Building on GER 205H, “German Literature I: Working Methods,” this course provides an overview of German literature from the medieval ages to the present. We analyze representative works of major writers such as Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Franz Kafka, Bertolt Brecht and Emine Seygi Özdamar. We look at a number of different literary genres with a focus on the short story. Students learn about various literary periods, prominent authors, ideas and movements that have shaped German-language literature. Approaching the texts through close reading and broad historical and cultural perspectives, the course teaches students to think critically about the literary qualities of the German language. Sessions involve class discussions, group work, readings, and lectures. Students are expected to have read all texts before the scheduled session. Active participation is required throughout the course. All readings, assignments and discussions are in German, and a genuine effort to communicate in German is expected. / Note: GER 305H is a prerequisite course for 400-level literature courses.