

The University of Toronto

## INTRODUCTION TO GERMAN LITERATURE II

German 305H / Fall 2017

Instructor: **YASMIN ALY** Dept: Germanic Languages and Literatures  
Office: Odette Hall #312 Email: yasmin.aly@mail.utoronto.ca  
office hours: Wednesdays 12 PM-2PM  
& by appointment

Class meets on **M 4-6, W 4-5 at VC 212**

### DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an introduction to German literature from the eighteenth to the twenty-first century. We will be studying representative works of major German writers, focusing on artistic themes and the cultural-historical contexts in which they were created and received. In what ways do literary texts participate in different discussions of their time? How do these texts speak to later generations / to us? What formal means do the authors employ to present their thoughts and ideas? We will approach the text with a combination of close readings and broad historical and cultural perspectives. In addition, we will work on our reading techniques for primary and secondary literature and improve our research skills in the university library system. Sessions involve class discussions, group work, readings, and occasional lectures.

*Assignments and classroom discussions will be in German*

### EVALUATION

#### Evaluation of Course Work

Participation:	20%
Oral Presentation:	15%
Short Response Paper:	15%
Short Annotated Bibliography:	15%
Final Paper:	35%

**Participation:** In-class participation depends on several factors. Your regular attendance in class is paramount. However, just showing up in class is not enough! It is expected that you actively take part in class work and discussions, and if you do not understand or follow what your instructor expects of you, it is your responsibility to ask. I expect you to come to class on time, having read and prepared the assigned texts (e.g. by marking passages that were particularly interesting for you and/or writing notes

and questions on the margins). You are responsible for contributing to and stimulating a meaningful exchange of ideas.

*A short note: as mentioned above, the class will be conducted in German. However, don't be shy because you think your German is not perfect. It is absolutely alright to make mistakes. We will help each other to find the right words and structures!*

**Oral Presentation:** You will give a presentation on a topic related to the weekly readings. You will sign up for a particular week at the beginning of the semester and discuss the presentation with me at least one week in advance. To help your fellow colleagues to follow your presentation, you will have to provide visual support (handout, power point presentation, etc.). The presentation will be graded for content as well as presentation skills (detailed criteria will follow).

**Short Response Paper:** As you read the prescribed texts, note anything that stirs your curiosity or strikes you as strange, contradictory or unresolved. What is the form of the text? How is it made? How are the characters/ objects/ places etc. described? What do they do/not do? What questions/problems does the text raise? Do you see parallels to current discourses? How does the text make you feel? This can be an academic analysis or a very personal account that need not be in academic format such as a journal entry, a letter, a column, a short story, your adaptation of a text read in class, a persiflage etc. What I will be looking for is that you show insight into the text, that you understand the issues it is trying to deal with and the questions it is trying to raise. Write three pages double-spaced, Times New Roman 12, in response to one text of your choice.

**Short Annotated Bibliography:** This is a critical summary of three scholarly articles about one of the texts read in class. Using the U of T Library research interface locate an article dealing with one of the prescribed texts, on a topic of your choice. Summarize the author's argument. What are the main points of the argument? Take a personal position on the argument. Which ideas do you like best, and why? What did you not understand or find confusing and contradictory? This annotated bibliography will be a preparation for your final paper. Write three pages double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 (detailed criteria will follow).

**Final Paper:** You will have to prepare an essay (1000 words) focusing on one or several passages of a text or several texts discussed in class. You are encouraged to develop your own topic in consultation with me. If writing an analytical paper is new for you or you need help with your paper, do not hesitate to see me during office hours. Your essay will be graded on your thesis, the evidence with which you support your thesis, your attention to detail, and grammar and style (detailed criteria will follow).

## **MATERIALS**

The required texts will be provided online; additional texts will be distributed in class. There will be film screenings outside of regular class time.

## **ATTENDANCE**

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).

In addition, the Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures allows you a maximum of 2 unexcused absences of 50 minutes each. For each subsequent unexcused absence, there will be a penalty.

## **Avoidance of Academic Offenses**

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 knowingly: 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, whether the record be in print or electronic form; 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 personate another person, or to have another person personate, at 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; to submit any academic work containing a purported statement of fact or reference to a source which has been concocted. 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: [disability.services@utoronto.ca](mailto:disability.services@utoronto.ca) or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>