

The University of Toronto

„ES WAR EINMAL AUF DEUTSCH“ LEARNING (ABOUT) GERMAN WITH FAIRY TALES

GER 196H / Fall 2019

Instructor: **EROL M BORAN**

Dept. of Germanic Languages & Literatures

Office: Odette Hall #309

Email: erol.boran@utoronto.ca

Hours: M 10-12

Class meets on R 10-12 at CR 107



DESCRIPTION

Grimms' Fairy Tales – we all know and love them. But what do we *really* know? Which versions are we familiar with? Most likely not the ones by the Brothers Grimm. And certainly not in German! This course takes you on a journey into the mythical German *Schwarzwald*, a place of enchantment where wolves and witches dwell, the realm of the fantastic. It is not a traditional language course, as we won't be cramming grammar. We will be reading fairy tales, their adaptations and some interpretations; we will learn to approach them critically taking into consideration their historical conditions and intertextual relations; and we will be looking at language-specific aspects. Students are required to read the tales in the original German. Classes will be held partly in English and partly in German, depending on the language level of the participants. Please note that this is a FYF Seminar open to first-year students only. Prerequisite: one year of German (or equivalent).

REQUIREMENTS / EVALUATION

Active Participation (weekly)	15%
Preparation & Quizzes (weekly)	30%
Two Interpretative Papers (Oct. 6/ Nov. 10)	25%
In-Class Presentation (multiple dates)	10%
Oral Examination (Nov. 29)	20%

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Attendance: This course is attendance-based. According to department policy, you may miss one session without valid excuse. Each additional unexcused absence results in a 10% deduction of the final grade.

Active Participation (15%): Active participation is based on thorough preparation of the course materials and an intellectual curiosity regarding the course topics. You are expected to come to class having completed all readings and assignments, and you need to bring your prepared texts to class (print-out or electronic copy). You will be graded according to the quality and frequency of your participation.

Preparation & Quizzes (30%): Sessions typically begin with a brief 5-10-minute quiz on that week's readings & viewings. Usually they will consist of a number of short questions about plot and characters (in German) as well as some interpretative questions (in English).

Interpretative Papers (25%; in English): These assignments are about analyzing fairy tales based on close critical reading. Essay 1 (due Oct. 6, worth 10%) should be 500-600 words long, and essay 2 (due Nov. 10, worth 15%) 800-1000 words long. Both essays should feature a descriptive title, contain a thought-provoking thesis, be based on thorough text analysis (with ample page references), be well-structured and meticulously self-edited (write simply & precisely, avoid sloppy mistakes & convoluted/incomplete sentences). Specific instructions will be given for each of the papers. Note: The 2nd essay may be replaced by a creative task; inquire if you're interested.

In-Class Presentation (10%; in German): Each student presents a fairy tale in class by introducing its characters, narrating its plot and discussing a short passage of the tale in more depth. A sign-up list will be made available in class, and more instructions will follow. Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor the week before their presentation dates to go over presentations.

Oral Examination (20%): The day after the last class session (on Nov. 29), there will be individual oral exams. They last 15-20 minutes and consist of a German and an English part. German: Talking about three fairy tales of your own choice; simple questions will be asked. This part of the exam includes turning in a list of useful fairy tale words & expressions that students compile over the semester (worth 5%). English: Discussing the general class content, i.e. fairy tales and central topics covered in class. A concise prep sheet will be made available later in the semester.

Notes: The class grade is an accumulative grade, i.e. low grades early in the term will hurt at the end. Late policy for written assignments: -10% per calendar day. If you miss a session (this includes joining class after week 1), it's your responsibility to be/stay prepared, i.e. keep up with readings & assignments. If problems arise during the semester, you need to inform me as soon as possible by email or Quercus.

IMPORTANT MATTERS

Academic Integrity Statement: Academic integrity is defined as the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, submitting work of another person or work previously used. The use of online translation machines is prohibited and subject to penalty. For more information check UofT's Academic Integrity Website.

Sources of Research: This course may require the use of library and internet resources. Using the internet, you need to distinguish between reliable and unreliable sources. Wikipedia (like other free-content encyclopedias) is not a reliable source and thus should not be used and quoted in assignments. It can however be used as a starting-point of your research; sometimes it offers illuminating links and materials.

Disability Access: UofT is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have accessibility concerns, visit the university's Accessibility Website. Please note that restrictions and required services need to be communicated to the instructor as soon as possible

KURSKALENDER

Week 1 Sept. 5	History of Fairy Tales (Volksmärchen & Kunstmärchen) Course Intro / Language Test (Prinzessin auf Erbse) / Brüder Grimm (BG): <i>Dornröschen</i> [Grimm-Vorwort 1812 / Zipes-Article 2015]
Week 2 Sept. 12	Entering the Enchanted Forest BG: <i>Rothkäppchen</i> / <i>Die sechs Schwäne</i> / <i>Brüderchen und Schwesterchen</i> / [<i>Die Alte im Wald</i>]
Week 3 Sept. 19	Archetypes in Fairy Tales (Fairy Tales as Mirrors) BG: <i>Der Froschkönig</i> / <i>Frau Holle</i> / <i>Rumpelstilzchen</i> / [<i>Tischlein deck dich</i>]
Week 4 Sept. 26	Tales of Nationalism (The Romantic Era in Germany) BG: <i>Hänsel und Gretel</i> / <i>Der Jude im Korn</i>
Week 5 Oct. 3	Saving the Princess – Really? (Gender Issues in Fairy Tales) BG: <i>Schneewittchen</i> / Movies: <i>Snow White & the Huntsman</i> (2012; 127 min) [& Disney's Snow White]
Week 6 Oct. 10	Murderers & Thieves Perrault: <i>Bluebird</i> / BG: <i>Der Meisterdieb</i> / [<i>Bremer Stadtmusikanten</i>]
Week 7 Oct. 17	Miracles & Modernity Perrault: <i>Puss in Boots</i> & Movie
Week 8 Oct. 24	Justice & Injustice Andersen: <i>Das Feuerzeug</i>
Week 9 Oct. 31	Magic of the Orient Hauff: <i>Kalif Storch</i>
Reading Week (Nov. 4-10) [Note: Last day to drop course from academic record & GPA is Nov. 4]	
Week 10 Nov. 14	Adaptations & Variations Perrault: <i>Cinderella</i> / BG: <i>Aschenputtel</i> / Movies: <i>Ever After: A Cinderella Story</i> (1998, 121 min) [& Disney's Cinderella (1950; 74 min)]
Week 11 Nov. 21	Magic Objects & Places Funke: <i>Reckless. Steinernes Fleisch</i> (2010)
Week 12 Nov. 28	Intertextuality BG: <i>Von dem Teufel mit den drei goldenen Haaren</i>

A Word on the German Content of this Course: Depending on the language levels of the students, a certain part of the preparation and of the assignments will be in German. To be more precise: At least one fairy tale per session (if there are several assigned) or parts of the fairy tale (if there is only one text assigned) will have to be read in German. Class discussions will cover thematic approaches (mostly in English) and aspects of plot & character (in German). Each class session will also focus on one specific German passage of a fairy tale and explore its linguistic characteristics. For the German content of individual assignments, see p. 2 of this syllabus. I suggest that students start working on their lists of fairy tale terms & expressions (see 'oral exam') early on and run them by me after a few weeks to determine that they are on the right track.

