

The University of Toronto
INTRODUCTION TO GERMAN LITERATURE II
German 305H / Fall 2015

Instructor: **Christin Bohnke**
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Hours: TBA

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Class meets on **Monday 1-3 pm** and **Wednesday 1-2 pm** at **TBA**

Description

This course will provide an introduction to German literature from the eighteenth to the twenty-first century. Through a chronological engagement with different periods of German literature, the students will learn about the most important authors, ideas and movements that have shaped German-language literature in the last centuries.

In addition to gaining a deeper understanding of German literature, students will work on their language skills in this course. Students will be encouraged to expand their vocabulary and their knowledge of grammar. By using the literary texts as examples, specific grammar features of German will be explained. Students will practice their language skills in in-class discussions.

The language of the course will be German. Students are expected to read relevant texts in their original language, complete assignments in German and to conduct discussions in German. Occasional support in English will be given, if necessary.

COURSE GOAL

The primary goal of this course is to familiarize students with the most important works of German literature from the 18th to the 21st century. Students will leave the course with a deepened understanding of German culture and literature, with the ability to engage critically with texts and with improved German skills.

REQUIREMENTS / EVALUATION

Attendance and Participation	30 %
Oral Presentation / Referat	15 %
Short Response Paper 1	10%
Short Response Paper 2	15 %
Final Paper / Essay	30 %

Attendance and participation (30%): 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 two (2) unexcused absences of 50 minutes each. Each unexcused absence after the second will result in a reduction of the final grade. **Besides regular attendance, your participation in class is paramount!** Please be on time and prepared. Come to class with a copy of the relevant text. Since the assigned texts are relatively short, I expect you to read all of them before coming to class. Your grade will depend on your participation in the group discussions.

Oral Presentation/Referat (15%): Each student is expected to give one oral presentation. (detailed criteria will be given on the first day of class).

Short Response Paper/Zusammenfassung (25%): You will write two short response papers on two of the texts that were discussed in class. Please note that the topic of your presentation cannot be the topic of your response paper. (detailed criteria will be given on the first day of class)

Final Paper/Hausarbeit (30%): Students will write one essay of 1000 words. I will suggest topics for the paper but you are encouraged to develop your own topics. The essays will either be written on one or more texts that we have discussed in class or on a new text of your choice. Please see me during my office hours at least once before handing in your final paper.

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.

CALENDAR

Note: The calendar may be subject to change. A binding course syllabus will be provided at the first class session.

- Week 1 Montag, 14. September
Einführung: Was ist (deutsche) Literatur?
Mittwoch, 16. September
Einführung: Wie können wir über Literatur sprechen? Wie schreibt man ein Essay über Literatur?
- Week 2 **Aufklärung**
Montag, 21. September
Immanuel Kant. "Beantwortung der Frage: Was ist Aufklärung?" (1784)
(Auszug)
Mittwoch, 23. September
Gotthold Ephraim Lessing. "Nathan der Weise" (1779) (Auszug)
- Week 3 **Sturm und Drang**
Montag, 28. September
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. "Die Leiden des jungen Werthers" (1774) (Auszug)
Mittwoch, 30. September
Fortsetzung Goethe, Gedichte des Sturm und Drang
- Week 4 **Romantik und Schwarze Romantik**
Montag, 05. Oktober
Gedichte von Karoline von Günderrode, Bettina von Arnim
E. T. A. Hoffmann. "Der Sandmann" (1816)
Mittwoch, 07. Oktober
Fortsetzung "Der Sandmann"
- Week 5 Montag, 12. Oktober
Thanksgiving holiday; University closed
Mittwoch, 14. Oktober
Vormärz
Gedichte von Heinrich Heine
- Week 6 **Moderne**
Montag, 19. Oktober

Thomas Mann. "Der Tod in Venedig" (1912) (Auszug)
Mittwoch, 21. Oktober
Fortsetzung Mann.

Week 7 Montag, 26. Oktober
Franz Kafka. "Die Verwandlung" (1915)
"Vor dem Gesetz" (1915)
Mittwoch, 28. Oktober
Fortsetzung Kafka.

Week 8 Montag, 02. November
Lyrik der Jahrhundertwende, Expressionismus und DADA
(unter anderem Gedichte von Else Lasker-Schueler, Georg Trakl, August Stramm)
Mittwoch, 04. November
Fortsetzung Lyrik der Jahrhundertwende/ Lyrik der Neuen Sachlichkeit
Gedichte von Mascha Kaléko

Week 9 Montag, 09. November
Fall Break, Kein Unterricht
Mittwoch 11. November
Weimar Cinema
F. W. Murnau. "Nosferatu" (1922)

Week 10 Montag, 16. November
Fortsetzung. "Nosferatu"
Mittwoch, 18. November
Lyrik nach Auschwitz
Paul Celan. "Die Todesfuge" (1948)

Week 11 Montag, 23. November
DDR Literatur
Christa Wolf. "Kein Ort nirgends" (1979) (Auszug)
Mittwoch, 25. November
DDR Literatur
Fortsetzung. Wolf.

Week 12 Montag, 30. November
Zeitgenössische Literatur
Yoko Tawada. "Wo Europa anfängt" (1991) (Auszug), "Ein Gast" (1994) (Auszug)
Mittwoch, 02. Dezember
Fortsetzung Zeitgenössische Literatur
Lyrik von May Ayim

Week 13 Montag, 07. Dezember
Abschluss

