services—for information literacy support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/library/>  
Help Desk (email [HelpDesk@utas.edu.au](mailto:HelpDesk@utas.edu.au) or 6226 1818, within University 1818)