

The University of Toronto
Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures

German 305H Fall: Introduction to German Literature II

Fall 2009, Monday 1 - 3 pm and Wednesday 2 pm, [place TBA]



Image source: <http://f21.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.

Instructor's Contact Information

Dr. Christine Lehleiter

Office: Odette Hall 312

Office hours: TBA

E-mail: christine.lehleiter@utoronto.ca

Phone: 416-926-2319

Required texts

Students are required to purchase the following books, available at Victoria College Bookstore:

Die deutsche Literatur. Ausgewählte Text, ed. Kurt Rothmann ISBN 978-3-15-009734-2

E.T.A. Hoffmann, *Der Sandmann* ISBN 978-3-15-000230-8

Kursprogramm (Änderungen vorbehalten)

Immanuel Kant, *Was ist Aufklärung?* (1784)

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

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Die Leiden des jungen Werthers* (1774)

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Gedichte*

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

Georg Büchner, *Danton* (1835)

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

Franz Kafka, *Ein Landarzt* (1918)