

Intermediate German:**The concept of „HEIMAT“ and refugees in Germany**

Start date	21 April 2017	End date	23 April 2017
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutor	Paul A. Hoegger	Course code	1617NRX092

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings
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To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Paul A. Hoegger is teacher and coordinator for German at the Language Centre of the University of Cambridge. Originally from Bern in Switzerland, Paul moved to Germany in his late teens. After a career as a ballet dancer and later as a newsreader for the German World Service (Deutsche Welle) in Cologne he moved to Cambridge to study Modern and Medieval Languages at King's College Cambridge. He holds a BA in French and German and an MPhil in European Literature from the University of Cambridge and has been researching eighteenth-century German drama for his PhD project at the German department of Cambridge University. Since 2004 Paul has been working as a language supervisor for German at several colleges of Cambridge University. Since 2009 he has been setter and principal examiner for the German *Pre-U* paper at University of Cambridge International Examinations and for the last four years examiner for the *Text and Culture* paper of the Modern and Medieval Languages Tripos at Cambridge University.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00 Dinner

20:30 – 22:00 **Introduction to the course and contemporary German topic**

After a short introduction to the course and a 'setting of the scene' in which the topic of 'Heimat' is playfully introduced, we will share and discuss newspaper or magazine articles or other stories which have caught your eye and which deal with any aspect of German speaking culture.

22:00 Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30 Breakfast

09:00 – 10:30 **What does 'Heimat' mean?**

Why is 'Heimat' so difficult to translate? Is there a particularly German quality to it? How has the concept changed over time? By reading a short text we will attempt to formulate a definition or definitions of 'Heimat'.

10:30 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 **Where refugee meets 'Heimat'**

More definitions followed by a brief History of refugees in Germany. We will look at the philosophical and the political approach to the issue. What are the points of convergence between 'Heimat' and refugees? We will examine issues around identity as well as the creative impetus afforded by the emotional experience of loss of 'Heimat'.

13:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 Free

16:00 Tea

16:30 – 18:00 **'Heimattfilm': a genre between trivialisation and social critique**

We will look at the popular genre of the 'Heimattfilm' and map its development throughout the twentieth century. From its roots in romanticism over its appropriation by the Nazis for propagandist purposes to its inversion into 'Anti-Heimattfilm' from the 70s onwards.

Introduction to the novel *Schlafes Bruder* by Robert Schneider.

18:00 – 18:30 Free

18:30 Dinner

20:00 – 21:30 **Viewing of Joseph Vilsmaier’s filmic adaptation of *Schlafes Bruder***

Set in the early 19th century this adaptation from 1995 deals with the harsh realities of a very remote mountain community and its reactions to the ‘Other’.

Please note: the duration of this session will be extended to accommodate the full length of the film (120 mins). The end of the session will therefore be around 22.00h.

21:30 Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30 Breakfast

09:00 – 10:30 **Schlafes Bruder and fear of ‘the Other’**

We will begin with a discussion about Joseph Vilsmaier’s film *Schlafes Bruder* before examining the phenomenon of the ‘Other’ more closely. We will pay particular attention to borders, and to belonging, harking back to Immanuel Kant and his pronouncements on ‘Zugehörigkeit’ in his work *Zum ewigen Frieden* (1795).

10:30 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 **Conclusion**

In this our final session we will concentrate on the ‘broken refugee system’ in Europe, as discussed by Paul Collier and Alexander Betts (2017). Was Angela Merkel’s decision to allow so many refugees into Germany a stroke of genius or madness? What are the practical solutions to displacement of large numbers of people? We will hear authentic voices of refugees in Germany and reflect on whether there is possibly even hope of adopting a transnational concept of ‘Heimat’.

12:45 Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

- To develop the students' understanding of the concept of 'Heimat', its History and how specifically German it is; at the same time to develop an awareness of the current German government's politics around refugees and of the reaction of the people living in Germany to them.
- To extend students' vocabulary and grammar of the target language.
- To increase students' confidence when expressing themselves in the target language.

Content:

This course is designed to provide an opportunity for students to immerse themselves in German language, history and culture. The language spoken is German throughout, though some exchanges on issues of grammar and vocabulary might be dealt with in English. Newspaper articles on subjects of current interest as well as audio-visual materials will be provided to practise comprehension and speaking skills. For the first session on Friday students are encouraged to bring along and to present a short news item relating to any German topic of their choice. Saturday will be devoted primarily to various aspects of 'Heimat', its definition(s) and how it / they have changed over the course of History. We will also examine how the emotional reaction to 'Heimat' has inspired artists to produce some astonishing art, including a whole genre of literature and film. For the evening session there will be a viewing of Joseph Vilsmaier's film *Schlafes Bruder* (1995) which will be discussed in the first session on Sunday morning. Otherwise the two Sunday sessions will be mainly devoted to the concept of the 'Other', to borders and to belonging. We will examine the merits and pitfalls of the German government's policies towards refugees – unique in Europe – and discuss what developments on that front we might expect in the future.

Presentation of the course: The main objective of this course is to give students ample opportunity to practise their speaking and reading skills, so the emphasis will be on discussing a range of short written texts and audio-visual material presented during the course. Some work will be done in pairs or small groups to make the best use of the time available.

Outcomes: As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- develop a deeper understanding of the concept of 'Heimat', and of Germany's situation in relation to the government's policies towards refugees and the people's reaction to those policies.
- formulate questions and express opinions in German about any of the issues treated during the course.

- contribute to the discussion of other course material in the target language.
- broaden the participants' range of vocabulary and of grammatical structures in the target language.
- increase fluency in the target language.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Robert Schneider (transl. Shaun Whiteside)	<i>Schlafes Bruder</i> <i>Brother of Sleep</i>	Reclam 2015 Overlook Press 1996
Anton G. Leitner	<i>Heimat Gedichte</i>	Reclam 2017
Christoph Türcke	<i>Heimat – Eine Rehabilitierung</i>	zu Klampen Verlag 2006
Hanna Arendt	<i>Wir Flüchtlinge (1943)</i>	Reclam 2016
Immanuel Kant	<i>Zum ewigen Frieden</i> <i>Ein philosophischer Entwurf (1795)</i>	Holzinger Verlag 2016

Paul Collier/Alexander Betts: (article in the Guardian, 22nd March 2017)

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/22/why-denying-refugees-the-right-to-work-is-a-catastrophic-error>

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 30 March 2017