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Spring 2010
01:470:304:01
CAC 172 College Ave Seminar Room
TTh4 1:10-2:30

Introduction to German Studies

Course description: An interdisciplinary inquiry into seminal literary, artistic, social, political, and intellectual movements in the history of Germanic cultures and thought from the Middle Ages to the present. Taught by Prof. Levine, the course will include guest lectures by professors from Art History, Music, Philosophy, Jewish Studies, Political Science, History, and German Languages and Literatures. In addition to the particular topics covered, the course is meant to be a way for students to meet German-related faculty at Rutgers and develop a sense of the conversations in which we, and our respective disciplines, are engaged.

Open to first-year students and, more generally, to those who might not necessarily wish to become a German major or minor but who seek, as part of a well-rounded liberal arts education, basic familiarity with the rich and often vexed history of things German and their impact on Europe and the world.

Topics include: Knightly romance and allegorical painting in the Middle Ages; Luther and the Protestant Reformation; “tolerance” and the age of Enlightenment; Romantic music, painting and poetry; the Faust legend; industrialization and social change in the 19th C; the impact of Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud; Yiddish language and culture; the Weimar Republic; urban cultures and counter-cultures; Nazism and the Holocaust; the two Germanies and (re)unification. Short readings of texts by von Eschenbach, Luther, Lessing, Kant, Goethe, the Brothers Grimm, Marx, Nietzsche, Kafka, and others. Films by Ruttman, Becker, Kluge, and Riefenstahl. Music by Mozart (including a trip to the opera) and Schubert. No prerequisites. Readings and discussions in English.

Books to be purchased:

- Fulbrook, *A Concise History of Germany* ISBN 0-521-54071-2
- Von Eschenbach, *Parzival and Titurel* ISBN 978-0-19-953920-8
- Goethe, *Faust I* ISBN 978-0-385-03114-1
- Mozart, *The Magic Flute* ISBN 0-7935-2864-X
- *The Complete Grimm's Fairy Tales*
- Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* ISBN 978-0-393-95616-0
- Schivelbusch, *The Railway Journey* ISBN 978-0-520 05929-0
- Engel, *The Holocaust: The Third Reich and the Jews* ISBN 0-582-32720-2
- Keun, *The Artificial Silk Girl* ISBN 1-892746-81-6

Sakai

All other readings available on course website on Sakai <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal> under title “Intro to German Studies, subheading “Resources.” When accessing this material it is necessary to use your RU Eden account address.

Learning Goals

Course satisfies

II Areas of Inquiry: C Arts and Humanities by addressing the following:

- a. Examine critically philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the production.
- b. Analyze arts and/or literatures in themselves and in relation to specific histories, values, languages, cultures, and technologies.
- c. Understand the nature of human languages and their speakers.

III Cognitive Skills and Processes: A Writing and Communication

- a. Communicate complex ideas effectively, in standard written English, to a general audience.
- b. Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry.

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://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>, 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: <http://disabilityservices.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 (beepers, 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

Students are required to write three 6-page papers in the course of the semester. In addition to the written work, each student will be assigned a particular guest lecturer to introduce to the class.

Schedule of Classes (subject to change)

- January 19 Introduction -- Levine
Recommended:
Hohendahl, "German Studies" (Sakai)
Peck, "Globalizing German Studies" (Sakai)
- January 21 Middle Ages -- Ciklamini
Wolfram von Eschenbach, *Parzival*
Bk V, pp. 95-108, #256
Bk IX, pp. 183-211
Parzival: Book/Chapter Summaries (Sakai)
- January 26 *Parzival* (cont.)
- January 28 Dürer's *Melancholia* – Estevez
Patrick Doorly, "Dürer's Melencolia I: Plato's Abandoned Search for the Beautiful" (Sakai)
- February 2 Reformation and Luther – Levine
Fulbrook, chapter 3
Luther, "Ninety-Five Theses on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences" (Sakai)
Martin Luther (film screening – selections)
- February 4 Tolerance and the Age of Enlightenment – Levine
Lessing *Nathan the Wise* (Sakai)
- February 9 Enlightenment Society and Philosophy– Levine
Kant, "A Response to the Question: What is Enlightenment?" (Sakai)
A History of the World in Six Glasses (selections) (Sakai)
Fulbrook, chapter 4

- February 11 The Age of Goethe– Rennie
Goethe, *Faust I*
- February 16 *Faust I*
- February 18 The Age of Romanticism: German *Lieder* – Hallmark
Schubert, "*Gretchen am Spinnrade*" [Gretchen at the Spinning Wheel]
Schubert, "*Der Erlkönig*" [The Erlking]
Schubert, "*Heidenröslein*" [Little Rose of the Field]

Recommended:

Jane K. Brown, "In the beginning was poetry" (Sakai)
Lorraine Gorrell, "Poetry and Music" (Sakai)
Rufus Hallmark, "Preface," (Sakai)

FIRST 6-PAGE PAPER DUE

- February 23 The Age of Romanticism : Painting – Connelly
Athenaeum Fragment 116 (Sakai)
Joseph Koerner "Romanticizing the World" (Sakai)
- February 25 *Grimms' Tales*
Zipes, *The Brothers Grimm: From Enchanted Forests to the Modern World* (selections) (Sakai)
- March 2 The Experience of Modernity
Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*– Levine
Berman, "All that is Solid Melts into Air: Marx, Modernism and Modernization" (Sakai)
- March 4 Culture and Social Change in the 19th Century – Levine
Schivelbusch, *The Railway Journey* (selections)
- March 9 Nietzsche, *The Advantages and Disadvantages of History for Life*—Levine
- March 11 Nietzsche (cont.)

SECOND 6-PAGE PAPER DUE

March 15-19 SPRING BREAK

- March 23 Urban Cultures
Ruttmann, *Berlin: Symphony of a Great City*
Simmel, "The Metropolis and Mental Life" (Sakai)

- March 25 *Fin-de-Siècle* Vienna 1900 – Zervigon
Schorske, “The Ringstrasse, Its Critics, and the Birth of Urban Modernism” (Sakai)
- March 30 Kafka’s Prague – Levine
Wagenbach, “Prague at the Turn of the Century” (Sakai)
Kafka, “The Judgement” (Sakai)
- April 1 Mozart and Schikaneder, *The Magic Flute* -- Levine
(Metropolitan Opera NYC)
- April 6 Weimar Culture – Franco
Gay, *Weimar Culture* (selections)
- April 8 Yiddish Popular Culture -- Portnoy
- April 13 The New Woman and New Objectivity – Feldhaus
Keun, *The Artificial Silk Girl*
- April 15 Rise of the Nazis, WWII, and the Holocaust -- Hannebrink
Engel, *The Holocaust: The Third Reich and the Jews*
- April 20 The Two Germanies – Kelemen
Fulbrook, Chap 7
- April 22 Holocaust Remembrance in Germany – Shandler
- April 27 German Autumn 1977 -- Davis
Germany in Autumn (film screening TBA)
- April 29 The Fall of the Wall and “Ostalgie” -- Fuchs
Goodbye Lenin (film screening TBA)

FINAL 6-PAGE PAPER DUE