

The University of Toronto

## INTRODUCTION TO GERMAN LITERATURE II

German 305H / Fall 2014

Instructor:	<b>ALEXANDRA GERSTNER</b>	Dept:	Germanic Languages and Literatures
Office:	Odette Hall, 326	Email:	alexandra.gerstner@utoronto.ca
Hours:	Wednesdays, 2:30-4:30 pm	Tel.:	416 926 - 2327

Class meets on **Monday 1-3 pm** and **Wednesday 1-2 pm** at **TBA**



### DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to German literature and culture from the eighteenth to the twenty-first century. Within a chronological framework, we will read and analyze excerpts from representative works of major German writers. Some of the literary texts will be complemented with examples selected from the visual arts, music and film. Throughout the course, our focus will be on three sets of questions: 1. What is the leading question of the text? 2. What are the formal means that the authors employ in order to express their concerns and to conceptualize the topic under discussion? 3. What is the historical and cultural context of the text? By asking these questions, we will not only strive to come to a better understanding of individual works, but also of German literature, its developments and themes. However, although the structure of this course is governed by literary periods, it will also be our aim to question their validity and definition. We will approach the texts with a combination of close readings and broad historical and cultural perspectives. Among the authors we will discuss are Johann Wolfgang Goethe, Joseph von Eichendorff, Franz Kafka, Irmgard Keun and Ilse Aichinger. 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 will be in German; discussions too, except for clarification purposes.

## COURSE GOALS

The primary objectives of this course are to introduce students to major developments in the history of German literature, to make students familiar with selected works of German literature, to enhance students' ability to analyze and interpret texts, and to improve students' written and spoken German.

## REQUIREMENTS / EVALUATION

Attendance and Participation (in class and online)	20 %
Oral Presentation / Referat	15 %
Short Response Paper / Zusammenfassung:	20%
In-class Essay / Aufsatz in der Klasse	15 %
Final Paper / Essay	30 %

Attendance and participation (20%): 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). Please notify me at least a week in advance in case you know you need to miss class. In addition to excused absences each student may have two (2) unexcused absences of 50 minutes each. Each unexcused absence after the second will result in a reduction of the final grade. Besides regular attendance, your participation represents a substantial part of your final grade. I expect you to come to class in time, having completed all the readings and assignments. You must bring to class a copy of the assigned text. You are responsible for contributing to a meaningful exchange of ideas. You will be graded according to quality and frequency of your participation.

Online participation consists of blackboard contributions. You will need to read the assigned texts to contribute on Blackboard's "Discussion Board" in preparation for class (please make yourself familiar with Blackboard, if you do not know the portal yet: <https://portal.utoronto.ca>). Unless otherwise indicated, you can write on any aspect or question of the text which seems interesting to you. You are expected to read your classmates' contributions. Your work on Blackboard will help you to practice your written German and to participate in class. Blackboard contributions are due Mondays, 9 AM. No late work will be accepted.

*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's much better to make mistakes than to say nothing. We will help each other to find the right words and structures!*

Oral Presentation/Referat (15%): Each student will need to give a presentation on a topic related to the readings for a particular week. The topic of your presentation should be discussed with me at least one week in advance. The presentation will be graded for content as well as presentation skills (detailed criteria will follow).

Short Response Paper/Zusammenfassung (20%): You will write a summary of a given academic interpretation or analysis of one of the texts we have read in class. Identify its thesis, its main arguments and conclusions (detailed criteria will follow). See due dates in the course program.

In-class Essay/Aufsatz in der Klasse (15%): You will write one in-class essay (check the course program for exact date). For this essay, you will choose one of three given topics. You will be

allowed to use your standard paper dictionary (no electronic devices allowed). Think of this “in-class essay” less as an exam and more as a “workshop,” in which you practice your written German and argumentative skills.

**Final Paper/Hausarbeit (30%):** Students will have to prepare one essay of 1000 words. The essay will be an analytical paper focusing on one or several passages of a text that we have read together. Topics for papers will be suggested, but you can also develop your own topic after consultation with the instructor. If this kind of writing is new to you or if you need help with any aspect of your paper, please do not hesitate to see me during my office hours. See due dates in the course program.

*A note on missed or late work:* you can only obtain credit for your work if the absence or delay is related to reasons for excused absences as defined above. Except for emergencies, all excuses for missing an exam or for late assignments must be discussed with me before the exam or due date. Except for emergencies, I will NOT accept excuses given after the exam or due date. An unexcused late assignment or missed exam will result in a zero.

## **MATERIALS**

*Required book:* Joseph von Eichendorff: Das Marmorbild, hrsg. von Lore Salomon, Reihe Reclam XL - Text und Kontext, Stuttgart: Reclam 2014.

All other readings are available as scanned texts on our Blackboard website.

## **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.

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| Week 1 | <p>Montag, 8. September: Einführung<br/>Aufklärung und Empfindsamkeit<br/>Text: Johann Gottfried Herder: Fragmente über die neuere deutsche Literatur (1767) (Auszüge)<br/>Mittwoch, 10. September:<br/>Fortsetzung Herder</p> |
| Week 2 | <p>Montag, 15. September: Aufklärung und Empfindsamkeit<br/>Gotthold Ephraim Lessing: Nathan der Weise (1779) (Auszug)<br/>Mittwoch, 17. September:<br/>Fortsetzung Lessing</p>  |
| Week 3 | <p>Montag, 22. September: Klassik<br/>Johann Wolfgang Goethe, Faust (1808) (Auszüge)<br/>Mittwoch, 24. September: Klassik<br/>Fortsetzung Goethe</p>   |
| Week 4 | <p>Montag, 29. September: Romantik<br/>Joseph von Eichendorff, Das Marmorbild (1816/17)</p>  |

Fortsetzung: Eichendorff

Mittwoch, 1. Oktober:

Fortsetzung: Eichendorff

- Week 5 Montag, 6. Oktober: Romantik  
Fortsetzung: Eichendorff  
Mittwoch, 8. Oktober: Romantik  
Heinrich Heine, Gedichte
- Week 6 Montag, 13. Oktober: *no class - Thanksgiving*  
Mittwoch, 15. Oktober: ***Aufsatz in der Klasse***
- Week 7 Montag, 20. Oktober: Expressionismus  
Franz Kafka, Vor dem Gesetz (1915)  
Mittwoch, 22. Oktober: Expressionismus/Dadaismus  
Gedichte von Jakob von Hoddis (“Weltende”), Georg Trakl (“Grodek”), Else Lasker-Schüler (“Abschied” und “Ein Lied”), Hugo Ball (“Gadji beri bimba” und “Totentanz 1916”)
- Abgabe Zusammenfassung***
- Week 8 Montag, 27. Oktober: Neue Sachlichkeit  
Irmgard Keun, Gilgi – Eine von uns (1931) (Auszüge)  
Mittwoch, 29. Oktober: Neue Sachlichkeit  
Fortsetzung Keun
- Week 9 Montag, 3. November: Nachkriegsliteratur  
Gedicht “Inventur” von Günther Eich (1948), Ilse Aichinger, Spiegelgeschichte (1949)  
Mittwoch, 5. November: Nachkriegsliteratur  
Fortsetzung Aichinger
- Week 10 Montag, 10. November: Nachkriegsliteratur  
Textauszüge von Durs Grünbein, Wolf Biermann, Christa Wolf, Wolfgang Hilbig und Monika Maron  
Mittwoch, 12. November:  
Fortsetzung
- Week 11 Montag, 17. November: *no class - Fall Break*  
Mittwoch, 19. November: *no class - Professor on conference leave*

Week 12 Montag, 24. November: Gegenwartsliteratur  
Gedichte von Uljana Wolf (2009) und Ann Cotten (Auswahl auf  
[www.lyrikline.org](http://www.lyrikline.org))

Mittwoch, 26. November: Gegenwartsliteratur  
David Wagner, Was fehlt (2002)

Week 13 Montag, 1. Dezember:  
Fortsetzung Wagner

Mittwoch, 3. Dezember:  
Abschlussbesprechung

### *Abgabetermin Essay*

#### **Useful websites**

Biblioteca Augustana

[http://www.hs-augsburg.de/~harsch/germanica/Autoren/d\\_alpha.html](http://www.hs-augsburg.de/~harsch/germanica/Autoren/d_alpha.html)

Deutsche Autoren (alphabetisch und nach Epochen): kurze Portraits, vollständige Texte und teilweise Hinweise zu Rezeption und Editionen.

Lyrikline.org

<http://www.lyrikline.org>

Über 8750 Gedichte von 969 Autoren aus 63 Sprachen und über 12700 Übersetzungen, teilweise mit audio-file.

The John M. Kelly Library Research Guide to German Literature

[http://stmikes.utoronto.ca/kelly/research\\_guides/german\\_literature.asp](http://stmikes.utoronto.ca/kelly/research_guides/german_literature.asp)

The John M. Kelly Library Research Guide to German Literature, maintained by Richard Carter.

Virtuelle Fachbibliothek Germanistik

<http://www.germanistik-im-netz.de/>

Recherchehilfen, insbesondere Verzeichnis wissenschaftlich relevanter Internetquellen für das Fach Germanistik (Literatur- und Sprachwissenschaft).

Bremer Schreibcoach

<http://www.bremer-schreibcoach.uni-bremen.de/cms/index.php?page=neueinstieg>

Online-Tutorium zum Schreiben wissenschaftlicher Texte auf deutsch.

#### **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](#) 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>