

The University of Toronto

INTRODUCTION TO GERMAN LITERATURE I

German 205H / Spring 2019

Instructor: **NICOLA VÖHRINGER** Dept: German
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 3-5 (& by app.)

Class meets on **T 1-3, R 1-2 at NF 119**

COURSE OUTLINE

This course offers an introduction to the study of literature in German. It is aimed at students who have been studying German language for 3 semesters, and are continuing with their 4th semester concurrently with the course. It is intended as a continuing course in language competence, but also an introduction to reading literature in German. We will be reading a number of short literary texts and a few non-fiction texts, specifically with the aim of expanding your working knowledge of the German language, and familiarizing yourself with the subtleties of literary language. As such, the course is meant to provide a transition from the study of language to the topic-based literature courses offered in undergraduate studies in German. Students will receive training in how to read and analyze texts, and how to understand “grammar at work” in literature. Classes will involve reading, discussions, group work, and exercises. Reading assignments will be in German. As far as possible, the classroom language will be German.

REQUIRED TEXTS

• Rosmarie Thee Morewedge, *Mitlesen – Mitteilen. Literarische Texte zum Lesen, Sprechen, Schreiben und Hören*, 4th edition (Boston: Heinle Cengage 2008).

This book is available for purchase online. We will be starting using the book right away, so please order it as soon as you can on the following website:

<https://www.nelsonbrain.com/shop/ProductDisplay?langId=1&storeId=10651&catalogId=10052&productId=497720>

EVALUATION

20% Attendance & active participation
20% Journal
40% Homework
20% Take-home exam

Note: The final grade is an accumulative grade. Low grades you receive early in the term will hurt you in the end (i.e. result in a lower course grade). There is no way to make up for bad grades or missed assignments. If problems should arise during the semester, you are advised to talk to me as soon as possible.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and participation (20%): 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. Each unexcused absence after the second will result in a reduction of the final grade. Besides regular attendance, your participation represents a substantial part of your final grade. I expect you to come to class in time, having completed all the readings and assignments. You must bring to class a copy of the assigned text. You are responsible for contributing to and stimulating a meaningful exchange of ideas. You will be graded according to the quality and frequency of your participation.

Journal (20%): You will be required to purchase a small notebook which will serve as a journal for this course. It will be used to record your reading experiences, to draw Keyword-Lists (Stichwörterlisten), and for other notes associated with the assigned texts. You are required to maintain your journal on a week-by-week basis. The class will often begin by asking individual students to share sections of your journal, with the class, so you need to bring it to each class. Your journal will be graded twice: once mid-term, and once at the end of term.

Homework (40%): This course is a hands-on course with a lot of classroom work, and ongoing homework assignments. You are required to complete all homework and submit it on time.

Take-home exam (20%): There will be a take-home exam which you can complete in your own time in the second half of the semester. It will involve reading and interpretation of literary texts.

A note on missed or late work: you can only obtain credit for your work if the 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.

AVOIDANCE OF ACADEMIC OFFENSES

From the Academic Integrity Handbook: Academic integrity is one of the cornerstones of the University of Toronto. It is critically important both to maintain our community which honours the values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness and responsibility and to protect you, the students

within this community, and the value of the degree towards which you are all working so diligently. According to Section B of the University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) which all students are expected to know and respect, it is an offence for students: to forge or in any other way alter or falsify any document or evidence required by the University, or to utter, circulate or make use of any such forged, altered or falsified document; to use or possess an unauthorized aid or aids or obtain unauthorized assistance in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work; to represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e. to commit plagiarism; to submit, without knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere. There are other offences covered under the Code, but these are by far the most common. Please respect these rules and the values which they protect.

ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible at accessibility.services@utoronto.ca or <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>.

This is a preliminary version of the syllabus; changes might occur.