

The University of Toronto
KAFKA IN CONTEXT

German 322H / Fall 2017

Instructor: **PROFESSOR JOHN ZILCOSKY**

Office: Northrop Frye Hall, 214

Office Hours: TBA

Class meets on **Tuesdays, 2-4 PM in NF 113**

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, and the nature of the social world. 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.

REQUIRED TEXTS, COURSE REQUIREMENTS, MARKING SCHEME, ETC.: TBA