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Languages and Literatures

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Office Hours: Thursdays, 1-2:30pm



Realism and Revolution

Spring 2018

M/Th3, 11:30am-12:50pm

Scott Hall 215

German 01:470:276, cross-listed with Comparative Literature 01:195:276

INDEX: 18336

(3 credits)

This course provides the opportunity for an in-depth study of representative German literature of the nineteenth century. We will look at the way in which literature responds to the German *Sonderweg* (special path) that eventually led an aggressively modernizing society to imperialism and totalitarianism. We will examine the various ways in which revolution, social upheaval and historical trauma are being reflected, warded off, and incorporated by 19th-century German fiction. Special attention will be paid to the relationship between the figure of the “revolution” as a disruptive force and the pursuit of “realist” fiction to depict the world we live in objectively. We will also consider various forms of unstable narratives that traverse realist fiction: excessive description, repetition, secrets, rumors, and the uncanny.

Readings include canonical works of the German tradition: Music by Franz Schubert and Richard Wagner; texts by Georg Büchner, Annette von Droste-Hülshoff, Gerhart Hauptmann, Heinrich Mann, Adalbert Stifter, and Theodor Storm; visual works by Adolph Menzel, Käthe Kollwitz, and August Sander. Emphasis will be placed on developing close-reading and critical writing skills. Theoretical interventions will be provided by Theodor W. Adorno, Hannah Arendt, Georg Lukacs, and Karl Marx.

Taught in English. No prerequisites.

Course Goals

By the end of this course students will be able to: demonstrate an understanding of the structure, meaning, and function of 19th-century German prose through the prism of the specter of the French Revolution; demonstrate an understanding of their authors' values and ideas; critically reflect on our value system and the interrelatedness of the theory and literature of (German) realism and its historical, cultural, and theoretical context; formulate well-organized written interpretations grounded in textual evidence and supported by secondary literature; be able to propose a thesis and support it with appropriate evidence. Assessment will be based on participation in class evaluation of assigned written work. Please keep in mind the attendance policy (as outlined below).

Academic Integrity

Violations of academic integrity are an extremely serious matter, and can lead to a student's failing the course and being referred to the University's Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action. Violations include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity. When referring to ideas other than your own, always acknowledge your sources clearly and completely, whether you are quoting or paraphrasing. Note also that use of online translation services is not permitted as a tool for generating work that you submit for course credit. Please see the University's policies on academic integrity at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>, and discuss with your instructor any questions you may have about this and related issues.

Required Books (available at the Rutgers University Bookstore)

Hannah **Arendt**, *On Revolution*, Penguin Classics, 2006

ISBN-10: 0143039903, # ISBN-13: 978-0143039907

Georg **Büchner**, *Danton's Death, Leonce and Lena, Woyzeck*, trans. Victor Price, 2008

ISBN-13: 978-0199540358

Heinrich **Mann**, *Man of Straw*, Penguin Classics, 1992

ISBN-10: 0140181377

Karl **Marx**/Friedrich **Engels**, *The Communist Manifesto*, CreateSpace, 2010

ISBN-10: 1453835598

All other reading materials on the syllabus are available on Sakai. You must **print out** course materials from Sakai and have a copy of them with you in class. The required films are available via www.kanopy.com. All films must be viewed **before class begins**.

Self-Reporting Absence Application

Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Course Structure and Requirements

Assignments:

Class participation and blog posts	15%
3 response essays (5pp. each)	45%
Oral presentation	15%
Final paper	25%

Grade distribution:

A=90-100%; B+=85-89; B=80-84; C+=75-79; C=70-74; D=65-69; F=64 and below

German Majors will have the option of either taking this course entirely in translation, or of reading some works in the original and writing their papers in German (3pp. response essays, 8pp. final paper). German majors or minors who choose the latter option can count the class as being “in German” for purposes of the departmental requirements.

No late submission of written assignments will be accepted.

Attendance:

You must attend regularly and arrive prepared; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me. Those who miss more than two class sessions without a compelling excuse should expect a one-step reduction in the course grade (i.e. an A becomes a B+, a B+ becomes a B). Every additional three absences may entail a further one-step grade-reduction. 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.

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.

Disability Support Services:

Students who may be requesting accommodations due to disabilities must follow the procedures outlined at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. Full disability policies and procedures are at <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.

Tentative Class Schedule

Week 1

Th 1/18 Introduction: Realism between revolution and restoration. The German *Sonderweg* (special path)

Week 2

M 1/22 MUSIC: Franz Schubert/Wilhelm Müller, *Winter's Journey* (1827); Mary Fulbrook, *A Concise History of Germany*, pp. 94-114

Th 1/25 FILM: Danton (dir. Andrzej Wajda; 1983) www.kanopy.com; Hannah Arendt, *On Revolution*, pp. 11-49

Week 3

M 1/29 Georg Büchner, *Danton's Death* (1835)

Th 2/1 *continued*; Arendt, *On Revolution*, pp. 50-107

Week 4

M 2/5 Annette von Droste-Hülshoff, "The Jew's Beech Tree" (1842)

Th 2/8 *continued*

Week 5

M 2/12 *continued*; **1st response paper due in class**

Th 2/15 POEM: Heinrich Heine, *Germany – A Winter's Tale* (1844)

Week 6

M 2/19 Karl Marx/Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (1847/48), excerpts

Th 2/22 MUSIC: Richard Wagner, *The Ring of the Nibelung* (1848-1874), excerpts

Week 7

M 2/26 *continued*; Richard Wagner, "Art and Revolution" (1849)

Th 3/1 Adalbert Stifter, "Granite" (1853)

Week 8

M 3/5 *continued*; Fulbrook, pp. 116-122.

Th 3/8 Theodor Storm, "The White Horse Rider" (1888); **2nd response paper due in class**

SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

Week 9

M 3/19 *continued*; Fulbrook, pp. 122-148

Th 3/22 Georg Lukacs, "Narrate or Describe?" and Theodor W. Adorno, "Reconciliation under Duress" (prepare one of the two essays)

Week 10

M 3/26 ART: Käthe Kollwitz and Adolph von Menzel
Th 3/29 Arendt, *On Revolution*, pp. 207-273

Week 11

M 4/2 Gerhart Hauptmann, *The Weavers* (1893)
Th 4/5 *continued*

Week 12

M 4/9 Heinrich Mann, *Man of Straw* (1918), chapters I-III
Th 4/12 *Man of Straw*, chapter IV-V

Week 13

M 4/16 *Man of Straw*, chapter VI. **3rd response paper due in class**
Th 4/19 FILM: *The White Ribbon* (dir. Michael Haneke, 2009)

Week 14

M 4/23 *continued*. PHOTOGRAPHY: August Sander, *Face of Our Time* (1929)
Th 4/26 *continued*

Week 15

M 4/30 FINAL PAPER WORKSHOP

Final paper due: 5/7

Student-Wellness Services

Just In Case Web App:

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS):

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA):

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services:

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Scarlet Listeners:

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.