



## **GERMAN SOCIETY**

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course wishes to offer an in-depth analysis of German society from a sociological perspective dwelling on the post-war and post-reunification eras. These lengthy periods offer a fascinating platform to studying various social, political and cultural processes German society has undergone up until contemporary times. Specifically, we will discuss in the course issues pertaining to social identities of “East and “West” in the post-war period; social and political complexities following the re-unification in 1989; Germany and its continuous relationship with the memory of the Holocaust; social and political movements and their role in German society; and nowadays policy and attitudes towards immigration. As time allows we will also touch upon in the course on the German sociology contribution to the development of sociological intellectual thought, especially that by Max Weber and Karl Marx.

The course will combine lectures, movies and class discussions.

## **ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENT**

The course grade will be based on three elements: (1) class participation; (2) answering questions on class readings (one paragraph each, five in total); and (3) final quiz.

**1. Class participation (20%):** We will have many class discussions based on the reading materials in the syllabus as well as other sources. This I believe is important in order to gain a deep understanding of the issues and learn to critically analyze them. You are expected to have completed the assigned readings before class each week and actively contribute your thoughts and ideas and reflect on those of others.

**2. Questions on class reading (30%):** In order to enhance understanding of the readings as well as our class discussions, a question will be posted on five of the class readings (one question each time, in five different weeks). Answers (length of one paragraph) will be submitted in paper the following class.

**3. Final quiz (50%):** To summarize the learning in the course, a quiz will be offered at the end of the course. The quiz will comprise of a 'bank' of 10 open questions and you will be requested to answer five questions, at your choice. The purpose of the quiz is to critically analyze topics discussed in the course, using the readings and class lectures. Examples of quiz questions and how they will be evaluated will be discussed in class.