

The University of Toronto
**German Literature in Translation:
 “Monsters, Murderers and Magic”**
 German 204H / Fall 2009

Instructor:	EROL M BORAN	Dept:	German Studies
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Class meets on **T 2-4 & R 2-3** at **EM 108**

Course Outline

This year, the course focuses on ominous aspects of German literature, on its ‘monsters & murderers’ (or at least on some of them, as the German imagination abounds in wicked creatures and has created more of them than could be dealt with in one single course). An ongoing subtheme is ‘magic’ as it is often in the realm of the fantastic that monsters and murderers truly come to their own. The course covers a time period of roughly 200 years dealing with the nightmares of the Romantic psyche with its witches and vampires all the way to the evil offspring of the postmodern era. We encounter instances of the grotesque and the macabre, of the mysterious and the uncanny, and even of the outright monstrous and the sublime. Questions that guide us through the course are: In what ways do the works discussed mirror modern life experience? How do these monsters of the imagination interrelate to German culture and society?

Texts: Goethe: *Der Erlkönig* (1782) & *The Bride of Corinth* (1797) / Tieck: *Blond Eckbert* (1797) / Grimms’ Fairy Tales: *Hansel and Gretel* & *Rapunzel* (1812) / Hoffmann: *The Sandman* (1816) [or *Mademoiselle de Scuderi* (1819)] / *Droste-Hülshoff: *The Jew’s Beech* (1842) / Storm: *The White Rider* (1888) / *Kafka: *Metamorphosis* (1912) / *Dürrenmatt: *The Visit* (1956) / Preussler: *The Satanic Mill* (Krabat 1971) / *Süskind: *The Perfume* (1985) // Freud: *The Uncanny* (1919) [Works marked by asteroids (*) need to be purchased; all other are made available as copies.]

Films: Tykwer: *Perfume. The Story of a Murderer* (2007, 142 min) / Kreuzpaintner: *Krabat* (2008, 120 min)

Requirements

Attendance / Preparation / Participation	30%
Reaction Papers (4 graded; 1 page each)	20%
Presentation (including outline & handout)	20%
Semester Test (on class materials & discussions)	30%

Books to Buy:

- Dürrenmatt: *The Visit* (ISBN: 0802130666)
- Droste-Hülshoff: *The Jew's Beech* (ISBN: 1847490743)
- Storm: *The Rider of the White Horse* (ISBN: 1595690743)
- Süskind: *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* (ISBN: 0375725849)

[Note that you have to purchase the editions indicated by the ISBN number. The easiest way is to order the four books on amazon.ca – just type in the ISBN number. I made sure that the books are affordable; the total should be less than CDN\$ 50.00.]