

The University of Toronto

## GERMAN LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION

GER 220 Winter 2018

Instructor: **HANG-SUN KIM** Dept: German  
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Hours: Mondays 1-3pm Tel.: 416-926-2301  
(or by appt.)

Class meets on **Fridays 2-4 at Carr Hall, Room 403**

### DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to German literature in translation from the late 18th century to the present. Through close reading and comparative analysis, we will bring representative texts from different literary periods into dialogue with each other in order to examine both the distinctive literary styles and the thematic preoccupations of German literature. We will investigate the representation of shifting societal values, conceptions of nature and identity, figures on the margins of society, and intergenerational conflict. Assignments and class discussion will be in English.

### MATERIALS

Readings will be posted on Blackboard and select texts can be purchased at the University of Toronto Bookstore.

### REQUIREMENTS / EVALUATION

Attendance and Active Participation (in and outside of class)	15%
Position Paper	15%
Presentation	15%
Tests (2 x 15%)	30%
Take Home Final	25%

**Attendance and participation (15%):** 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 1 unexcused absence. 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.

**Oral Presentation (15%):** You will work in groups of four and lead the class discussion on a given reading. Your presentation should be a max. of 20 minutes in length. You will be evaluated based on your ability to formulate insights into the text (not a summary). You may \*not\* present on the same topic as the one you choose for your position paper.

**Position Paper (15%):** You will be writing one position paper throughout the semester. This is a brief abstract, outlining your position on a text. You will select texts at the beginning of the semester and put together an introduction to your argument in 1.5 to 2 pages double-spaced. You should clearly state your thesis and outline the methodology of your argument. The goal of this assignment is to practice the art of argumentation - how to set up your argument, how to think about texts on a deeper level, how to articulate what a text does and what it could mean. The position paper should use textual evidence. Do not merely speculate. Point out the clues in the text that led to your argument. Write clearly and simply. When you are finished with the position paper, please share your argument with the class in an online discussion. You can either post the actual paper, or if you prefer, share the main idea behind your thesis and say a few words about the text and your argument. Your positions will also be used in class to help guide the conversation. Your position paper may not be on the same text as you choose for your oral presentation.

**Tests (2 x 15%):** You will write two in-class tests. The tests will assess your knowledge of the texts and will consist of passage identification, short answer questions and identification of key terms discussed in class.

**Take Home Final (25%):** You will have to write one essay of 1500 words, which engages with one or two of the course texts and reflects critically on the course themes. Topics for papers will be suggested, but you can also develop your own topic in consultation with me. Please see due dates in the course program. For each day that a paper is late, I will deduct 5% of the overall essay mark.

***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 late assignments must be discussed with me before the assignment due date. Except for emergencies, I will NOT accept excuses given after due date. An unexcused late assignment will result in a zero.

### **Inappropriate Use of Mobile Devices/Computers**

Phones or similar mobile devices should be off during class time! No texting is allowed. Mobile devices and laptops can be used during class only with the explicit permission of the instructor. In case of repeated texting despite warnings from the instructor, the student's participation grade will be automatically lowered.

### **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>

## CALENDAR

NB: The course instructor reserves the right to make changes to this schedule. Please consult the online syllabus regularly.

Weeks	Readings	Important Dates
1) Jan. 5	Introduction	
<b>Crime and Justice</b>		
2) Jan. 12	Heinrich von Kleist – Michael Kohlhaas	
3) Jan. 19	Franz Kafka – Before the Law Friedrich Schiller – The Criminal of Lost Honour	
4) Jan. 26	Bertolt Brecht – Threepenny Opera	
<b>Outsiders</b>		
5) Feb. 2	Georg Büchner – Woyzeck	Test 1
6) Feb. 9	Robert Musil – Tonka	
7) Feb. 16	Judith Hermann – Sommerhouse, later: Stories Marc Degens – Selected texts	
<b>Feb. 23 – Reading Week – No class</b>		
<b>The Power of Nature</b>		
8) Mar. 2	Ludwig Tieck – Rune Mountain; Eckbert the Blonde	
9) Mar. 9	Theodor Storm – The Rider on the White Horse	
<b>Wartime: Memory and Trauma</b>		
10) Mar. 16	Heinrich Böll – Wanderer, Bear Words to the Spartans We... (selected stories) Wolfgang Borchert – The Bread – Rats Sleep at Night	Test 2

11) Mar. 23	Bernhard Schlink – The Reader	
<b>Mar. 30 – Good Friday – No class</b>		
<b>Literature of Migration</b>		
12) Apr. 5	May Ayim – selected poetry Yoko Tawada – Where Europe Begins (selected stories) Franz Kafka – A Report to an Academy  <b>Note that this make-up Friday class takes place on Thursday, April 5th!</b>	<b>Take home final due</b>