

# GERMAN 4650 TRENDS IN MODERN GERMAN LITERATURE

## SPRING 2013

Instructor: Dr. Claudia Schwabe  
claudia.schwabe@usu.edu  
Office: Old Main 002D  
Phone: 435-797-8624

Class hours: TR 9:00-10:15 a.m.  
Class room: Old Main 326  
Office hours: TR 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
(and by appointment)

### Course Objectives and Goals:

This course provides an overview of key issues and developments in German literature. During the first half of the semester, the emphasis will be on classic depictions of the supernatural, the disintegration of the individual, and the legacy of German Romanticism, while in the second half of the semester the focus will be on the disintegration of civic life and the decline of humanity in the twentieth century. We will take a broad approach to the texts under discussion, interpreting literary works against the backdrop of German history, the arts and sciences, economics, and politics. Students will be acquainted with information resources in the field, methods of literary interpretation, and tools for understanding literary genres such as poetry, drama, and narrative. Coursework will specifically advance oral and written proficiency in the German language, and the class will be conducted primarily in German. In addition to reading original works of German literature, there will be background lectures on the political and historical context of the works' appearance. Students will write short position papers, one midterm essay, and one final research paper. Attendance and participation are integral parts of the class, are expected, and will be noted daily.

**Language of instruction:** German

**Required Texts:** Grimm Bros., *Märchen*  
E.T.A. Hoffmann, *Der goldne Topf*  
Theodor Storm, *Der Schimmelreiter*  
Franz Kafka, *Die Verwandlung*  
Arthur Schnitzler, *Leutnant Gustl*  
Erich Kästner, *Das fliegende Klassenzimmer*  
Thomas Mann, *Tod in Venedig*  
Christa Wolf, *Kein Ort. Nirgends*  
Available in Campus Bookstore

**Other Texts:**  
**(Provided by me)** Karen Duve: *Grrrimm*  
Daniel Kehlmann: *Die Vermessung der Welt*  
Cornelia Funke: *Tintenherz*  
Günter Grass: *Im Krebsgang*  
Bernhard Schlink: *Der Vorleser*  
Patrick Süskind: *Das Parfüm*

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 <sup>th</sup> )	20%
Final paper (due Apr 30 <sup>th</sup> )	30%

**Semester Outline (Subject to Change):**

Week 1: Course Introduction; German Literary History; **Grimms Märchen / Grrrimm**

Week 2: German Romanticism: **Grimms Märchen / Grrrimm**

Week 3: Romanticism continued: Hoffmann, **Der goldne Topf / Tintenherz**

Week 4: The Supernatural and Everyday Life: Hoffmann, **Der goldne Topf / Tintenherz**

Week 5: Poetic Realism: Storm, **Der Schimmelreiter / Die Vermessung der Welt**

Week 6: Religion and Literary History: Storm, **Der Schimmelreiter / Die Vermessung der Welt**

Week 7: Realism and Naturalism: Schnitzler, **Leutnant Gustl**

Week 8: Modernity and the Supernatural: Kafka **Die Verwandlung / Das Parfüm**

Week 9: Magic Realism: Kafka **Die Verwandlung / Das Parfüm**

Week 10: Spring Break (March 11-15): NO CLASS

Week 11: Décadence and Death: Mann, **Tod in Venedig / Im Krebsgang**

Week 12: Modern Epic: Mann, **Tod in Venedig / Im Krebsgang**

Week 13: Nationalist Socialism/Exile Literature:

Kästner, **Das fliegende Klassenzimmer / Der Vorleser**

Week 14: Nationalist Socialism/Exile Literature:

Kästner, **Das fliegende Klassenzimmer / Der Vorleser**

Week 15: Germany East and West: Wolf, **Kein Ort. Nirgends**

Week 16: Comprehensive Review; German Literature today: Wolf, **Kein Ort. Nirgends**

**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.