GER 33000/H German Cinema – Spring 2016

lecture & presentations TTH 1:30-2:20 in Recitation 308
film screenings Thursdays 7:00-9:30pm in SC 239
(Lab 7:00-8:20 and PSO 8:20-9:30 pm)
Prof. Allert (allert@purdue.edu)

Course description
This course – taught in English – examines German cinema from 1920 to the present. In addition to viewing and carefully studying films, we consider the historical, political, economic, and social backgrounds that shaped these works and their reception. In some cases the films are documentaries, in other cases they may be based on novels or stories. In all events, there is important life experience to be learned, and we can advance global understanding. The course includes multiple studies of cultural histories, basic cinematography, and film theory. All films shown are in German with English subtitles. Course participants majoring in German can write their papers in German or in English, as they prefer. Each week we see one film and have two shorter sessions for lectures, discussion, and student presentations.

Course requirements
Expected is a sincere interest in the course material and regular active class attendance. Please do the readings as listed for homework and come to class well prepared. Course objectives are knowledge about German film & history in context, basic concepts of cinematography and film theory, and communication & writing skills. Grades consist of 50% oral and 50% of written class contributions. Oral portion of grade consists of regular active participation in class throughout the semester (1/3 of the oral portion of the grade), constructive comments in discussions after screenings in class (1/3) and in presenting homework, and oral presentations (1/3.) Written grade consists of 10 response papers for films as screened in class (1/3 of written grade) a Quiz plus a Take-Home Midterm (1/3 of the oral portion of the grade) and a Final Take-Home Exam/Research Paper (1/3 of written portion of the grade). No German language skills are needed but films are shown in German (or Russian) with English subtitles.

Required Textbook (ordered at Vons):

Recommended Reading: NOT required but useful for your research:

Films (minor changes are possible)
1. F.W. Murnau, Nosferatu - Sinfonie des Grauens/ Symphony of Horror (1920, 81 min)
2. Fritz Lang, Metropolis (1927, 124 min)
3. W. Staudte, Die Mörder sind unter uns / The Murderers Are Among Us (1946, 81 min)
4. Bernhard Wicki, Die Brücke / The Bridge (1954, 102 min)
5. Tom Tykwer, Lola rennt / Run Lola Run (1999, 81 min)
6. Oliver Hirschbiegel, Das Experiment / The Experiment (2000, 119 min)
7. Margareta von Trotta, Rosastrasse (2003, 136 min)
10. Viola Jaeger & H. Kügler, Vincent will Meer / Vincent Wants to Sea (2010, 95 min)
11. Yasemin Sandererli, Almanyay: Welcome to Germany (2011, 97 min)
12. Feo Aladag/Sibel Kekilli, Die Fremde / The Stranger (2012, 114 min)