

Please note: this is a preliminary version of the syllabus, changes might occur.

The University of Toronto
Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures

German 305H Fall: Introduction to German Literature II

Fall 2010, Monday 12 - 2 pm and Wednesday 1 - 2 pm, place TBA



Image source: <http://t21.photobucket.com/albums/b267/gruvna/collageescritores3.jpg>

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to German literature and culture from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. Within a chronological framework, we will read and analyze excerpts from representative works of major German writers. Some of the literary texts will be complemented with examples selected from the visual arts and film. Throughout the course, our focus will be on three sets of questions:

1. What is the leading question of the text?
2. What are the formal means that the authors employ in order to express their concerns and to conceptualize the topic under discussion?
3. What is the historical and cultural context of the text?

By asking these questions, we will not only strive to come to a better understanding of individual works, but also of German literature, its developments and themes. However, although the structure of this course is governed by literary periods, it will be also our aim to question their validity and definition. Among the authors we will discuss are J. W. Goethe, E.T.A. Hoffmann, Georg Büchner and Franz Kafka.

The methodology in this course will be a combination of close readings and broad historical and cultural perspectives. Our work in class will be shaped by class discussions, group work, and occasional lectures.

Assignments will be in German; discussions too, except for clarification purposes.

Course Objectives

The primary objectives of this course are to introduce students to major developments in the history of German literature, to make students familiar with selected works of German literature, to enhance students' ability to analyze and interpret texts, and to improve students' written and spoken German.

Instructor's Contact Information

Instructor: Christine Lehleiter
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Please check Blackboard regularly for the most current course information!

Course Requirements

Attendance and participation (15%): Regular attendance is mandatory. Absences will only be excused according to University regulations: for example, religious holidays, serious accidents or illness (medical note required), and serious family circumstances (written documentation required). Please notify me at least a week in advance in case you know you need to miss class. In addition to excused absences each student may have three (3) unexcused absences (50 minutes each). For each unexcused absence after the third, a student will incur a penalty.

You are expected to come to class **in time**, having completed all the readings and assignments. You must bring to class a copy of the assigned text. You are responsible for contributing to and stimulating a meaningful exchange of ideas. You will be graded according to quality and frequency of your participation. As mentioned above, the class will be conducted in German. However, don't be shy because you think your German is not perfect. It's much better to make mistakes than to say nothing. We will help each other to find the right words and structures!

Blackboard contributions (10%): You will need to read the assigned texts and to contribute on Blackboard's "Discussion Board" in preparation for class (please make yourself familiar with Blackboard, if you do not know the portal yet: <https://portal.utoronto.ca>). Unless otherwise indicated, you can write on any aspect or question of the text which seems interesting to you. You are expected to read your classmates' contributions. At least three times during the semester, you are expected to respond directly to the questions raised in one of your classmate's contributions. Your work on Blackboard will help you to practice your written German and to participate in class. Blackboard contributions will be marked with 0 or 1. As long as your contribution is formulated in German, directly related to the assigned text, has the required length and is submitted in time, you will earn 1 point. You can miss one (1) of these assignments without penalties. Blackboard contributions are due Mondays, 10 AM. No late work will be accepted.

Presentation (20%): Each student will need to give a presentation on a topic related to the readings for a particular week. Presentations are supposed to last 10 minutes. The topic of your

presentation should be discussed with me at least one week in advance. The presentation will be graded for content as well as presentation skills (detailed criteria will follow).

To make the process as fair as possible, we will decide on who will present when via lottery in the beginning of the course. You are committed to the assigned date and you cannot change it except for the official reasons mentioned above. The topic of your presentation should be discussed with me at least one week in advance.

In-class Essay (25%): During the first half of the semester, we will write one in-class essay (check the course program for exact date). For this essay, you will choose one of three given topics. You will be allowed to use your standard paper dictionary (no electronic devices allowed). Think of this “in-class essay” less as an exam and more as a “workshop,” in which you practice your written German and argumentative skills.

Final Paper (30%): Students will have to prepare one essay of 1000 words. The essay will be an analytical paper focusing on one or several passages of a text that we have read together. Topics for papers will be suggested, but you can also develop your own topic after consultation with the instructor. If this kind of writing is new for you or if you need help with any aspect of your paper, please do not hesitate to see me during my office hours! You will be graded on your thesis, the evidence with which you support your thesis, your attention to detail, and grammar and style. See due dates in the course program.

A note on missed or late work: you can only obtain credit for your work if the absence or delay is related to reasons for excused absences as defined above. Except for emergencies, all excuses for missing an exam or for late assignments must be discussed with me before the exam or due date. Except for emergencies, I will NOT accept excuses given after the exam or due date. An unexcused late assignment or missed exam will result in a zero.

Evaluation of Course Work (Final Grade)

Attendance and Participation:	15%
Blackboard contributions:	10%
Presentation:	20%
In-class essay:	25%
Final paper:	30%

Required texts

Texts will be provided in paper or electronic format. Students are expected to have a copy of the assigned text available in class.

Useful websites

- <http://gutenberg.spiegel.de/>
Deutsche Autoren von A-Z, vollständige Texte und kurze Portraits
- <http://www.lyrikline.org/>
Über 5100 Gedichte von 570 Dichtern aus 49 Sprachen und über 6200 Übersetzungen in 47 Sprachen. Für viele der Gedichte gibt sogar ein audio-file!

Avoidance of Academic Offenses

From the Academic Integrity Handbook: “Academic integrity is one of the cornerstones of the University of Toronto. It is critically important both to maintain our community which honours the values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness and responsibility and to protect you, the students within this community, and the value of the degree towards which you are all working so diligently. According to Section B of the University of Toronto’s Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.utoronto.ca/govcncl/pap/policies/behaveac.html>) which all students are expected to know and respect, it is an offence for students to: To use someone else’s ideas or words in their own work without acknowledging that those ideas/words are not their own with a citation and quotation marks, i.e. to commit plagiarism. To include false, misleading or concocted citations in their work. To obtain unauthorized assistance on any assignment. To provide unauthorized assistance to another student. This includes showing another student completed work. To submit their own work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the instructor. To falsify or alter any documentation required by the University. This includes, but is not limited to, doctor’s notes. To use or possess an unauthorized aid in any test or exam.

There are other offences covered under the Code, but these are by far the most common. Please respect these rules and the values which they protect.”

Accessibility Needs

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: disability.services@utoronto.ca or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> .

Kursprogramm

*Im Folgenden finden Sie das geplante Kursprogramm, Änderungen vorbehalten.
Beachten Sie auch, dass nur die Montagsdaten angegeben sind.*

WOCHE I (Montag, 13. September): **Einleitung**

- Syllabus-Besprechung und Einleitung
- Immanuel Kant, *Was ist Aufklärung?* (1784)

WOCHE II (Montag, 20. September): **Aufklärung**

- Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, *Nathan der Weise* (1779)

WOCHE III (Montag, 27. September): **Goethezeit**

- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Prometheus/Ganymed/Grenzen der Menschheit*

WOCHE IV (Montag, 4. Oktober): **Romantik**

- E.T.A. Hoffmann, *Der Sandmann* (1817)

WOCHE V (Montag, 11. Oktober): **Romantik**

- **Thanksgiving:** 11. Oktober keine Klasse
- Film: Ridley Scott, *Blade Runner* (1982) {Ausschnitte}

WOCHE VI (Montag, 18. Oktober): **Vormärz**

- **Montag, 18. Oktober: Aufsatz in der Klasse**
- Georg Büchner, *Danton* (1835)

WOCHE VII (Montag, 25. Oktober): **Vormärz**

- Fortsetzung Georg Büchner, *Danton* (1835)

WOCHE VIII (Montag, 1. November): **Realismus**

- Theodor Fontane, *Effi Briest* (1889-94)

Note: November 3, last day to cancel (drop) courses with F section codes from academic record and GPA

WOCHE IX (Montag, 8. November): **Realismus**

- Montag, 8. November: Herbstferien, keine Klasse
- Fortsetzung Theodor Fontane, *Effi Briest*
- Film: Rainer Werner Fassbinder, *Effi Briest* (1972-74) {Ausschnitte}

WOCHE X (Montag, 15. November): **Expressionismus**

- Franz Kafka, *Ein Landarzt* (1918)

WOCHE XI (Montag, 22. November): **Vergangenheitsbewältigung**

- Josef Reding, *Während des Films* (1978)
- Sigfried Lenz, *Die Strafe* (1975)

WOCHE XII (Montag, 29. November): **Deutsche Literatur?**

- Herta Müller, *Atemschaukel* (2009)

WOCHE XIII (Montag, 6. Dezember): **Rückblick**

- Rückblick und abschließende Diskussion
- **Abgabetermin:** zweite schriftliche Arbeit, Montag, 6. Dezember