

The University of Toronto

## **INTRODUCTION TO GERMAN LITERATURE II**

German 305H / Fall 2016

**Please Note:** This is a preliminary version of the syllabus, changes may occur.

Instructor:	<b>MARLO A. BURKS</b>	Dept:	German
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Hours:	TBA		

Class meets on **Mondays 1-3** and **Wednesdays 1-2** at **TBA**

### **DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an introduction to German literature from the eighteenth to the twenty-first century. We will read and analyse excerpts from representative works of major writers such as Goethe, Novalis, Büchner, Kafka, Bachmann and Bernhard. Focus will be placed on literary style, history of ideas (*Ideengeschichte*), and reflections on language as a means of representation. Through both close readings and comparisons of texts within the course, students will learn to appreciate and think critically about the literary qualities of the German language, but also to entertain broader questions about tradition and breaks with tradition. This is a reading and writing intensive course. In addition to the readings in German, there will be weekly writing activities and occasional lectures. Assignments and class discussion will also be in German. English will only be used occasionally for purposes of clarification. Students are expected to have read all texts before the scheduled class discussions. Active, continuous participation is required. Perfect German is not necessary, but a genuine effort to communicate in German is expected.

### **COURSE GOALS**

The objectives of this course are to introduce students to major developments in the history of German literature, to enhance students' ability to analyse and interpret texts, and to improve students' written and spoken German.

### **REQUIREMENTS / EVALUATION**

Attendance & Participation	15 %
In-class reflective writing	25 %
2 in class papers	25 %
Final Essay	35 %

*Attendance and participation* (15%): 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 mark. Besides regular attendance, your participation and in-class writing represent a substantial portion of your final mark. Punctuality and preparation are expected. You must bring to class a copy of the assigned text. You are responsible for contributing to a meaningful exchange of ideas.

\*\*\*Use of phones or other electronic devices in class is prohibited. Treat this like being in the cinema and please turn your phones off.

*In-class reflective writing (25%):* You will have opportunities every week (usually Mondays) to write a short reflective journal on the readings. Each reflection paper is worth 2,5% of your mark; there will be 11 in total, and you are allowed to miss or drop 1 without penalty. The mark will be based on thoughtfulness and appropriateness of responses. Grammar will not be marked, but you should make an effort to communicate effectively and write legibly (please use dark coloured ink or pencil). These are to be hand-written in class. The purpose of this activity is to give you a moment to collect your thoughts regarding the texts to be discussed, and to reflect frequently on texts already studied. In addition, it is intended to give you opportunities to increase your facility in writing in German.

*In-class papers (25%, 12,5% each):* These writing assignments are more comprehensive and formal than the weekly in-class reflective writing assignments. You will be expected to respond to the topics to the best of your ability and will have an hour to draft and write your essays in class. These should also be thought of as preparation for the *Hausarbeit* at the end of the semester.

*Final Essay (Hausarbeit, 35%):* For your final paper you are encouraged to use one or two secondary sources (in German, English, and/or French and Italian). At least one of the sources must be in German. This is a short research paper, but you should be sure not to let your own voice disappear behind that of the secondary literature. Think of this not as a book report, but rather as a conversation with someone about the books you have read. Details will be provided in class. Be aware of the University's policy on plagiarism. Final Essays due: 15 Dezember 2016 (tentative).

*Policy on late assignments:* Because most assignments are to be completed in class, late assignments will not be accepted without official documentation (e.g. doctor's note); if you must miss class for religious holidays or other reasons, please notify me at least one week in advance.

## **MATERIALS**

Course book  
Standard paper German dictionary

## **CALENDAR**

Week 1	Vade mecum: Einführung. Barock, Empfindsamkeit, Aufklärung
Week 2	Sturm & Drang
Week 3	Klassik

Week 4	Romantik
Week 5	<i>Aufsatz in der Klasse (in-class essay)</i>
Week 6	Vormärz
Week 7	Realismus & Naturalismus
Week 8	Moderne
Week 9	Kafka & Expressionismus
Week 10	Weimarer Republik
Week 11	<i>Fortsetzung, Aufsatz in der Klasse</i>
Week 12	Nachkriegsliteratur
Week 12	Gegenwartsliteratur