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Fall 2017
German 470:354:01
Comp Lit 195:382:01
Jewish St. 563:355:01
Tuesdays Thursdays (4:30-5:50) MU204; CAC

Kafka and World Literature

Taught in English
(3 credits)
Fall 2017

Course Description

The course will provide an introduction to Kafka's work and its impact on World literature. Kafka's texts constitute a new level and quality of literature that has triggered innumerable responses in many languages, media, and discourses. He is generally recognized as an "international" author of a new type of "world literature." While the quality of the work is clear, it nevertheless tends to defy all attempts to approach it through traditional means of interpretation. In an effort to forge new ways of addressing the challenges posed by Kafka's work, the course seeks to locate it in a number of related contexts: at the crossroads of European modernity; within debates about Jewish languages, culture, identity, and music in the early twentieth-century and beyond; at the center of current controversies concerning the politically charged notion of "minor literature;" and perhaps most importantly as the source of inspiration for new works of art, literature, film, and music. Among the works to be considered are the introduction to his writing in "comix" form by Mairowitz and Crumb; the fiction of Gordimer, Pamuk, Poulin, and Roth; a graphic novel adaptation by Corbeyran and Horne; the music of Philip Glass; and philosophical works by Kierkegaard and Derrida. Readings also include canonical texts by Ovid and Homer and critical/biographical works by Wagenbach, Canetti, Butler, Benjamin, Brod, Pawel, and others.

Required Books to be purchased:

- Mairowitz and Crumb *Introducing Kafka* Perseus Distribution 800-343-4499
- *Kafka's Selected Stories* (KSS) 978-0393-92479-4 Norton Critical Edition
- *Kafka, The Metamorphosis*, trans. Stanley Corngold 978-0393-96797-5 Norton Critical Edition
- *Kafka, The Castle*, trans. Mark Harman 978-08052-1106-1 Penguin
- *Kafka, Letters to Milena* 978-08052-1267-9 Penguin
- Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling* 978-0140-44449-0 Penguin Classics
- Pamuk, *Snow*, Vintage Books 978-0375-706868 Knopf Doubleday
- Poulin, *Translation is a Love Affair* 978-0981-95570-4 Ingram

Prerequisites: None

Core Goals satisfied by Course: Arts and Literatures (AHp), Philosophical and Theoretical Issues (AHo).

ALL OTHER READINGS AVAILABLE ON SAKAI AT:
<https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal/site/b802ab09-7ac0-4a41-8c11-a356aaf2139b/?panel=Main>

You can log on using your Net ID and password. If the course does not appear as one of your tabs, please search and add it or contact me and I will grant you access. Some of the reading will be available via Sakai and you are required to print and bring those readings to class on the scheduled days as part of your class participation grade. Please check Sakai frequently for updates, announcements, and resources. You can also communicate with your classmates via Sakai in the Chat Room or pose questions in the Forum. Please make sure also to check your Rutgers, that is, your "eden" accounts.

Attendance

All students must attend regularly and arrive prepared. Those who miss more than two class sessions without a compelling excuse (a doctor's or college dean's note, for instance) should expect a one-step reduction in the course grade (i.e. an A becomes a B+, a B+ becomes a B). Three late arrivals count as one absence. Note: It is the responsibility of students who have been absent (for any reason) to find out what they have missed and obtain materials that may have been handed out.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is an extremely serious matter, and can lead to a student's failing the course and being referred to his or her dean for disciplinary action. When referring to ideas other than your own, always acknowledge your sources clearly and completely, whether you are quoting or paraphrasing. Please see the University's policies on academic integrity at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers> and discuss with your instructor any questions you may have about this and related issues.

Disability Support Services

Students who may be requesting accommodations due to disabilities are encouraged to familiarize themselves with procedures and policies regarding disability support services at the following website. <https://ods.rutgers.edu> It is recommended that students seeking accommodations begin filing paperwork as soon as possible as the documentation review process may take up to 30 business days. Students are encouraged to speak with teachers about these issues at the beginning of the term. All such conversations will be kept strictly confidential.

Cell Phones

Cell phones and all other technological devices (tablets, iPods, MP3players...) must be turned off during class out of respect for the instructor and fellow students. Please schedule all important phone communications outside of class time.

Requirements and Grading

Class Participation	10%
3 6-page papers	30% each
OR	
1 6-page paper	30%
1 12-page research paper	60%

<i>Course of study</i>		
(schedule subject to change)		
Date	Topic	Reading / Assignment
September		
T5	Introduction	Kafka, "First Distress" in Kafka, <i>Selected Stories</i> (KSS)
Th7	Kafka in Context	Wagenbach, "Prague at the Turn of the Century" (Sakai) Mairowitz and R Crumb, <i>Introducing Kafka</i>
T12	Kafka's "Breakthrough"	Kafka, "The Judgment" in KSS
Th14	Kafka's "Breakthrough"	"The Judgment" (cont.) Benjamin "Franz Kafka: On the Tenth Anniversary of his Death" (Sakai)
T19	Hybrids, Misfits and Monstrosities	Ovid, <i>The Metamorphoses</i> selection (Sakai) Kafka, <i>The Metamorphosis</i>
Th21	<i>No Class</i> <i>Rosh Hashana</i>	
T26	Hybrids, Misfits and Monstrosities	Kafka, <i>The Metamorphosis</i> Corbeyran and Horne, <i>The Metamorphosis (graphic novel)</i> (Sakai)
Th28	Kafka in Love	Kafka, <i>Letters to Felice</i> (selections) (Sakai) Canetti, <i>Kafka's Other Trial</i> Part 1 (Sakai)
October		
T3	Kafka in Love with his Translator	Kafka, <i>Letters to Milena</i> (selections)
Th5	Love in Translation	Poulin, <i>Translation is a Love Affair</i>
T10	Fathers and Sons: A Combat of Vermin	Kafka, <i>Letter to His Father</i> (Sakai)

Th12		Gordimer, "Letter from His Father" (Sakai) Derrida, "Literature in Secret" (Sakai) (rec.)
T17	Kafka in the Tropics	Kafka, "In the Penal Colony" in KSS
Th19		Glass, "In the Penal Colony: A Chamber Opera" (Sakai Recording) Kafka, "The Hunter Gracchus" in KSS
T24	Kafka and Cultural Capital	Sagi Bornstein, "Kafka's Last Story" (film screening) Butler, "Who Owns Kafka?" https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/aug/08/franz-kafka-papers-israel-court-ruling http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-1.772211
Th26	Kafka in the Desert	"Jackals and Arabs" in KSS
T31	Kafka in the Snow	Kafka, <i>The Castle</i>
<i>November</i>		
Th2	Kafka in the Snow	Kafka, <i>The Castle</i>
T7	Kafka in the Snow	Kafka, <i>The Castle</i>
Th9	Kafka in the Snow	Kafka, <i>The Castle</i> Haneke, <i>The Castle</i> (film)
T14	Kafka in the Middle East	Pamuk, <i>Snow</i>
Th16	Kafka in the Middle East	Pamuk, <i>Snow</i>
T21	Kafka in the Middle East	Pamuk, <i>Snow</i>

Th23	<i>No Class</i>	Thanksgiving
T28	Kafka in the Middle East	Pamuk, <i>Snow</i>
Th30	Kafka: A Latter-day Odysseus	Homer, <i>The Odyssey</i> Book XII Kafka, "The Silence of the Sirens" in KSS Benjamin "Franz Kafka: On the Tenth Anniversary of his Death" (Sakai)
December		
T5	Fathers and Sons II: Kafka and Kierkegaard	<i>Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling</i>
Th7	Fathers and Sons II: Kafka and Kierkegaard	Kafka, "Abraham" (Sakai) Derrida, "Abraham, the Other" (Sakai) Derrida, "Literature in Secret: An Impossible Filiation" (Sakai)
T12	Kafka in New Jersey	Kafka, "A Hunger Artist" in KSS Roth, "I Always Wanted You to Admire my Fasting"; or Looking at Kafka" (Sakai)
TBA		FINAL 6-PAGE OR RESEARCH PAPER DUE