

The University of Toronto

INTRODUCTION TO POETRY

German 330H / Fall 2014

Instructor:	EROL BORAN	Dept:	German
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Hours:	M 1-3 (& by app.)	Tel.:	416-926-2319

Class meets on **W 5-7 at t.b.a.**

DESCRIPTION

Poetry provides an excellent way of looking at German culture through art. The foundation of the course will be close reading and of poems in the German language across a variety of subgenres through different epochs. The texts we read & discuss are (mostly) short & (always) challenging and allow for ample contextualization and interpretation. The course will be taught in German. Some of the poems may be available in English translation, but close reading and class discussions will be based on the German originals.

COURSE GOALS

The course is designed to continue the transition from language to topic courses (~GER 205). Using a literary short form, we focus on reading, understanding and interpreting the poems before contextualizing and historicizing them. Assignments help you acquire skills necessary in German literary studies (structuring arguments in oral presentations & written assignments based on close reading & research). The class will improve your German language skills.

REQUIREMENTS / EVALUATION

Participation/Preparation	10%
Quizzes/Assignments	20%
Presentation (Interpretation)	30%
2 Short Papers (week 6 & 12)	40%

Like all course offerings of the German Department, this course requires thorough preparation, continuous attendance and active participation. Students are expected to engage with the texts actively and thoroughly and share their insights in class discussions and Blackboard discussions. Attendance policy: You are required to attend every class with the prepared text in hand. You may miss one session only without valid excuse; after that 10% will be taken off the final grade for each additional unexcused absence.

MATERIALS

Available via Blackboard and course packet / handouts.

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	Gedichte interpretieren: Form & Inhalt
Week 2	Gedichte interpretieren: Epochen & Kontexte
Week 3	Barock, Aufklärung / Präsentationen 1-3
Week 4	Sturm & Drang, Romantik / Präsentationen 4-6
Week 5	Goethe / Präsentationen 7-9
Week 6	Realismus, Naturalismus / Aufsatz 1 (Interpretation)
Week 7	Expressionismus, Dadaismus / Präsentationen 10-12
Week 8	Krieg, Nachkriegszeit / Präsentationen 13-15
Week 9	Liedermacher, Protestlyrik / Präsentationen 16-18
Week 10	Lyrik der Migration / Präsentationen 19-21
Week 11	Gegenwartslyrik / Präsentationen 22-24
Week 12	Deutsch-Rap / Aufsatz 2 (Interpretation oder kreativ)

NOTE: COLLABORATING & EXCHANGING IDEAS IS ENCOURAGED

An important part of the fun of dealing with poetry is working with partners or in groups (i.e. in communication with others). Hence I encourage you to form reading groups to prepare poems for class sessions. I also allow (but don't enforce) partner work in presentations, as it allows you to work with a poem in more depth and possibly also more creatively. However, I caution you against choosing someone as a presentation partner unless you know that you can work together and rely on each other. (Otherwise it might negatively influence your grade.) Finally, classroom space permitting, you will be seating in changing groups of 4-6 people and be assigned group tasks as part of each class session.