

GERMAN 4650 TRENDS IN MODERN GERMAN LITERATURE

SPRING 2016

Instructor: Dr. Claudia Schwabe
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Class hours: TR 1:30 -2:45 p.m.
Class room: Merrill-Cazier Library 405
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 the coming-of-age-novel, exile literature, and modern reinventions of the supernatural in children's literature, young adult literature, and fantasy novels while in the second half of the semester the focus will be on the history novel, comedy in contemporary literature, humoristic travel guides, neoteric reimagination of classic fairy tales, and the autobiographic novel. 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, e.g., fairy tale, comedy, drama, autobiography, novella, and novel (fiction and historical). 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, and give two oral presentations. Attendance and participation are integral parts of the class, are expected, and will be noted daily.

Language of instruction: German

Required Texts:

(available at Campus Bookstore)

Erich Kästner, *Das fliegende Klassenzimmer*
Michael Ende, *Momo*
Patrick Süskind, *Das Parfum: Die Geschichte eines Mörders*
Daniel Kehlmann, *Die Vermessung der Welt*
Eckhard von Hirschhausen, *Glück kommt selten allein*
Hape Kerkeling, *Ich bin dann mal weg*
Kerstin Gier, *Rubinrot: Liebe geht durch alle Zeiten*
Sabine Kuegler, *Dschungelkind*

Other Texts:

(available online or provided by me)

Karen Duve, *Grrrimm*
Bernhard Schlink, *Der Vorleser*
Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha* (available online for free)

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.)

Recommended Dictionary: The Oxford Duden German Dictionary (or equivalent)

Course requirements: Active class participation (incl. homework assignments)
3 Position papers in German (600-1000 words)
2 oral presentations & discussions in German
1 Midterm essay in German (2000 words)
1 Final research paper in German (3000 words)

Grading:

Class participation & homework	15%
Position papers	15%
Presentation & discussion	20%
Midterm essay (due March 3 rd)	20%
Final paper (due May 3 rd)	30%

Semester Outline (Subject to Change):

Week 1: Course Introduction; The Coming-Of-Age-Novel: Hesse, **Siddhartha**

Week 2: The Coming-Of-Age-Novel: Hesse, **Siddhartha**

Week 3: Nationalist Socialism/Exile Literature: Kästner, **Das fliegende Klassenzimmer**

Week 4: Nationalist Socialism/Exile Literature: Schlink, **Der Vorleser**

Week 5: The Fantasy Novel & Children's Literature: Ende, **Momo**

Week 6: Children's Literature: Ende, **Momo** / Young Adult Literature: Gier, **Rubinrot**

Week 7: The Fantasy Novel & Young Adult Literature: Gier, **Rubinrot**

Week 8: The Cross-Genre Novel: **Das Parfum**

Week 9: Horror fiction, Mystery, and Magic Realism: **Das Parfum**

Week 10: Spring Break (March 7-11): NO CLASS

Week 11: The Historical Novel: Kehlmann, **Die Vermessung der Welt**

Week 12: Comedy Literature and Guides: Von Hirschhausen, **Glück kommt selten allein**

Week 13: Travel Literature and Spirituality: Kerkeling, **Ich bin dann mal weg**

Week 14: Modern Fairy-Tale Literature: Duve, **Grrrimm**

Week 15: The Autobiographic Novel: Kuegler, **Dschungelkind**

Week 16: Comprehensive Review; Kuegler, **Dschungelkind**

Grading Scale

A (100-93)	A- (92-90)	B+ (88-89)	B (87-83)
B- (82-80)	C+ (79-78)	C (77-73)	C- (72-70)

D+ (69-68) D (67-60) F represents a grade below 60

IDEA Learning Objectives

Based on the IDEA evaluation system, the following objectives apply most closely to this course:

- Developing skills in expressing oneself orally or in writing
- Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)
- Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual-cultural activity (music, science, literature, etc.)

Attendance

In accordance with USU policies, regular attendance is expected of all students. 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. **Excessive unexcused absences (more than three) will result in a lower grade (each unexcused absence will lower the final grade by 2%).** 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 unless used for taking notes. Students are encouraged to take thorough notes, participate in class discussion, and ask clarifying questions.

Academic Calendar

According to the USU academic calendar, there will be **no class on February 16** (Monday class schedule) and **no class during spring break, March 07-11.**

Class Participation & Homework (15%)

Active participation of the student in class is required. Oral practice of the German language is essential to become comfortable with it and the culture. Oral participation also includes repeating, readings, and conversations with partners, group debates, role-plays, etc. Homework assignments are an essential part of your final grade. All homework assigned may be collected at any time for grading. Homework exercises are always due on the next day of class. If you do not hand in your work on the day it is due or asked for it counts as a 0.

Position Papers (15%):

Students will be expected to write 3 position papers (3 pages/600-1000 words, Times New Roman, size 12, double spaced, in German) on the literature discussed in class. Criteria for the evaluation of these essays are linguistic proficiency, style, and content.

Presentations & Discussions (20%):

Each student will give 2 oral presentations on German literature and authors, including one-page handouts for the other classmates. I have to approve of the presentation topics in advance. Presentations should not be longer than 15 minutes, and should prove that the student has engaged with and understood the topic. The presentation should be followed with thought-provoking questions for class discussions led by the student presenter.

Tests (Midterm Exam 20%, Final Exam 30%)

There will be absolutely no make-up assignments/tests, unless you have a reason you can document. In case of emergency, you are responsible for contacting me prior to the exam. There will be a mandatory written midterm essay (min. 2,000 words) to be submitted no later than **Thursday, March 3rd, 2016** and a mandatory written final paper (min. 3,000 words) to be submitted no later than **Tuesday, May 3rd, 2016**. The essays are written in German, Times New Roman, size 12, double spaced.

Physical Impairments

Students with ADA- documented physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Veterans may also be eligible for services. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center as early in the semester as possible. In class alternate format materials (braille, large print, digital or audio) are available with advance notice.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism includes knowingly “representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one’s own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged used of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.” The penalties for plagiarism are severe. They include warning or reprimand, grade adjustment, probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, and referral to psychological counseling.

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.

