

The University of Toronto

German Literature in Translation:  
“MONSTERS, MURDERERS AND MAGIC”

German 220H / Fall 2011

Instructor: **EROL M BORAN** Dept: German Studies  
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Class meets on **T 2-4 & R 2-3** at **t.b.a.**

### Course Outline

This year, the course focuses on ominous aspects of German literature, on its monsters & murderers. 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 & the uncanny, all the way to the outright monstrous & 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 an asteroid (\*) need to be purchased; all other are available as copies.]

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

### Requirements

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| <b>Attendance / Preparation / Participation</b> ..... | <b>15%</b> |
| <b>4 Reflection Paragraphs</b> .....                  | <b>20%</b> |
| <b>Midterm Test</b> .....                             | <b>25%</b> |
| <b>Endterm Test</b> .....                             | <b>40%</b> |

Note: In case of a very high enrolment, the evaluation percentages might be subject to change!