The University of Toronto

Age of Goethe
German 320H / Fall 2011

Instructor: John Noyes
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Hours: X 0-0 (& by app.)

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Class meets on Tuesdays 10-12 at *venue tba*

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.

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. 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

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and active participation</td>
<td>10 %</td>
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<td>Journal</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<td>Two short papers</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<td>Term paper</td>
<td>40 %</td>
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Materials
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: Die Leiden des jungen Werther, Reclam, RUB 67
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: Hermann und Dorothea, Reclam, RUB 55
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: Faust I, Reclam, RUB 1
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: Faust II, Reclam, RUB 2
Friedrich Schiller: Kabale und Liebe, Reclam, RUB 33
Friedrich Schiller: Über die ästhetische Erziehung der Menschheit, Reclam, RUB 18062
Heinrich von Kleist: Das Erdbeben in Chile, Reclam, RUB 8002
E. T. A. Hoffmann: Klein Zaches genannt Zinnober, RUB 306

**Calendar**

*Note:* The purpose of this calendar is to provide a general idea of how this course is structured. It may be subject to change. A binding course syllabus will be provided at the first class session.

Week 1  Introduction to the Age of Goethe
Week 2  Goethe: Die Leiden des jungen Werther
Week 3  Schiller: Kabale und Liebe
Week 4  Goethe: Hermann und Dorothea
Week 5  Schiller: Aesthetische Erziehung der Menschheit
Week 6  Humboldt: Die Forschungreise in den Tropen
Week 7  Novalis: Hymnen an die Nacht
Week 8  Schlegel: Gespräch über die Poesie
Week 9  Goethe: Faust I
Week 10  Kleist: Das Erdbeben in Chile
Week 11  Hoffmann: Klein Zaches genannt Zinnober
Week 12  Goethe: Faust II