

The University of Toronto
Age of Goethe
German 320H / Fall 2011

Instructor:	John Noyes	Dept:	German
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Hours:	X 0-0 (& by app.)	Tel.:	416-926-2344

Class meets on Tuesdays **10-12** at *venue tba*

Description

When Germany's most famous poet, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, died at the age of 82, he had seen German literature move through the most innovative, daring and experimental stage of its entire history. Between the years 1774, when he published his first novel, and 1832, when - just months before his death - he completed Faust, the literary world was torn between the revival of classical aesthetics and the shock of the new. Storm and Stress, Romanticism, and various other movements forced the reading public to ask difficult questions about what literature was, what it could do, and how to read it. In this course we will take a tour through some of the salient moments in this age of innovation.

Course Goals

Students will gain a closer understanding of the forces that shaped modernity in its initial stages in Germany. This will be done through a combination of close reading, together with analysis of select critical works. Students will also be given insight into the historical and social background to the changes in the literary landscape. Classes will combine lectures on the texts with open seminar-style discussions, giving students the opportunity to practice their active and passive knowledge of German.

Requirements / Evaluation

Attendance and active participation	10 %
Journal	20 %
Two short papers	30 %
Term paper	40 %

Materials

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: Die Leiden des jungen Werther, Reclam, RUB 67
 Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: Hermann und Dorothea, Reclam, RUB 55
 Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: Faust I, Reclam, RUB 1
 Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: Faust II, Reclam, RUB 2
 Friedrich Schiller: Kabale und Liebe, Reclam, RUB 33
 Friedrich Schiller: Über die ästhetische Erziehung der Menschheit, Reclam, RUB 18062
 Heinrich von Kleist: Das Erdbeben in Chile, Reclam, RUB 8002
 E. T. A. Hoffmann: Klein Zaches genannt Zinnober, RUB 306

Calendar

Note: The purpose of this calendar is to provide a general idea of how this course is structured. It may be subject to change. A binding course syllabus will be provided at the first class session.

Week 1 Introduction to the Age of Goethe
 Week 2 Goethe: Die Leiden des jungen Werther
 Week 3 Schiller: Kabale und Liebe
 Week 4 Goethe: Hermann und Dorothea
 Week 5 Schiller: Aesthetische Erziehung der Menschheit
 Week 6 Humboldt: Die Forschungsreise in den Tropen
 Week 7 Novalis: Hymnen an die Nacht
 Week 8 Schlegel: Gespräch über die Poesie
 Week 9 Goethe: Faust I
 Week 10 Kleist: Das Erdbeben in Chile
 Week 11 Hoffmann: Klein Zaches genannt Zinnober
 Week 12 Goethe: Faust II