

The University of Toronto

INTRODUCTION TO GERMAN LITERATURE II

German 305H / Fall 2011

Instructor: **MARLO A. BURKS** Dept: German
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Hours: Wed. 2-3

Class meets on **Mondays 1-3 and Wednesdays 1-2 at TF 202**

DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to German literature from the eighteenth to the twenty-first century. We will read and analyse excerpts from representative works of major writers such as Goethe, Novalis, Büchner, Kafka, and Hesse. Focus will be placed on literary style, history of ideas (*Ideengeschichte*), and reflections on language as a means of representation. Through both close readings and comparisons of texts within the course, students will learn to appreciate and think critically about the literary qualities of the German language, but also to entertain broader questions about tradition and breaks with tradition. This is a reading and writing intensive course. In addition to the readings in German, there will be weekly writing activities and occasional lectures. Assignments and class discussion will also be in German. English will only be used occasionally for purposes of clarification. Students are expected to have read all texts before the scheduled class discussions. Active, continuous participation is required. Perfect German is not necessary, but a genuine effort to communicate in German is expected. All assignments are to be completed in German.

COURSE GOALS

The objectives of this course are to introduce students to major developments in the history of German literature and to enhance students' ability to analyse and interpret German literary texts in the target language.

REQUIREMENTS / EVALUATION

Attendance & participation	10 %
In-class reflective writing	25 %
1 in class paper	12.5 %
Annotated bibliography & short class presentation	12.5 %
Final project / Hausarbeit	40 %

Attendance and participation (10%): 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 unexcused absences of 50 minutes each. There will be a 10 percent reduction of the participation mark for each subsequent absence. Besides regular attendance, your participation and in-class writing represent a substantial portion of your final mark. Punctuality and preparation (i.e. having read the assignments before class) are expected. You must bring to class a copy of the assigned text. You are responsible for contributing to a meaningful exchange of ideas.

***Use of phones or other electronic devices in class is prohibited. Treat this like being in the cinema and please turn your phones off.

In-class reflective writing (25%): You will have opportunities every week (usually Mondays) to write a short reflective journal on the readings. Each reflection paper is worth 2.5% of your mark; there will be 11 in total, and the lowest mark will be dropped; if you miss one, it cannot be made up. The mark will be based on thoughtfulness and appropriateness of responses. Grammar will not be marked, but you should make an effort to communicate effectively and write legibly (please use dark coloured ink or pencil). These are to be hand-written in class. The purpose of this activity is to give you a moment to collect your thoughts regarding the texts to be discussed, and to reflect frequently on texts already studied. In addition, it is intended to give you opportunities to increase your facility in writing in German.

In-class paper (12.5% each): This assignment is more comprehensive and formal than the weekly in-class reflective writing assignments. You will be expected to respond to the topic(s) to the best of your ability and will have an hour to draft and write your essays in class. This should also be thought of as preparation for the *Hausarbeit* at the end of the semester. If you have accessibility issues, you will need to arrange this in advance.

Annotated bibliography & short class presentation (12.5%): The annotated bibliography is part of your final essay. Details of what it should contain will be provided in class. If there is time in class, you will be asked to present briefly on your choice of topic for the final paper. This will give you a chance to try formulating your thesis so that other people can easily understand it.

Final Essay (Hausarbeit, 40%): This is a short research paper, but you should be sure not to let your own voice disappear behind that of the secondary literature. Think of this not as a book report or annotated bibliography, but rather as a conversation with a few people about the books you have read. Details will be provided in class. Be aware of the University's policy on plagiarism. Final Essays due: 10 December 2016 (tentative).

Policy on late assignments: Late assignments will not be accepted without official documentation (e.g. doctor's note); if you must miss class for religious holidays or other reasons, please notify me at least one week in advance.

MATERIALS

Course reader (to be purchased at The Copy Place located in the building at 720 Spadina Ave)

Hermann Hesse. *Steppenwolf* (to be purchased at U of T Bookstore)

Standard paper German dictionary of your choice

CALENDAR

- Week 1 Vade mecum: Barockliteratur und Empfindsamkeit
- Week 2 Gegen den Strich: Sturm und Drang
- Week 3 Der freie Wille der Klassik
- Week 4 Diese Welt und andere Welten: Die Romantik
- Week 5 *Thanksgiving on Monday; In-class essay on Wednesday*
- Week 6 Aufstände und Protokolle: Der Vormärz
- Week 7 Das Leben und der Tod genau wiedergegeben: Der Naturalismus
- Week 8 Die Krise der Moderne
- Week 9 *Monday: Fall Break; Wednesday: Kafkas Kunst und Humor*
- Week 10 Hesses Fahrt durch die deutsche Kulturgeschichte
- Week 11 *Fortsetzung; Annotated bibliography due*
- Week 12 Die deutsche Sprache nach dem zweiten Weltkrieg
- Week 12 Und wieder ein Märchen: die Gegenwartsliteratur (evtl.)