

## German

Module descriptors for Inbound Students.

<b>Name</b>	New Economy Capitalism
<b>Code</b>	GRU44072
<b>Semester</b>	2
<b>ECTS credits</b>	5
<b>Pre-requisite</b>	None
<b>Module Co-ordinator</b>	Mary Cosgrove <a href="mailto:cosgroma@tcd.ie">cosgroma@tcd.ie</a>

## Module Content

Emerging from the major financial challenges of unification and against global trends, the German economy has been thriving since the turn of the millennium. Yet recent and contemporary German-language literature and film has tended to feature the “new economy”, or neoliberal capitalism as it is also known, as highly problematic, a global force that has been eroding the fabric of local and individual everyday life since the fall of the Wall. In their works, German-language writers and filmmakers scratch the surface of wealthy Germany (and by implication the wealthy West), exposing the extreme pressures and affective realities that new economy capitalism bring to bear on the worker-consumer. The primary texts and films on the course offer a differentiated overview of this critical field of cultural production.

They cover topics such as: the financial aftermath of unification and the spectre of the GDR in contemporary capitalist Germany (Petzold, Hein, Bauder); the commercialisation of Holocaust memory in the Berlin Republic (Hanika); the precariousness of existence as a white-collar employee of a multinational company (Röggla, Mora, Losmann); global high finance and the global city (Hochhäusler); new neoliberal identities, such as the “entrepreneurial self” (Nawrat).

Secondary literature and theoretical texts will include reflection on: the defining features of neoliberal capitalism; the corrosion of character in the new economy; time and 24/7 culture in the digital era; the abstraction of finance capitalism and the question of how to represent it in film / literature; place, non-place and the body.

## Aims

The module learning aims are:

1. to read and understand the selected primary texts studied in the original German  
to read and understand the selected theoretical texts, where necessary, in the original German
2. to develop an understanding of contemporary neoliberal capitalism in Germany and of the role of literature and film in providing a critique of capitalism
3. to develop skills of research and critical analysis of primary and secondary literature in essay work that is well-structured and correctly referenced in coherent English
4. to develop skills of research and critical analysis for oral presentation in class
5. to develop group-work skills in class discussion.

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module, students should be able to:

1. read and understand selected complex primary texts in the original German
2. demonstrate a detailed critical knowledge of the primary texts studied in the course and of the relevant secondary literature
3. display a deeper understanding of the specific literary or linguistic topic and its cultural, historical, theoretical and/or linguistic contexts
4. present a critical analysis of the primary (literary or linguistic) material in a well-structured, correctly referenced essay in coherent English (or German, where required)

## Assessment

Essay (100%)