

GERMAN 3000 INTRODUCTION TO GERMAN STUDIES

SPRING 2013

Instructor: Dr. Claudia Schwabe
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Class hours: TR 3:00-4:15 p.m.
Class room: Old Main 326
Office hours: TR 10:30-11:30 a.m.
(and by appointment)

Course Objectives and Goals:

This course is an introduction to key disciplinary skills, practices, issues, and ways of seeing in the field of German Studies. Through close analysis of a small group of representative texts (poetry, prose fiction, film) from the German-speaking world and thoughtful engagement with the aesthetic, philosophical, political, historical, and ethical questions these works raise, students will begin to assimilate the perspectives, practices, and disciplinary habits of a German Studies scholar. By the end of the semester, students will have practiced such fundamental skills as close reading of literature and film, critical thinking based on analysis of textual evidence, literary-critical writing in German, and the use of German scholarly terminology. These skills are essential for further course work in German Studies, but they are also helpful for any life situation in which precise and nuanced critical thinking is required. Emphasis will be placed on close textual analysis; however, students will also gain exposure to important aspects of the literary, political, and cultural history of the German-speaking world and to central concerns, developments, and debates in the field of German Studies as publishing scholars practice it. The course will be conducted in German, so students will additionally gain substantial practice in the four language skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Language of instruction: German

Required Texts:

Joseph von Eichendorff, *Das Marmorbild*
E.T.A. Hoffmann, *Nachtstücke (Der Sandmann)*
Eduard Mörike, *Mozart auf der Reise nach Prag*
Max Frisch, *Herr Biedermann und die Brandstifter*
Franz Kafka, *Das Urteil*
Available in Campus Bookstore

All texts for this class are in German. Some of the texts will be made available as photocopies or in digital form via the Internet (<http://gutenberg.spiegel.de/> et al.)

Dictionary: The Oxford Duden German Dictionary (or equivalent)

Course requirements: Active class participation (incl. homework assignments)
One oral presentation in German
Short position papers/film analysis/poetry analysis in German (1-2 pages)
Midterm essay in German (4-5 pages)
Final research paper in German (8-10 pages)

Grading:

Class participation	15%
Position papers	15%
Presentation	20%
Midterm essay (due March 7 th)	20%
Final paper (due Apr 30 th)	30%

Semester Outline (Subject to Change):

Week 1: Course Introduction; History of German-Speaking Cultures
Week 2: German Cultural History from Origins to Enlightenment
Week 3: German Classicism and Romanticism [*Das Marmorbild*]
Week 4: German Dark Romanticism [*Der Sandmann*]
Week 5: Music, Philosophy, and the Visual Arts
Week 6: The case of Mozart [*Mozart auf der Reise nach Prag*]
Week 7: The Unification of Germany, the Habsburg Empire, and their contrasting Legacies
Week 8: Weimar Germany: Democracy and its Discontents
Week 9: The Turn to the Modern [*Das Urteil*]
Week 10: Spring Break (March 11-15): NO CLASS
Week 11: Problems in 20th-century German Culture: The Rise of Nazism, World War II, and the Holocaust
Week 12: The Cold War and Post-war Germany, Austria, and Switzerland [*Biedermann und die Brandstifter*]
Week 13: The European Union and Austria, Germany, and Switzerland
Week 14: German Studies and Career Goals I: Resources, Strategies
Week 15: German Studies and Career Goals II: Graduate School, the Global Marketplace
Week 16: Comprehensive Review

Attendance:

In accordance with USU policies, regular attendance is expected of all students. As this is a fast-paced and group-oriented method of learning, attendance is mandatory. Attendance means physical as well as mental attendance. Planned absences should be discussed with the instructor beforehand. If you need to be absent due to an emergency, please notify me at your earliest convenience. Examples of planned absences that are excused are: university duties or trips and required court attendance. Examples of emergency absences that are excused are: serious illness or injury of the student or a close member of the student's family. Medical excuses have to be signed by a physician. Written documentation for excused absences must be provided at your next attendance. All missed work must be completed and handed into to me within one week from the day you return. It is the responsibility of each student to make up missed material. Please get notes from someone else in the class or talk to me during my office hours.

Students should plan to arrive on time and stay for the duration of the class. I reserve the right to regard constant tardiness (more than twice) as an unexcused absence. Classroom etiquette will be expected (e.g. students will refrain from reading material not related to class and packing up possessions prior to the end of the lecture). Cell phones are to be turned off before class begins (silent not vibrate). If you feel like an exception is necessary, please see me. There will be no laptop computers allowed in class. Students are encouraged to take thorough notes, participate in class discussion, and ask clarifying questions.

Physical Impairments:

If a student has any physical disabilities or other concerns that would require some accommodation on the part of the instructor, these must be made known to the instructor during the FIRST WEEK of the course. Any request for special concerns must be discussed with and approved by the instructor prior to the completion of the fifth day of the semester. Students with ADA-documented physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Room 101 of the University Inn, (435)797-2444 voice, (435)797-0740 TTY, (435)797-2444 VP, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. Please contact the DRC as early in the semester as possible.

Honor Code Policy:

As stated in The Student Code, "Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. The Honor System is designed to re-enforce the higher level of conduct expected and required of all Utah State University students." Complete academic honesty is expected in this course. Cheating on exams or plagiarism on written assignments will result in a failing grade and may result in further action according to university policy.