German Cinema
FS 367 (*3) | Dr. William Beard and Dr. Kerry McArthur
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German cinema has an unusually rich history, launching during the silent era with some of film’s greatest horror classics and spanning the decades with a variety of innovative masterpieces. At the heart of this national cinema is Berlin, with its many shooting locations and museums, and just adjacent, the city of Potsdam, home to Filmstudio Babelsberg, the largest and oldest film studio in the world.

Open to students in all disciplines, this course will explore the films that have made German cinema famous, from F.W. Murnau’s Nosferatu (1922) and Leni Riefenstahl’s Triumph of the Will (1935) to Wim Wender’s The American Friend (1977) and Tom Twyker’s Run Lola Run (1998). We will explore not only the Babelsberg studio but also Berlin’s beautiful Deutsche Kinemathek museum, the film production museum in Potsdam and a number of renowned landmarks that provided shooting locations.

Readings for the course will be provided through one textbook – Sabine Hake’s German National Cinema (2008) – and will focus upon the historical, political, technological and transnational developments that helped shape German filmmaking practice.