

The University of Toronto

## **KAFKA IN CONTEXT (DRAFT)**

German 322H / Spring 2016

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Class meets on **Wednesdays, 2-4 PM in TBA**

### **DESCRIPTION**

How do we know how to live life in the modern world, when none of our points of reference seem to hold any reliability or stability? How can we even be sure that we are human—and not some strange, deformed animal with consciousness? Are we perhaps moving through life in a dream, or a nightmare? For Kafka, the German-Jewish-Czech writer who lived most of his life in Prague, the only way to answer these and other similarly troubling questions was to transform them into literature. His works offer unique models for thinking about human life in the modern world, about the mind, the body, dreaming and waking, the nature of the social world, and many related issues. And embedded in his writing is a set of unique ideas about how to read literature. In this course we will set out in pursuit of these models and ideas.

### **REQUIREMENTS / EVALUATION**

TBA

### **MATERIALS**

TBA

### **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.

TBA

Week 1

Week 2

Week 3

Week 4

Week 5

Week 6

Week 7

Week 8

Week 9

Week 10

Week 11

Week 12