

The University of Toronto ~ Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures

AGE OF GOETHE

German 320H / Fall 2017



Instructor: John Noyes

Office: Odette Hall #304

Email: john.noyes@utoronto.ca

Tel.: 416-926-2344

Office Hours: Mondays 2:30-3:30

Thursdays 12:30-1:30

Or by appointment

Class meets on **Mondays 12:10-1:50**

DESCRIPTION

When Germany's most famous poet, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, died at the age of 82, he had seen German literature move through the most innovative, daring and experimental stage of its entire history. Between the years 1774, when he published his first novel, and 1832, when - just months before his death - he completed Faust, the literary world was torn between the revival of classical aesthetics and the shock of the new. Storm and Stress, Romanticism, and various other movements forced the reading public to ask difficult questions about what literature was, what it could do, and how to read it. In this course we will take a tour through some of the salient moments in this age of innovation, under the headings of Reason and Passion, Revolution and Reform, Education, Cultural Difference and Humanity, Science and the Psyche, Men and Women. We will read works by Goethe, Friedrich Schiller, Alexander von Humboldt, Johann Gottfried Herder, Friedrich Hölderlin, Friedrich Schlegel, Novalis and others.

COURSE GOALS

Students will gain a closer understanding of the forces that shaped modernity in its initial stages in Germany. This will be done through a combination of close reading,

together with analysis of select critical works. Students will also be given insight into the historical and social background to the changes in the literary landscape at this defining moment in European history. Classes will combine lectures on the texts with open seminar-style discussions, giving students the opportunity to practice their active and passive knowledge of German.

REQUIREMENTS / EVALUATION

Attendance and active participation	10 %
Journal	20 %
Two short papers	30 %
Term paper	40 %

Attendance and participation: This course is evaluated according to your readings, written papers, and classroom discussion. You will also gain points for coming regularly, punctually and well-prepared to class. That means having completed the week's reading, and submitting essays on time. Late essays will not be accepted without a medical certificate.

Journal: keep an ongoing record of your "reading experience." Buy a small exercise book where you note your responses to the texts we read. This is where you "think aloud" while reading. It will help you to understand the reading process and convert personal responses to critical responses. Your responses can be as long or as short as you want. I'll be grading quality, not quantity. Avoid simply retelling things that happen in the readings. Submit the journal **TWICE ONLY**, on **9 October** and **27 November**

Short Paper 1: This paper will outline, a central problem in one or two of the prescribed texts. It will state the question you wish to address, the text (or texts) you intend to look at, and will give an indication of the importance of the problem you are addressing..

Your paper will be two to three pages long, printed double-spaced Times New Roman.

Due 13 October.

Short Paper 2: This paper will build on the first paper. It will list two reference works (articles in journals or chapters in books) that are relevant to the problem you wrote about in your first paper. You will sketch the position they take on the question at hand. Your paper will be two pages long, printed double-spaced Times New Roman.

Due 30 October.

Term Paper: This is a paper written on the topic of your first short paper. You will begin your paper by explaining the problem, then setting forth how you intend to address it. You will make reference to the text(s) to support your ideas. And you will make reference to the articles summarized in your second short paper. I will hold a research workshop early in the term to explain how to find this material. Your essays will be between 1,500 and 2,000 words printed double-spaced Times New Roman. After I have graded your essay you have the option of re-writing and re-submitting it two weeks later.

Due 20 November.

MATERIALS

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: Die Leiden des jungen Werther, Reclam, RUB 67

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: Faust I, Reclam, RUB 1

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: Egmont, Reclam, RUB 75