

Please note: this is a preliminary version of the syllabus, changes might occur.

**The University of Toronto  
Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures**

**German 321H Fall: 19<sup>th</sup> Century German Literature  
Zwischen Volk und Nation, Philister und Prolet, Kutsche und Eisenbahn**

**Fall 2018, Monday 2-4 PM, place TBA**

**Instructor's Contact Information**

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**Course Description**

When in 1899 an anonymous writer sent a New Year's card honouring the "Jahrhundertwende" and displaying railway, gramophone, and photo apparat, the sender could look back at a century that had brought enormous technical and political changes for the territory that today is Germany. Fighting against Napoleon, Germany's national feelings had been strengthened and a German state had emerged from a conglomerate of small duchies governed by absolutist rulers. Political revolts had challenged these absolutistic forms of government and had started to replace it with a democratic state of classes. The composition of German society had changed dramatically as a result of the industrial revolution which had replaced traditional manufacturing with mass production by machines and with private capital. The human suffering and social challenges triggered by the industrial revolution had led to new political movements like communism and socialism. Despite these challenges, however, the century had been shaped by the belief in progress and the optimism that new scientific discoveries would lead to a better life for Germany and mankind.

In this course, we will study how German authors reflected on these changes in literary, political and philosophical texts. Our work in class will be shaped by class discussions, group work, and occasional lectures. Assignments and discussions will be in German.

**Course Objectives**

The primary objectives of this course are to introduce students to major developments in nineteenth-century Germany as they are reflected in German literary, political and philosophical texts, to enhance students' ability to analyze and interpret texts, and to improve students' written and spoken German.

**Course Requirements**

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 one (1) unexcused absence. Each unexcused absence after the first 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 and stimulating a meaningful exchange of ideas. You will be graded according to quality and frequency of your participation.

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!

Blackboard contributions (5%): You will need to read the assigned texts and 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>) I will provide study questions and tasks related to the reading assignments, to which you can refer in your Blackboard contribution. However, 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 will be marked with 0 or 1. As long as your contribution is formulated in German, directly related to the assigned text/task, has the required length and is submitted in time, you will earn 1 point. You can miss one (1) of these assignments without penalties. Blackboard contributions are due Mondays, 5 PM. No late work will be accepted.

Letter from the Past (20%): For this assignment, you will write a fictitious letter. You will be provided a list of dates (e.g. May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1871) from which you can choose to write this letter. Detailed criteria will follow. Check course program for exact date.

Presentation (15%): You will give a presentation on an "object" related to the course topic (detailed criteria will follow). To make the process as fair as possible, we will decide on who will present when via lottery in the beginning of the semester. You are committed to the assigned date and you cannot change it except for the official reasons mentioned above. 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.

In-class Essay (20%): You will write one in-class essay. 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). Detailed criteria will follow. Check course program for exact date.

Term Test (25%): You will write one test. See the course program for exact date.

**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.

### **Evaluation of Course Work (Final Grade)**

Attendance and Participation:	15%
Blackboard contributions:	5%
Letter from the Past:	20%
Presentation:	15%
In-class Essay:	20%
Term Test:	25%

### **Useful websites**

- <https://www.dhm.de/lemo/>  
Website providing a wealth of historical information (images, texts, video clips) prepared by *Deutsches Historisches Museum* (DHM) and *Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland* (HdG).
- <http://gutenberg.spiegel.de/>  
Website providing free access to a great number of German literary texts.

### **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 (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) 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. For more information see: <https://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>.

### Reading List

- Georg Büchner, *Woyzeck*
- Georg Büchner und Friedrich Ludwig Weidig, *Der Hessische Landbote*
- Karl Marx und Friedrich Engels, *Das Kommunistische Manifest*
- Johann Gottlieb Fichte, *Reden an die deutsche Nation*
- Friedrich Schlegel, *Sprache und Weisheit der Indier*
- Heinrich Heine, *Deutschland. Ein Wintermärchen*
- Theodor Fontane, *Effi Briest*
- Arthur Schnitzler, *Leutnant Gustl*
- Otto Weininger, *Geschlecht und Charakter*
- Sigmund Freud, *“Kulturelle” Sexualmoral*
- Theodor Storm, *Schimmelreiter*