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

Class hours: TR 1:30-2:45 p.m.
Class room: LIB 405
Office hours: TR 10:30-11:30 a.m.
(and by appointment)

Course Fees:
The $24.00 course fee you have paid is used to staff and maintain the Language Lab (MAIN 004) and to pay German teaching assistants who assist instructors in the classroom.

Course Description:
The course focuses on ominous aspects, monsters, and Otherness in German narratives. An ongoing subtheme is “magic” as it is often in the realm of the fantastic that monsters truly come into their own. In the different German narratives we will read for this course the contact with the Other and the supernatural, the exchange with a foreign world, and hence the epistemic transformation of the own self through the establishing of an engagement with the foreign is set into process. Questions that guide us through the course are: How do we define “Otherness”? What are fundamental intersections between the Other, the supernatural, xenology, and perceptions of identity? Which popular German narratives feature dominant tropes of the foreign, the alien, the unusual, and the fantastic? In what ways do the German narratives discussed mirror modern life experiences? How do these monsters of the imagination interrelate to German culture and society? The course zooms in on a time period of roughly 200 years dealing with the nightmares of the Romantic psyche with its witches, vampires, automatons, and fantastic beasts all the way to the evil offspring of the postmodern era. We encounter instances of the grotesque and the macabre, of the mysterious and the uncanny, as well as of the outright monstrous and the sublime. We will also explore different forms of German narratives, from the traditional ballad, the novel, and the novella, to fairy tales, plays, theoretical treatises, poetry, and film.

Objectives:
This course has five major objectives: 1) to familiarize students with different forms of German narratives and their authors from specific points in German history; 2) to enable students to reflect critically on German narratives by deconstructing, analyzing, and interpreting them based on hermeneutic readings; 3) to assess the authority and influence of normative opinion-formers and theorize on the relationship between the perceptions of the self and the Other; 4) to evaluate the choice and effectiveness of techniques employed either to demonize or to idealize Otherness; 4) to provide opportunities for students to further improve their German listening, speaking, and writing skills.

Language of Instruction: German

Required Texts:
• All texts will be made available via our course website, as photocopies, or are
available online at http://gutenberg.spiegel.de/, www.zeno.org, or www.vorleser.net

**Course Requirements:**
- Regular attendance, participation, homework, and other in-class assignments
- 4 short interpretative discussion or position papers
- Several Quizzes based on homework and reading assignments
- One 15-minute oral presentation on a German text, including an interpretation
- One in-class midterm exam
- One interpretative final paper
- Participation in the German Liederabend, March 28
- Participation in the Annual Student Research Symposium, April 21

**Grading:**
- Class attendance, participation, homework: 25%
- 4 short interpretative discussion/position papers 15%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Presentation: 10%
- Midterm: 20%
- Final Paper: 20% *(Due May 1st at noon)*

**Grading Scale**

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<td>A</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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**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.)
- Learning to analyze & critically evaluate ideas, arguments, points of view
- Acquiring an interest in learning more by asking questions and seeking answers

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

Week 1 (January 10 and 12): Religious Tolerance and Conceptions of Otherness in Gotthold Ephraim Lessing’s play *Nathan der Weise* (1783)


Week 4 (January 31 and 2): Madness, Magic, and Love Spells: Ludwig Tieck’s: Der Blonde Eckbert (1797)

Week 5 (February 7 and 9): Madness, Magic, and Love Spells: Ludwig Tieck’s: Der Runenberg (1812)

Week 6 (February 14 and 16): Sorcery and Witchcraft in the Grimms’ Fairy Tales: Hänsel und Gretel, Rapunzel, Brüderchen und Schwesterchen, Schneewittchen, Dornröschen (1812)

Week 7 (February 21) MONDAY CLASS SCHEDULE (NO CLASS)
February 23: Fantastic Beasts and Wild Wolves in the Grimms’ Fairy Tales: Rotkäppchen, Das Singende, Springende Löweneckerchen, Der Wolf und die Sieben Geißlein, Hans mein Igel (1812)

Week 8 (February 28): Dark Romanticism: Uncanny Doubles and Automatons in E.T.A. Hoffmann’s Der Sandmann (1816)
March 2: MIDTERM EXAM

Week 9 (March 7 and 9): SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)

Week 10 (March 14 and 16): Dark Romanticism: Uncanny Doubles and Automatons in E.T.A. Hoffmann’s Der Nussknacker (1816)

Week 11 (March 21 and 23): Devilish Creatures in Jeremias Gotthelf’s novella Die schwarze Spinne (1842)

Week 12 (March 28 and 30): Death, Ghosts, and the Demonic: Theodor Storm’s Der Schimmelreiter (1888)

Week 13 (April 4 and 6): Grotesque Metamorphoses in Franz Kafka’s Narrative Die Verwandlung (1912)

Week 14 (April 11 and 13): Theoretical Perspectives on the Uncanny Other: Sigmund Freud’s Das Unheimliche (1919)


May 1: FINAL PAPER DUE (at noon)

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. 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. Students are encouraged to take thorough notes, participate in class discussion, and ask clarifying questions.

**Homework**
Homework assignments are part of your final grade. All homework assigned may be collected at any time. If you do not hand in your work on the day it is due or asked for it counts as a 0.

The *Discussion Board* (see the link on the Canvas site) may be used for discussions outside class. Frequent contributions to the Discussion board will have a positive impact on the overall participation grade. From time to time, students will also be asked to respond to specific questions, using the Discussion Board for their answers.

**Oral participation**
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, conversations with partners, group debates, role plays, etc.

**Presentations**
Each student will give one oral presentation of 15 minutes on a German narrative and provide a one-page handout for the other classmates. I have to approve the presentation topic in advance. Presentations should prove that the student has engaged with and understood the topic and provide thought-provoking interpretations and questions for class discussions.

**Tests and Quizzes**
There will be absolutely no make-up assignments/quizzes/tests, unless you have a reason you can document. In case of emergency, you are responsible for contacting me prior to the exam. Quizzes will **not** always be announced and take place
throughout the semester. There will be a mandatory written midterm exam on **Tuesday, March 2** and a final paper due on **Monday, May 1 at noon**.

**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.

**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.