

German 4600 – Faust’s Legacy – Fall 2010 Syllabus

Instructor and Class Information:

Felix W. Tweraser, felix.tweraser@usu.edu, 797-7439
Office Hours: (Old Main 002J) TWR 9-11:30 and by appointment
Classroom and Time: Main 207, TR 3-4:15

Principal Texts:

Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von. **Faust, der Tragödie erster Teil; Faust, der Tragödie zweiter Teil**
(or, for our purposes, **Faust I and II**)
Mann, Thomas. **Dr. Faustus**

Course Materials will be provided by Instructor and will also be available on Reserve at the Merrill-Cazier Library

Course Goals and Description:

The historical figure of Faust, a man who—as legend would have it—sells his soul to the devil to achieve his personal aspirations, has, since the 16th century, appeared in masterpieces of world literature, art, and music. Who was Faust and why has he fascinated writers, artists and thinkers for centuries? In this course, we will examine the development of the Faust theme over time, from the legend’s origins in the Renaissance-Reformation period through the Enlightenment and into the twentieth century. We will explore Faust not just in literary texts, but also in the media of art, music, and film, engaging with questions such as: What is the Faustian nature? What facets of the Faust motif have ensured its lasting relevance through 500 years of historical and social transformation? How does each age adapt the motif to its own concerns, and where do the elements of continuity and change lie? What does the prevalence of the Faust motif in the Modern period say about humanity and the times we live in?

This course will be conducted as a senior seminar, with students working towards an independent research project by the end of the semester. Thus an important goal of the course is to acquaint students with research techniques in the humanities, such as reviewing secondary literature, evaluating sources, establishing an original argument, gathering evidence to support that argument, and presenting findings to an informed audience. One secondary, but not insignificant, goal of the research project is to have a session on the Faust theme at the Department of Languages, Philosophy, and Speech Communication’s Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium in April. The symposium is a great opportunity for students to present original research to an engaged audience of students and faculty.

The instructor’s lectures will range widely in the effort to provide historical, cultural, social, and political context to the readings; in that sense the course will cover major events, discoveries, and trends in the German-speaking lands and Europe in general from the late Middle Ages to the present. Students will be asked to contribute to a learning community, where ideas are shared, arguments are tried out, and new insight is attained. The course will be conducted in

German and English, based on students' backgrounds and needs, but a principal aim is to give participants a chance to hone their German skills.

Expectations and Grading:

Final grades for the course will be based on the following criteria:

Participation & short reports	30%
One-page Response papers (4)	20%
Take-home mid-term exam	20%
Final project & presentation	30%

Participation & oral reports:

Because the course will in large part consist of the discussion of materials from the lectures and your own reading, participation forms an important part of your grade. In order to participate effectively, you should come to class prepared. For each reading assignment, I will provide background questions which will guide you in your reading. Occasionally, I will ask for volunteers to research and briefly report on specific topics and issues. These reports will provide background information for our discussions. These will be conducted in German.

Response papers:

From time to time during the semester, I will give a specific written assignment; there will be approximately ten of these topic assignments. Students should select at least **four** and write a one-page response on each. If more than 4 assignments are completed, the highest four grades will be counted. These will be written in German.

Mid-term examination:

The mid-term exam will cover the time period from the inception of the Faust legend through Goethe's **Faust I**. The test will consist primarily of essay questions and may be completed at home. It will be distributed on 12 October, and will be due on 19 October. This will be written in English.

Final project & presentation:

In lieu of a traditional final exam, students will prepare a final research project related to the Faust theme. The project consists of a research paper of approximately 15 pages in length and an oral presentation of your findings. During the allotted final exam period, students will present their projects or research results to the class. Final Projects and Presentations will be in English.

No Class Date:

14 October (Fall break)

Semester Outline (Subject to Change):

Week 1: Course Introduction; The historical Dr. Faust, and the advent of the Faust legend

Week 2: Johann Spiess: **Faustbuch**. The English Faust book, Christopher Marlowe: **Doctor Faustus**;

Week 3: Marlowe: **Doctor Faustus**; Lessing, **Faust-Fragment**

Week 4: Goethe's **Faust**: Origins and **Urfaust**

Week 5: Goethe's **Faust I**

Week 6: Goethe's **Faust I**

Week 7: Goethe's **Faust I**; Take-Home Mid-term Examination Distributed; **No Class 14 October, Fall Break**

Week 8: Take-Home Midterm Examination Due 19 October. Goethe's **Faust II**

Week 9: Goethe's **Faust II**

Week 10: Goethe's **Faust II**

Week 11: The Faust Theme in Music and The Visual Arts

Week 12: Mann's **Dr. Faustus**

Week 13: Mann's **Dr. Faustus**; **Thanksgiving**

Week 14: Mann's **Dr. Faustus**

Week 15: Mann's **Dr. Faustus**; Comprehensive Review of Course Materials

Final Examination Period, Presentation of Final Projects: Thursday, 16 December, 1:30-3:20