

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

German 2250E: Eine Einführung in die deutsche Literatur

W & F: 12:30-2; UC 207

Instructor: Carmen Barbu
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This course offers a survey of German literature and of the historical and cultural background that influenced it. We will begin with a brief overview of older literature, starting with *Hildebrandslied*, which is generally considered to be the first German literary text; this introduction will end with representative works of Enlightenment and Sentimentalism. While this review will be schematic, it will offer us the necessary background to approach the literature of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The main focus of the course will be on canonic works by authors such as Goethe, Hölderlin, Heine, Rilke, Thomas Mann and Brecht, to name just a few. The study of literature will be introduced by discussions of the historical context, and be accompanied by incursions into the history of ideas and of German arts. Selected short texts will provide meaningful entry points into one of the richest and most influential European literatures.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify and describe major movements in the history of German literature
- Demonstrate familiarity with the work of major authors
- Appraise representative literary texts and integrate them into their cultural context
- Recall concepts of literary theory and use them creatively in textual analysis

Materials:

Texts will be available on WebCT. It is the students' responsibility to download and print the texts prior to class.

Grade breakdown:

Class participation: 10%

Translation quizzes : 20% (10 quizzes, written on WebCT, 2% each)

In-class essay (Dec 4; can be improved by students and resubmitted for re-grading by Jan 4): 25%

Research essay (4 pages, double-spaced; cannot be resubmitted; due April 8): 25%

Presentation and presentation critique (10 minutes; March 10-12): 20%

Policies:

Late assignments will be accepted, but will be penalized at the rate of 5% per calendar day.

A make-up exam or any other special arrangements will be scheduled in cases of real emergency; the student must obtain permission for a special exam in these cases.

Preliminary schedule (updates will be posted on WebCT):

Sept 11	Einführung: <i>Hildebrandslied</i>
Sept 16-18	Höfische Literatur: Minnesang ; Eschenbach, <i>Parzival</i>
Sept 23-25	<i>Nibelungenlied</i> . Wagner
Sept 30; Oct 2	Humanismus und Reformation; <i>Till Eulenspiegel</i>
Oct 7-9	Barock; Grimmelshausen, <i>Simplicissimus</i> ; <i>Chronik der Anna Magdalena Bach</i>
Oct 14-16	Aufklärung: Lessing
Oct 21-23	Empfindsamkeit; Die Goethezeit
Oct 28-30	Goethe, <i>Faust</i>
Nov 4-6	Romantik: Novalis; Achim von Arnim; Clemens Brentano
Nov 11-13	Brentano, <i>Das Märchen von dem Myrtenfräulein</i>
Nov 18-20	E. T. A. Hoffmann, <i>Der Sandmann</i>
Nov 25-27	Friedrich Hölderlin, Heinrich von Kleist
Dec 2-4	Heinrich Heine Dec 4: In-class essay (final version to be submitted on Jan 4)
Dec 9	Die Brüder Grimm
Jan 6-8	Biedermeier und Vormärz: Georg Büchner, <i>Woyzeck</i>
Jan 13-15	Annette von Droste-Hülshoff, <i>Die Judenbuche</i>
Jan 20-22	Realismus; Friedrich Hebbel, <i>Anna</i>
Jan 27-29	Naturalismus; Symbolismus; Hugo von Hofmannsthal, <i>Lucidor</i>
Feb 3-5	Rainer Maria Rilke; <i>Der Himmel über Berlin</i>
Feb 10-12	Hermann Hesse, <i>Der Steppenwolf</i>
(Feb 15-19)	Conference week
Feb 24-26	Thomas Mann, <i>Tod in Venedig</i>
Mar 3-5	Franz Kafka – <i>Das Schloss</i>
Mar 10-12	Oral presentations
Mar 17-19	Expressionismus: Georg Trakl
Mar 24-26	Geschichtlicher Kontext: Das 20. Jahrhundert
Mar 31- Apr 2	Bertolt Brecht, <i>Geschichten vom Herrn Keuner</i>
April 7-9	Literatur nach 1945 – Günther Grass: <i>Die Blechtrommel</i> Apr 9 – Due Research essay

Prerequisite: German 2200, 2200W/X or the former German 020, 020w/x, 022, 024, or permission of the Department.

Antirequisite: None

Please Note: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites (or have special permission from your Dean to waive the prerequisite) and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. If you are not eligible for the course, you may be removed from it at any time, and it will be deleted from your record. In addition, you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's verbatim or paraphrased text in one's own written work without immediate reference. Verbatim text must be surrounded by quotation marks or indented if it is longer than four lines. A reference must follow right after borrowed material (usually the author's name and page number). Without immediate reference to borrowed material, a list of sources at the end of a written assignment does not protect a writer against the possible charge of plagiarism. The University of Western Ontario uses a plagiarism-checking site called Turnitin.com.

Absenteeism: Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

UWO's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness (<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>)

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading.