

The University of Toronto

GERMAN LITERATURE II: EPOCHS/GENRES

GER 305H / Fall 2019

Instructor: **EROL M BORAN**

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Hours: M 10-12

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Class meets on **M 1-3** at **VC 206** & **W 1-2** at **VC 304**

DESCRIPTION



Building on GER 205H (“German Literature I: Working Methods”), this course takes you on a journey back through time through various periods of German literature starting in the present and concluding in the era of the Weimar Classic. We analyze representative works of major writers such as Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Friedrich Schiller, Heinrich Heine, Franz Kafka, Bertolt Brecht, Christa Wolf, Zafer Şenocak and Jenny Erpenbeck. We look at different genres and periods, prominent authors, and ideas/movements that have shaped German-language literature. Approaching the texts through close reading and contextualization (broader historical and cultural perspectives), students learn to read critically and to consider the literary qualities of the German language. The course aims at teaching you to critically approach and assess progressively more complex literary texts in the German language to prepare you for advanced literature courses on the 4xx-level. Sessions involve class discussions, group work, readings, and lectures. Students are expected prepare all assigned texts before the scheduled session. Active participation is required throughout the course, absences will be penalized. All readings, assignments and discussions are in German; a genuine effort to communicate in German is expected.

Note: GER 305H is a prerequisite course for 400-level literature courses.

REQUIREMENTS / EVALUATION

Preparation & Active Participation	15%
Organized Session Notes	10%
Essay: Literary Analysis	25%
Academic Paper Preparation	25%
Oral Examination	25%

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Attendance: This course is attendance-based. According to department policy, you may miss one week without valid excuse. Each additional unexcused absence results in a 5% deduction of the final grade.

Preparation & 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 have access to your prepared texts in class sessions. You will be graded according to the quality and frequency of your participation.

Critical Essay (25%): This [assignment](#) asks you to analyze a short literary text based on close [critical reading](#). Your essay should have a descriptive title, contain a thought-provoking thesis, be based on thorough analysis of the text (with ample page references), be clearly structured and meticulously self-edited (write simply & precisely, avoid sloppy mistakes: spelling, verb forms, word order, convoluted/incomplete sentences). The essay should be 500-600 words long (please stay within this range) and is due on Sunday, October 13.

Organized Session Notes (10%): One week, you will be responsible for [taking detailed notes](#) and retyping them at home in a concise and organized fashion (sign-up sheet available in week 1). You are to turn in your notes by Friday of that week. I will make them available to the class.

Academic Paper Preparation (25%): This assignment requires you to do all the preparatory work for a research-based essay without actually writing it. Focusing on one of the main texts discussed in class (list will be made available), you are to come up with a [descriptive title](#), an [abstract](#) of ~100 words (including a [thesis statement](#)), and an [annotated bibliography](#) of five relevant titles of secondary literature, three of which have to be from German sources. ('Relevant': academically sound, e.g. taken from peer-reviewed journals, and pertinent to your topic/thesis, i.e. you have to explain its relevance.) The assignment is due by Sunday, December 8.

Oral Examination (25%): At the end of the semester (on Dec. 4), there will be individual oral exams. It consists of two parts: 1. A short oral presentation that you may prepare in advance, and 2. a discussion of some of the texts we dealt with in class (where I typically ask you questions, and you respond to them). The exam lasts 15-20 minutes and covers all materials (i.e. literary epochs, genres, authors and texts) we discussed during the semester. 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 the 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 should 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 requires 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 & quoted in assignments. It may 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

Woche 1	Epochen & Gattungen der deutschen Literatur
Sept. 9 Sept. 11	Franz Kafka: „Kleine Fabel“ (1920) / Wolfgang Borcherts „Das Brot“ (1946) Yüksel Pazarkaya: „Müll“ (1979)
Woche 2	Migrationsliteratur
Sept. 16 Sept. 18	Feridun Zaimoglu: „Die Skinhead-Story“ (1999) / Zafer Şenocak: „Familienspuren“ (2018) Jenny Erpenbeck: <i>Gehen, ging, gegangen</i> (2015; Exzerpt)
Woche 3	Wendeliteratur
Sept. 23 Sept. 25	Thomas Brussig: <i>Helden wie wir</i> (1995; Exzerpt) Yade Kara: <i>Selam Berlin</i> (2002; Exzerpt)
Woche 4	Geteiltes Deutschland 1
Sept. 30 Okt. 2	Christa Wolf: <i>Was bleibt</i> (1979, 1990)
Woche 5	Geteiltes Deutschland 2
Okt. 7 Okt. 9	Christa Wolf: <i>Was bleibt</i> (1979, 1990) [Essay due on Oct 13]
Woche 6	Vergangenheitsbewältigung
Okt. 14 Okt. 16	Franz Fühmann: „Das Judenauto“ (1962)
Woche 7	Nachkriegsliteratur
Okt. 21 Okt. 23	Wolfgang Borchert: „Die Hundebblume“ (1946), „Generation ohne Abschied“ (1946) Wolfgang Borchert: „Nachts schlafen die Ratten doch (1946)
Woche 8	Exil-Literatur
Okt. 28 Okt. 30	Bertolt Brecht: <i>Der Spitzel</i> (1938) / Franz Xaver Kroetz: <i>Der Spitzel</i> (1997) Bertolt Brecht: „Die jüdische Frau“ (1938)
Reading Week (Nov. 4-9) [Note: Last day to drop course from academic record & GPA is Nov. 4]	
Woche 9	Expressionismus
Nov. 11 Nov. 13	Franz Kafka: „Kaiserliche Botschaft“ (1912), „Ein Bericht für die Akademie“ (1917) Franz Kafka: „Auf der Galerie“ (1919)
Woche 10	Junges Deutschland / Vormärz
Nov. 18 Nov. 20	Heinrich Heine: <i>Deutschland, ein Wintermärchen</i> (1844)
Woche 11	(Schwarze) Romantik
Nov. 25 Nov. 27	Ludwig Tieck: <i>Der Runenberg</i> (1804)
Woche 12	Weimarer Klassik
Dez. 2 Dez. 4	J. W. v. Goethe: „Eine Gespenstergeschichte“ (1795) / F. Schiller: „Die Bürgschaft“ (1798) [Oral Examinations 10-12 & 1-3] / [Academic Paper Prep due Dec 8]

Please note that this syllabus may be subject to changes until the semester has started.