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Spring 2015  
01:470:275:01  
Frelinghuysen Hall B6  
TTh6 4:30-5:50

### 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 includes guest lectures by professors and advanced graduate students 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. Film by Fassbinder; music by Schubert. No prerequisites. Readings and discussions in English.

### **Books to be purchased at Rutgers University Bookstore Gateway Transit Bldg - 100 Somerset Street**

- Fulbrook, *A Concise History of Germany* ISBN 0-521-54071-2
- Von Eschenbach, *Parzival and Titirel* ISBN 978-0-19-953920-8
- Goethe, *Faust I* ISBN 978-0-385-03114-1
- *The Complete Grimm's Fairy Tales* ISBN 0-39470930-6
- Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* ISBN 978-0-393-95616-0
- Schivelbusch, *The Railway Journey* ISBN 978-0-520 05929-0
- Nietzsche, *On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life* ISBN 0-915144-94-8
- Engel, *The Holocaust: The Third Reich and the Jews* ISBN 0-582-32720-2

## **Sakai**

All other readings available on course website on Sakai

<https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal/site/a12b8d51-4874-48fc-bf1e-e4d0681cf3d4>

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 20T	Introduction -- Levine Recommended: Hohendahl, "German Studies" (Sakai) Peck, "Globalizing German Studies" (Sakai)
January 22TH	Middle Ages – Ciklamini Wolfram von Eschenbach, <i>Parzival</i> Bk V, pp. 95-108, #256 Bk IX, pp. 183-211 <i>Parzival: Book/Chapter Summaries</i> (Sakai)
January 27T	<i>Parzival</i> (cont.) -- Levine Bk. XV and XVI
January 29TH	Dürer's <i>Melancholia I</i> – Levine Panofsky, <i>Life and Art of Albrecht Dürer</i> (selection) (Sakai) Recommended: Patrick Doorly, "Dürer's Melencolia I: Plato's Abandoned Search for the Beautiful" (Sakai)
February 3T	Reformation and Luther – Kolbaba Fulbrook, chapter 3 (Sakai) Luther, "The Freedom of a Christian" (Sakai) <a href="http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=7301990090100682908">http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=7301990090100682908</a> Luther, "Address to Christian Nobility of the German Nation" (Sakai) <a href="http://www.history.com/videos/martin-luther-sparks-a-revolution">http://www.history.com/videos/martin-luther-sparks-a-revolution</a> <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFqWnEpZvjs">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFqWnEpZvjs</a>

- February 5TH 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 10T Tolerance and the Age of Enlightenment – Swenson  
 Lessing *Nathan the Wise* (Sakai)
- February 12TH The Age of Goethe–Levine  
 Goethe, *Faust I*
- February 17T *Faust I*—Levine
- February 19TH 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 24T The Age of Romanticism : Painting – Connelly  
*Athenaeum Fragment 116* (Sakai)  
 Joseph Koerner "Romanticizing the World” (Sakai)
- February 26TH *Grimm’s Tales* (selections) – Behrmann  
 Zipes, *The Brothers Grimm: From Enchanted Forests to the  
 Modern World* (selections) (Sakai)
- March 3T The Experience of Modernity – Sussman  
 Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*  
 Berman, “All that is Solid Melts into Air: Marx, Modernism and  
 Modernization” (Sakai)
- Recommended: Puchner, “Marx and the Manifesto” (Sakai)
- March 5TH Culture and Social Change in the 19th Century – Levine  
 Schivelbusch, *The Railway Journey* (selections)
- HENRY SUSSMAN CRAIG LECTURE

- March 10T Nietzsche, *The Advantages and Disadvantages of History for Life*—Levine
- March 12TH Nietzsche (cont.)  
Recommended: Zengotita, “The Numbing of the American Mind” (Sakai)
- March 17T Spring Recess
- March 19TH Spring Recess
- March 24T *Fin-de-Siècle* Vienna 1900 – Demetz  
Schorske, “The Ringstrasse, Its Critics, and the Birth of Urban Modernism” (Sakai)
- March 26TH Freud and the Unconscious – Groves  
“On Dreams”  
“Jokes and their Relation to the Unconscious” (Sakai)
- March 31T Kafka’s Prague – Levine  
Wagenbach, “Prague at the Turn of the Century” (Sakai)  
Kafka, “The Judgement” (Sakai)
- April 2TH Modern Vision and Photomontage – Zervigon  
Matthew Teitelbaum "Preface," *Montage and Modern Life* (Sakai)  
Christopher Phillips "Introduction" *Montage and Modern Life* (Sakai)  
Raoul Hausmann "Photomontage" (Sakai)
- April 7T Kafka, German, Yiddish  
Kafka, “Introductory Lecture on Yiddish” (Sakai)  
Kafka and Arendt on Mauthausen (Sakai)  
**SECOND 6-PAGE PAPER DUE**
- April 9TH Yiddish and German Studies – Shandler  
Jeffrey Grossman, *The Discourse on Yiddish in Germany* (Sakai)  
Maurice Samuels, In Praise of Yiddish (Sakai)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qQSAEMq5ko>
- April 14T Rise of the Nazis, WWII, and the Holocaust – Hannebrink  
Engel, *The Holocaust: The Third Reich and the Jews*  
*The Good Old Days: The Holocaust as Seen by Perpetrators and Bystanders* (selection) (Sakai)

- April 16TH            *The Marriage of Maria Braun* – Mandt  
Reading TBA
- April 21 T            Holocaust Remembrance in Germany – Levine  
Young, *The Texture of Memory* (Intro and Chapters 1-3) (Sakai)
- April 24TH            Germany and the European Union– Kelemen  
Fulbrook, Chap 7  
Ash, “Germany’s Choice” (Sakai)
- April 28 T            West German Counterculture – Milder  
Dirke,, "All Power to the Imagination!" (Sakai)  
Karapin, “Introduction” Protest Politics in Germany (Sakai)  
Meinhof, "Napalm and Pudding," in *Everybody Talks about the Weather... We Don't* (Sakai)
- April 30TH            Conclusion or Possible Class Make-up Date  
**FINAL 6-PAGE PAPER DUE**

**Email Addresses of Guest Lecturers:**

Professor Kolbaba [kolbaba@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:kolbaba@rci.rutgers.edu)  
Professor Behrmann [nicola.behrmann@gmail.com](mailto:nicola.behrmann@gmail.com)  
Professor Sussman [henry.sussman@yale.edu](mailto:henry.sussman@yale.edu)  
Professor Groves [jason.n.v.groves@gmail.com](mailto:jason.n.v.groves@gmail.com)  
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