

GER 365S Knights, Dybbuks, and Fairies: Yiddish and German Storytelling before 1700

Tuesdays 4 – 6pm. Jackman Humanities Hall, room 235

Instructors:

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Syllabus

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

Introduction German and Yiddish Culture 1000 - 1700
Brief overview

Required:

Bumke, Joachim: *Courtly Culture. Literature and Society in the Middle Ages*, Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1991, chapter 1.
Max Weinreich, *History of the Yiddish Language*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980, pp. 1 – 44.

Recommended:

Medieval German Literature: A Companion, ed. by Marion E. Gibbs and Sidney M. Johnson, New York and London: Garland, 1997 (repr. Taylor and Francis, 2000).
<http://lib.myilibrary.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/Browse/open.asp?ID=40749&loc=cover>

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

A Jewish Poet writing in Middle High German? Süßkind von Trimberg.

Required:

Poems by Süßkind von Trimberg.

Brian Murdoch: "Süßkind the Jew of Trimberg," in: Yale Companion to Jewish Writing and Thought in German Culture 1096-1996, ed. by Sander L. Gilman and Jack Zipes, New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1997, pp. 21-26.

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Knights, Chivalry, Chivalric Literature

Required: Ulrich, von Zatzikhoven, *Lanzelet*, trans. by Thomas Kerth, New York: Columbia University Press, 2005. Please prepare full text, accessible at:

<http://hdl.handle.net/myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/2027/heb.06051>

Medieval German Literature: A Companion, ed. by Marion E. Gibbs and Sidney M. Johnson, New York and London: Garland, 1997 (repr. Taylor and Francis, 2000), pp. 328-331.

<http://lib.myilibrary.com/myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/Browse/open.asp?ID=40749&loc=cover>

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Bridal Quest Epic: *König Rother* and *Dukus Horant*

Required:

Excerpts from: King Rother, trans. by Robert Lichtenstein, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1962, p. 1-3; 18-67.

Salvatore Calomino: *König Rother*, in: Encyclopedia of German Literature, vol. 2, Chicago and London: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2000, pp. 611-612.

Arthur Tilo Alt: Transliteration into Hebrew of "Dukus Horant," in: Yale Companion to Jewish Writing and Thought in German Culture 1096-1996, ed. by Sander L. Gilman and Jack Zipes, New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1997, pp. 42-48.

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Yiddish Knights: Sir Bovo

Required:

Elia Levita Bachur's Bovo-Buch: A Translation of the Old Yiddish Edition of 1541 with Introduction and Notes,

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

History of Old Yiddish Books

Guest speaker: Professor Jean Baumgarten, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Paris, France

Required:

Jean Baumgarten, *Introduction to Old Yiddish Literature*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005, pp. 38 -72

Anonymous, 'The Peasant and the Scribe' from the *Book of Cows* (1595), in Neugroschel, *No Star Too Beautiful*, pp. 33 – 39

Moyshe Vallikh, 'Two Fables from *The Book of Fables* (1697), in Neugroschel, *No Star Too Beautiful* , pp. 66 – 70.

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

Reading Week – No Classes

Required Viewing:

Dybbuk, Poland 1939

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Yiddish is For Women and Uneducated Men

Tsena Urena (Come and See), Homiletic commentary of the Bible in Old Yiddish by Jacob ben Isaac Ashkenazi of Janow in Joachim Neugroschel, *No Star Too Beautiful: A Treasury of Yiddish Stories*, pp. 47 – 54 and Joachim Neugroschel, *Shtetl*, pp. 3 - 16
The Merit of Our Mothers: A Bilingual Anthology of Jewish Women's Prayers, Cincinnati: Hebrew Union College Press, 1992, pp. 90 – 99, p. 118.

Moses Gaster, *Ma'ase Buch: Book of Jewish Tales and Legends*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1934, pp. 192 – 195, 237 - 244

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Supernatural Beings: Fairies in Medieval German Literature

Required:

Ulrich, von Zatzikhoven, *Lanzelet*, trans. by Thomas Kerth, New York: Columbia University Press, 2005, pp. 28-32; 73-84.

<http://hdl.handle.net/myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/2027/heb.06051>

Strassburg Alexander: Alexander's Letter on the Wonders of the East (the Flower Maidens). (The *Strassburg Alexander* and the *Munich Oswald*, trans. by J. W. Thomas, Columbia, S.C.: Camden House, 1989, pp. 63-75).

[March 7, 2010, Symposium on Yiddish Ethnography in Eastern Europe, Robert Gill Theater, 11-5pm. Some papers will address medieval Yiddish folk stories that survived into modernity]

Attending the event replaces one short paper.

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Supernatural Beings of Yiddish Folklore

Required:

The Tale of Evil Spirit in Koretz during the Turmoil of War, in Neugroschel, *The Dybbuk and the Yiddish Imagination*, Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2000, pp. 61 – 80
Yitskhok Bar Yehuda Reutlingen, Beria and Zimra, in Neugroschel, *The Dybbuk and the Yiddish Imagination*, Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2000, pp. 81 – 94
The Man Who Married a She-Demon: A Tale of the Town of Worms, in Neugroschel, *The Dybbuk and the Yiddish Imagination*, Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2000, pp. 118 – 123.
Moses Gaster, *Ma'ase Buch: Book of Jewish Tales and Legends*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1934, pp. 105 – 110, 301 - 303

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Writing the Self: The Birth of German Autobiography

Required:

Ulrich von Liechtenstein: *Service of Ladies*, trans. by J. W. Thomas, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1969, pp. 51-123.
Medieval German Literature: A Companion, ed. by Marion E. Gibbs and Sidney M. Johnson, New York and London: Garland, 1997 (repr. Taylor and Francis, 2000), pp. 311-314.
<http://lib.myilibrary.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/Browse/open.asp?ID=40749&loc=cover>

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

The First Jewish Memoirist: Gluckl from Hameln

The Memoirs of Gluckel of Hameln, translated with notes by Marvin Lowenthal, New York: Schocken Books, 1977, chapters 1 – 5.

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

Final Test

Grading system:

Class participation – 10 %
Four short papers (1 page each) (40%) (due throughout the semester, the details will be discussed)
Independent project (7 – 8pages) (25%) (Due March 16)
Final test – 25 %

There is a penalty for the papers that are submitted late without a doctor's note (1.5% per each day). Some of you may be asked to present the results of your independent projects for the rest of the students.

Class participation includes attendance, familiarity with the required reading, and participation in the discussion.

All course materials are accessible for you through the course website via blackboard. Course announcements are posted through this website too. Make sure that your university email is functioning, as blackboard does not guarantee the successful delivery of documents if any other email accounts are used.