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GRMN 352H.01: German Culture - Romanticism to the Present

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GERMAN CULTURE: ROMANTICISM TO THE PRESENT

GRMN 352H

Spring 2020

Instructor Information

Instructor: Marton Marko
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Office hours: Tu, Th 10 – 11:50 a.m. and by appointment

Course Description

This course provides an overview and examination of major events and trends in culture of German-speaking world from the late 18th century to the present with emphasis on the arts, literature, film, intellectual movements, and social and political developments. It fulfills each the Gen Ed areas of Historical Studies and Democracy and Citizenship and is an Advanced Writing course.

Course Objectives and Goals

The course provides an overview of the major cultural developments in Germany and Central Europe from the late 18th century to the present day. Students will become familiar with the chronology of historical developments in 20th and 21st century Central Europe, as well as with the role that German-speaking culture has played in the direction of world events in the 20th and 21st centuries. Focus will be given to examining the historical impact of the two world wars in Central Europe, as well as to movements and trends after the Second World War that led to German unification in 1990. Examination will also be devoted to developments in Central Europe since reunification in the broader context of German and Central European cultural history as well as amid global trends today.

Expectations and Learning Outcomes

Students are expected to attend class regularly, do the assigned reading, take notes, study their notes as well as the reading and viewing materials, and to follow guidelines for writing assignments. Emphasis will be placed on the definition and identification of key terms, guiding ideas, movements, and trends which led to the course of German and Central European cultural history from the beginning of the 19th century to the present. Students will learn to recognize main characteristics, ideas, trends and movements during this period and be able to identify texts, artifacts, and cultural phenomena within these frameworks. Course material will be offered in the form of assigned readings as well as class lectures which will cover and complement readings. Coursework will also involve your own research for writing assignments. In addition to these writing assignments, there will be a written midterm exam as well as written final exam which will present informational questions as well as thematic questions to gauge your comprehension of class material as well as your ability to organize points and observations in the context of themes covered in the course.

As an Advanced Writing Course, the outcomes of this course will enable students to:

- Identify and pursue sophisticated questions for academic inquiry
- Find, evaluate, analyze, and synthesize information effectively from diverse sources
- Manage multiple perspectives as appropriate
- Recognize the purposes and needs of audiences of German Studies and adopt the academic voice necessary for the discipline
- Use multiple drafts, revision, and editing in conducting inquiry and preparing written work
- Follow the conventions of citation, documentation, and formal presentation appropriate to German Studies
- Develop competence in information technology and digital literacy

The formal writing assignments include:

1) Website Essay (2 pp.):

In this essay you will synthesize critical observations regarding a web resource found related to a topic in German Studies, as well discuss material found via your chosen web resource related to key terms, topics, and ideas of the course.

2) Annotated Bibliography for Research Paper (4 pp.):

Your annotated bibliography will allow you illustrate your ability to find and collect appropriate resources, as well as use correct citation methods for your class research paper. It will provide the initial framework through which key ideas derived from your sources will begin to frame the blueprint of your research paper.

3) Research Prospectus (1 p.):

Your prospectus will allow you to identify and focus on the central theme of your paper, as well to synthesize supporting facts, ideas, and material related to your research topic succinctly and clearly in a 1-page scope.

4) Research Paper (8 pp.)

This will be the final trajectory of Assignments 2) and 3), where you will synthesize key ideas from your abstract and your annotated bibliography. You will incorporate and organize the materials you have found to complete a comprehensive discussion of ideas, observations and arguments, including your own, with properly cited and referenced sources.

Each of these written assignments will involve the submission of a first draft for which your instructor will provide commentary and suggestions to include for a following draft. Your response to instructor feedback is an important component of your learning experience in the course. The final grade for each writing assignment will be based on both the initial and second draft. The combination of your work on reading assignments, research and writing assignments, tests, and your participation in class discussion will help you reach the learning goals and objectives of the course as we examine the course of German-speaking culture from the late 18th century to the present day.

Student Conduct and Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory. Lectures and discussions are key parts of the course. If you are absent for more than three sessions during the semester, this will automatically demote your participation grade by one letter-grade. If you are absent for more than three sessions, each following increment of three absences will result in a corresponding demotion of a participation letter grade. If on account of a given health issue, you need to consume food or drink in class, that is fine. Otherwise, please refrain. Also, please limit your use of electronic devices to activities where you are asked to. Be respectful of others in class. If you do have differing opinions from others, please offer them maturely and productively. You will find you can learn a great deal through the respectful sharing of ideas.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#). The Code is available for review online [here](#).

Assessment

Below is the grading breakdown for the course based on the activities outlined above.

Written Assignments:	Website Paper (1 st and 2 nd Draft)	10%
	Research Paper	35%
	(1 st and 2 nd Draft, plus Research Prospectus and Annotated Bibliography)	
Exams:	Midterm Exams:	20%
	Final Exam:	20%
Classroom Participation:		15%

Course Texts

Gay, Peter. *Weimar Culture. The Outsider as Insider*. New York: Norton, 2001.

Horváth, Ödön von. *Youth Without God*. Trans. R. Wills Thomas. Brooklyn: Melville House, 2012.

Kafka, Franz. *The Metamorphosis*. Trans. Susan Bernofsky. New York: Norton, 2014.

Ozment, Steven. *A Mighty Fortress*. New York: Harper Collins, 2004.

Other readings will be available via weblinks. Text readings will be complemented by multi-media presentations in class on such topics as art history, urban history, geography, political developments, and key biographic figures. The film indicated on the class schedule, *Almanya: Welcome to Germany* (which we will watch in class,) is also on course reserve at the Mansfield Library.

Students with Disabilities

This course offers equal opportunity in education for all participants, including those with documented physical and documented learning disabilities. Please note that your instructor can only provide for such accommodations if notified and that such accommodations and considerations can only be made after an instructor has been provided information by the student. For information regarding documentation of disabilities, approaching your instructor with pertinent information, and establishing guidelines for potential accommodation, you may consult the [Disability Services for Students \(DSS\) website](#). The DSS Office is located in Lommasson 154; the phone number is 243-2243.

Course Schedule

- Mon 1/13: Introduction, Overview of German History prior to Romantic Period
- Wed 1/15: From the Enlightenment to Romanticism

Ozment: Begin Section III, “Enlightenment, Reaction, and a New Age”; Chapter 6: “Trojan Horses: From the French to the German Revolution” (pp. 147 – 178)
- Mon 1/20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day: No Class Meeting
- Wed 1/22: German Romanticism

Online Readings: Selected Texts from German Romanticism

Viewings: German Romantic Painting
- Mon 1/27: German Romanticism

Online Readings: Selected Texts from German Romanticism

Viewings: German Romantic Painting

Listenings: Music and German Romanticism
- Wed 1/29: German Philosophy and Politics from the early to late 19th Century

Ozment: Chapter 7, “Absolute Spirit and Absolute People: The Intellectual Torrents of the 19th Century” (pp. 179 – 202)

Website Essay (1st Draft) Due

Mon 2/3:	The Age of Bismarck Ozment, Chapter 8: “Revolutionary Conservatism: The Age of Bismarck” (pp. 203 – 224)
Wed 2/5	From the Late 19 th to Early 20 th Century Ozment: Begin Section IV: “Germans in the Modern World”; Chapter 9: “The Last Empire: From Wilhelmine to Weimar Germany” (pp. 227 – 241)
Mon 2/10	A Fable of Modernity: Franz Kafka’s <i>Metamorphosis</i> (1915)
Wed 2/12	A Fable of Modernity: Franz Kafka’s <i>Metamorphosis</i> (1915) Website Essay (2 nd Draft) Due
Mon 2/17	Presidents Day: No Class
Wed 2/19	Midterm Exam 1
Mon 2/24	Entering the Weimar Republic: Ozment, Chapter 9: “The Last Empire: From Wilhelmine to Weimar Germany” (pp. 241– 253), Gay, Chapter 1: “The Trauma of Birth: From Weimar to Weimar” (pp. 1 – 22).
Wed 2/27	Weimar Culture: Gay, Chapter 2: “The Community of Reason: Conciliators and Critics” (pp. 23 – 45) Annotated Bibliography and Research Prospectus (1 st Draft) Due
Mon 3/2	Weimar Culture, Gay, Chapter 3: “The Secret Germany: Poetry as Poetry” (pp. 46 – 69)
Wed 3/4	Weimar Culture, Gay, Chapter 4: “The Hunger for Wholeness: Trials of Modernity” (pp. 70 – 101)
Mon 3/9	Weimar Culture, Gay, Chapter 5: “The Revolt of the Son: Expressionist Years” (pp. 102 – 118)
Wed 3/11	Weimar Culture, Gay, Chapter 6: “The Revenge of the Father: Rise and Fall of Objectivity” (pp. 119 – 145) Annotated Bibliography and Research Prospectus (2 nd Draft) Due

Mon 3/16 – Fri 3/20

Spring Break

- Mon 3/23 Nazi Era and Second World War: Ozment, Chapter 10: “The Barbarian Prince. The Rise and Fall of National Socialism”
- Wed 3/25 Confronting National Socialism: Horváth: *Youth Without God* (1937)
- Mon 3/30 Confronting National Socialism: Horváth: *Youth Without God* (1937)
- Wed 4/1 Confronting National Socialism: Horváth: *Youth Without God* (1937)
- Mon 4/6 Post-War Reconciliations: German and Austrian Poets
- Wed 4/8 Midterm Exam 2
- Mon 4/13 Postwar Germany: Ozment, Chapter 11: “The Composite German: Germany Since World War II”
- Wed 4/15 Redefining German: Film, *Almanya: Welcome to Germany* (Yasemin Şamdereli, 2011)
- Mon 4/20 Redefining German: Film, *Almanya: Welcome to Germany* (Yasemin Şamdereli, 2011)
Research Paper (1st Draft) Due
- Wed 4/22 German Environmentalism: Frank Uekötter and Michael Egan.
The Greenest Nation? : A New History of German Environmentalism. Chapter 4, “The Green Enigma: German Environmentalism, 1980 – 2013.” (2014)
- Mon 4/27 Contemporary Issues in Germany, Austria, Switzerland
- Wed 4/29 Course Overview
- Tues 5/5 Final Exam, 3:20 pm – 5:20 pm
Research Paper (2nd Draft) Due