

## GDR Literature and Film: Young Adults on and off the Way to a Socialist Society



This course will introduce students to representative works by GDR artists and their political-cultural contexts. Questions we will examine in these works: How was the transition made from National Socialism to a socialist society? What was the impact of World War Two and the Holocaust? What educational and other benefits did members of the working class and women gain in the GDR? And especially, what were the particular desires and struggles of young adults?

**Readings:** Joel Agee, *Twelve Years: An American Boyhood in East Germany*; Bertolt Brecht, “Zwei Söhne” and selected poems; Anna Seghers, *Friedensgeschichten* (excerpts); Heiner Müller, “Liebesgeschichte,” *Der Lohndrucker*; Uwe Johnson, “Berliner S-Bahn”; Brigitte Reimann, *Ankunft im Alltag*; Christa Wolf, *Der geteilte Himmel*; Ulrich Plenzdorf, *Die neuen Leiden des jungen W.*; Maxie Wander, *Guten Morgen, du Schöne* (excerpts).

**Films:** Konrad Wolf, *Ich war neunzehn*; Gerhard Klein, *Berlin Ecke Schönhauser*; Heiner Carow, *Die Legende von Paul und Paula*.

**Requirements:** Students will be asked to keep a journal and to write short response papers.

Taught in German. Counts toward fulfillment of advanced requirement for the major.

Prereq: 2350, 3101, and one course at the 3000 level, and Sr standing, or permission of instructor. Not open to students with credit for 640.