

Spring 2-1-2016

# GRMN 491.01: Twentieth Century German Literature to 1945

Hiltrud Arens

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**Twentieth Century German Literature to 1945**  
**GRMN 491                      MWF 1:10-2:00pm                      Spring 2016**

**Contact Professor:**

Dr. Hiltrud Arens

Office: LA 436

Office hours: Mon/Wed/Fri: 11:10-12:00 pm; Wed 4:10-5:00 pm; or/and by appointment

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Language of instruction is English

**Goals:**

1. To give an introduction and a survey of turn of the century German-language literary works (in translation) up to 1945.
2. To examine a variety of genres, including novel, novella, short story, essay, letter, poetry, drama, and film; and to connect those to other medial forms like painting, graphic arts, music, and photography, as well as to other societal/scientific developments, such as psycho-analysis.
3. To obtain formal knowledge through studying the texts (primary and secondary texts) in terms of language usage, style, and structure.
4. To learn about the historical, social, political, and artistic context of that period and to gain critical insight into the literary production of those selected works, and of the times discussed, since it was a time of rapid social, political and scientific changes, two World Wars, Fin de siècle life, the Weimar Republic, and the Holocaust, and massive migration and exile.

**Required Texts:**

- Frank Wedekind: *Spring Awakening* [Frühlingserwachen, 1891]
- Hedwig Dohm: *Become who you are* [Werde, die du bist, 1894]
- Rainer Maria Rilke: *Letters to a Young Poet* [Briefe an einen jungen Dichter, 1903-1908]
- Georg Kaiser *From Morning to Midnight* [Von Morgens bis Mitternacht, 1912]
- Herman Hesse: *Siddhartha* [Siddhartha, 1922]
- Arthur Schnitzler: *Dream Story* [Traumnovelle, 1926]
- Bertolt Brecht: *The Threepenny Opera* [Die Dreigroschenoper, 1928]
- Irmgard Keun: *The Artificial Silk Girl* [Das kunstseidene Mädchen, 1932]
- Anna Seghers: *The Excursion of the Dead Girls* [Der Ausflug der toten Mädchen, 1943] scanned copy
- Hannah Arendt *We Refugees* [Wir Flüchtlinge, 1944] scanned copy
- Jean Améry *How much home does a person need?* [Wieviel Heimat braucht der Mensch? 1966] scanned copy

**Formats:**

The class consists of short introductions and lectures about materials and contexts, and whole class and/or smaller group discussions of primary and secondary sources. Students are also asked to present certain themes/writers and give an individual presentation towards the end of class. The language of this course will be primarily in English, but knowledge of German might be helpful.

**Expectations:**

It is expected that all students will be in attendance daily. Regular class participation is the essence of this course. Therefore, in addition to any subsidiary detrimental effect of absences, absences in excess of 3 during the semester will lower your course grade one full grade: A- to B-, B to C, etc.

It is also expected that all students will complete assigned work (both oral and written) as requested and be prepared for each class session.

**Grading:**

<b><u>Final Grade Breakdown</u></b>	<b><u>Points of Grade</u></b>
Attendance (41x2)	82 points
Oral class participation	98 points
4 small essays (2 pages typed) (4 x 80)	320 points
Midterm (100)	100 points
Final essay presentation	100 points
Final Essay (10 pages/ English)	300 points
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1000 points</b>

**Electronic Devices (Cell Phones, Laptops, Music Players, etc.)**

If you bring a cell phone to class, please set it either on vibrate or mute. Unless specified for a class activity, personal computers, music players, and messaging devices are not to be used in class.

**Students with Disabilities**

This course offers equal opportunity in education for all participants, including those with documented physical and documented learning disabilities. 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](http://life.umt.edu/dss) at <http://life.umt.edu/dss> . The DSS Office is located in Lommasson 154; the phone number is 243-2243.

## Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

Please refer to the Student Conduct Code of the University as it pertains to your responsibility to hand in work and/or perform activities assigned to be your own as indeed representing your own efforts and research. The [Student Conduct Code](http://www.umt.edu/SA/vpsa/index.cfm/page/2585) is available for review online at: <http://www.umt.edu/SA/vpsa/index.cfm/page/2585>.

### Schedule during the semester:

#### 1. WEEK

Monday, 1/25 Introduction and Context at the turn of the century  
Youth Awakening and Feminist Movement  
Wednesday, 1/27 Frank Wedekind: *Spring Awakening*  
Friday, 1/29 Frank Wedekind: *Spring Awakening*

#### 2. WEEK

Monday, 2/1 Hedwig Dohm: *Become who you are*  
Wednesday, 2/3 Hedwig Dohm: *Become who you are*  
Friday, 2/5 Hedwig Dohm: *Become who you are*

#### 3. WEEK

Monday, 2/8 **1. Essay due**  
Symbolism and the Art of Writing: Rainer Maria Rilke: *Letters to a Young Poet*  
Wednesday, 2/10 Rainer Maria Rilke: *Letters to a Young Poet*  
Friday, 2/12 Rainer Maria Rilke: *Letters to a Young Poet*/ Rilke's poetry

#### 4. WEEK

Monday, 2/15 Presidents' Day/ UM Holiday  
Wednesday, 2/17 *Rilke Projekt* in Germany: Contemporary Music Compositions of Rilke's poetry  
Friday, 2/19 *Rilke Projekt* in Germany: Contemporary Music Compositions of Rilke's poetry

#### 5. WEEK

Monday, 2/22 Expressionism and Drama: Georg Kaiser *From Morning to Midnight*  
Wednesday, 2/24 Georg Kaiser *From Morning to Midnight*  
Friday, 2/26 **2. Essay due**  
Georg Kaiser *From Morning to Midnight*

#### 6. WEEK

Monday, 2/29 The Self, the Other, Psychoanalysis and Fin de siècle Vienna:  
Herman Hesse: *Siddhartha*  
Wednesday, 3/2 Herman Hesse: *Siddhartha*  
Friday, 3/4 Herman Hesse: *Siddhartha*

7.WEEK

Monday, 3/7  
Wednesday, 3/9  
Friday, 3/11

Arthur Schnitzler: *Dream Story*  
Arthur Schnitzler: *Dream Story*  
Arthur Schnitzler: *Dream Story*

8.WEEK

Monday, 3/14  
  
Wednesday, 3/16  
Friday, 3/18

**3. Essay due**  
The Golden 20s, Weimar Republic and Urban Life:  
Bertolt Brecht: *The Threepenny Opera*  
Bertolt Brecht: *The Threepenny Opera*  
Bertolt Brecht: *The Threepenny Opera*

9. WEEK

Monday, 3/21  
Wednesday, 3/23  
Friday, 3/25

Film: *The Threepenny Opera*  
Film: *The Threepenny Opera*  
Irmgard Keun: *The Artificial Silk Girl*

10.WEEK

Monday, 3/28  
Wednesday, 3/30  
Friday, 4/1

Irmgard Keun: *The Artificial Silk Girl*  
Irmgard Keun: *The Artificial Silk Girl*  
**Midterm**

11. WEEK  
4/4 – 4/8

Spring break

12. WEEK

Monday, 4/11  
  
Wednesday, 4/13  
Friday, 4/15

Exile and Inner Exile; Migration and Flight:  
Anna Seghers: *The Excursion of the Dead Girls*  
Anna Seghers: *The Excursion of the Dead Girls*  
Anna Seghers: *The Excursion of the Dead Girls*

13. WEEK

Monday, 4/18  
Wednesday, 4/20  
Friday, 4/22

Anna Seghers: *The Excursion of the Dead Girls*  
Hannah Arendt *We Refugees*  
Hannah Arendt *We Refugees*

14. WEEK

Monday, 4/25

**4. Essay due**  
Jean Améry *How much home does a person need?*

Wednesday, 4/27      Jean Améry *How much home does a person need?*  
Friday, 4/29            Jean Améry *How much home does a person need?*

15. WEEK

Monday, 5/2            Presentation of Final essay project  
Wednesday, 5/4        Presentation of Final essay project  
Friday, 5/6              Discussion and Conclusion

**Final Exam: Tuesday, May 10: 3:20 am – 5:20 pm in LA 336**