

## Introduction to German Literature II: 1800 to the present

German 260, Winter 2015

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:05 –11:25am

688 Sherbrooke St West, Room 395

Pete Schweppe: Room 479

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Office hours: T 11:30 – 12:30pm, W 11:15-12:15 or email for appointment

This course is for everyone interested in literature and particularly curious about German literature. It examines distinguished authors, texts and movements that have influenced the German literary tradition beginning around 1800. As we read through a broad variety of texts from the Romantic era up to the 21st century, the course will explore what makes German literature significant and refine textual analysis. The texts and course will be in English.

### Course Requirements

Presentation	10%
Position paper	15%
Active participation (in class and out of class)	20%
Tests (2 x 15%)	30%
Take Home Final	25%

### Mandatory Course Texts

The following three texts can be purchased at the bookstore, ordered online or borrowed from a library. Other course texts will be provided on myCourses.

Böll, Heinrich. *The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum* (week 11)

Grass, Günter. *Cat and Mouse* (week 7)

Wolf, Christa. *Cassandra* (week 9)

### Academic Integrity & Rights

McGill University values academic integrity. All students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures. See: <http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/academicrights> for more information regarding academic rights or <http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/> for suggestions on how to avoid dishonest work. All texts may be subjected to screening. Specific issues relating to assignments will be discussed further in class and clarified before each due date.

In accordance with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site [www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/)).

Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue).

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### **Course Description**

Students are expected to prepare for every class beforehand. Please come to class with discussion questions, interpretations, thoughts, observations - and read each text on the syllabus. In addition to introducing students to German literature, the course seeks to improve the each student's capacity to interpret texts and make arguments about literature in general. We will therefore not use secondary literature unless explicitly specified or cleared by me prior to the assignment or activity. Students must contribute to in-class discussions as well as online forums. There will be two *optional* movie screenings outside of class. The space of the classroom is a safe space - treat everyone with respect.

Students will conduct a brief presentation on one text (5-7 minutes) and write a position paper that sets up an argument about another text (1 page). Both presentation and position paper will be evaluated on the ability to formulate insights into the texts (not a summary).

There will be two written tests. Each test will assess the knowledge of various concepts that were discussed in class or in the online forum. On the final exam, students will demonstrate their ability to analyze texts, express ideas and contextualize arguments in an essay form. This will be a take-home exam: to be emailed to me as an attachment no later than April 27 (midnight). Students will receive detailed feedback for each assessment throughout the semester.

I will monitor attendance and participation throughout the semester. Three or more absences could result in the detriment of the overall grade. If you have to miss class for any reason, please make sure to let me know *before* class begins in order to not lose participation points (an email will suffice). Late assignments will not be accepted except in the case of extenuating circumstances.

Students, who for valid documented reasons (such as illness or family tragedy), cannot submit a required Assessment in a Course, on providing satisfactory proof of their inability, may apply in accordance with the Faculty procedures relating to Deferred Assessments for permission to undertake a Deferred Assessment or receive another type of accommodation, provided the application is made within a timeframe that is in accordance with Faculty procedures. If there are any questions about the policies or course in general, please feel free to contact me.

### **1) Jan 6, 8: Hymn**

- Novalis, *Hymns to the Night*

**2) Jan. 13, 15: Fairy Tale**

- E.T.A. Hoffmann, *The Golden Pot*

**3) Jan. 20, 22: Theater**

- Georg Büchner, *Woyzeck*

**4) Jan. 27, 29: Dance**

- Arthur Schnitzler, *La Ronde* (optional screening)

**5) Feb. 3, 5: Paradox**

- Franz Kafka, *The Judgment & Josephine the Singer, or The Mouse Folk*

**6) Feb. 10, 12: Opera **\*\* (Test 1 on Feb. 10) \*\*****

- Bertolt Brecht, *The Threepenny Opera* (optional screening)

**7) Feb. 17, 19: Memory**

- Günter Grass, *Cat and Mouse*

**8) Feb. 24, 26: Intertext**

- Ingeborg Bachmann & Paul Celan, selected poetry

*SPRING BREAK, March 2-6, 2015*

**9) Mar. 10, 12: Myth**

- Christa Wolf, *Cassandra*

**10) Mar. 17, 19: Materiality **\*\* (Test 2 on March 17) \*\*****

- Hans Magnus Enzensberger, *Commonplaces on the newest of Literature*

- visit to the McGill Rare Books Library

**11) Mar. 24, 26: Media**

- Heinrich Böll, *The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum*

**12) Mar. 31, Apr. 2: (Photographic) Memory**

- W.G. Sebald, *Ambros Adelwarth*

**13) Apr. 7, 9: Sample Lit. & Final Review**

- Helene Hegemann, selections from *Axolotl Roadkill* & the blogosphere

**14) Apr. 10 & Apr 16: Optional review sessions (to be determined)**

Take Home Final Exam: due on Monday, April 27 (must be received by 12:00am)