

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

German 3331F (2017-18) - ***Uncanny German Stories: From the Extraordinary to the Supernatural*****Instructor:** Vlad Tumanov vtumanov@uwo.ca**Office Location:** AHB 3B26**Time/Location:** M 2:30-4:30 pm & W 2:30-3:30 pm**Course Content**

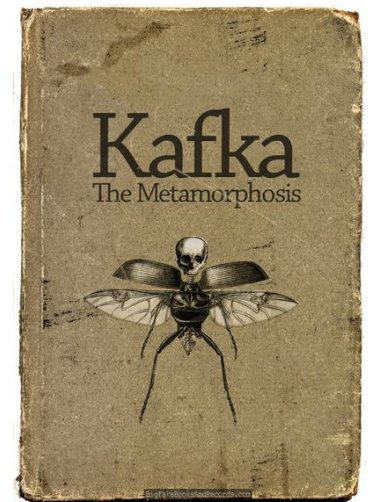
A man loses his shadow and goes on a wild adventure to get it back while another character wakes up one morning to find himself transformed into a giant bug. Why do such stories sound strangely familiar and yet make us shiver? This course will show the German way of delving into the uncanny, the weird, the titillating and the grotesquely funny as we explore the mysterious worlds of stories by German authors ranging from Romanticism to the late 20th century. **Taught in German.**

Course Requirements

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|---|-----|
| Participation | 5% |
| Oral presentation | 5% |
| 3 Writing Assignments (20% & 400 words each)* | 60% |
| *Oct. 15, Nov. 12, Dec. 3 | |
| Final Exam (2 hrs.) | 30% |

**Works in Sequence**

1. Chamisso von, A. [*Peter Schlemihls wundersame Geschichte*](#). 1813
• [Peter Schlemihl: The Shadowless Man](#) (in English) & [Gutenberg](#)
2. Kafka, F. [*Die Verwandlung*](#). 1915 — Film: Nemeč, J. [Die Verwandlung](#). 1975
• [The Metamorphosis](#) (in English)
3. Schnitzler, A. [*Traumnovelle*](#). 1925 — Film: Kubrick, S. [Eyes Wide Shut](#). 1999
• [Dream Story](#) (in English)
4. Süskind, P. [*Das Parfüm*](#). 1985 — Film: [Perfume](#). 2006
• [Perfume](#) (in English) & [Paper editions](#)



Lecture Schedule

Chamisso: Sept. 11, 13, 18, 20, 25

Kafka: Sept. 27; Oct. 2, 4, 16, 18

Schnitzler: Oct. 23, 25; Nov. 1, 6, 8, 13, Oct. 30

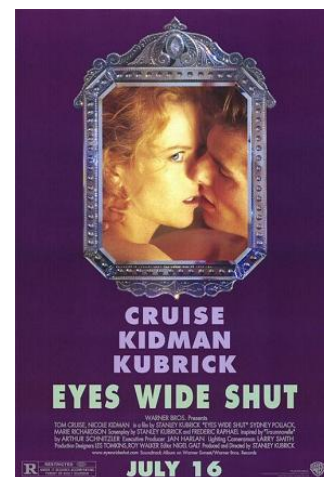
Süskind: Nov. 15, 20, 22, 27, 29; Dec. 4, 6

Presentation topics & schedule:

- (Oct. 16) E.T.A. Hoffmann: [Der Sandmann](#) (Text [auf Englisch](#))
- (Oct. 25) T. Storm: [Der Schimmelreiter](#) (Text [auf Englisch](#))
- (Nov. 15) F. Kafka: [In der Strafkolonie](#) (Text [auf Englisch](#))
- (Dec. 6) F. Kafka: [Das Urteil](#) (Text [auf Englisch](#))

Format: plot summary, characters, themes (do research)

NB: Alles auf Deutsch!



The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Policies (which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in the department's courses) are available [here](#). It is your responsibility to understand these policies, and thus ignorance thereof cannot be used as grounds for appeal.

Learning Outcomes

It is expected that, upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the mechanisms that create the uncanny effect in fiction
- understand the cultural, political and social context of the works covered in the class
- connect the themes and motifs covered in the course to the wider history of ideas and human psychology
- communicate their own understanding of relevant texts through oral presentations, writing assignments and tests