

Name: Dr. Peggy Setje-Eilers

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Course title: Borders & Crossings: German Literature and Culture from Romanticism to the Present

Track: B-Track

Language of instruction: English

Contact hours: 72 (6 per day)

ECTS-Credits: 6

Course description

In this course, you will encounter many of the most exciting textual and visual contributions to German culture in texts from the 19th-21st centuries in English translation. Our focus will be borders - physical, ideological, intellectual, and metaphorical - and crossing borders, as passages to more creative or liberated states of being or as acts of transgression. You will gain insight into aesthetic and intellectual accomplishments of eventful periods in German cultural history. We will take advantage of the unique opportunity of being in Berlin to visit many sites relevant to course materials. Afternoon excursions include the Brücke Museum, Checkpoint Charlie Museum, Brecht-Weigel Museum, East Side Gallery, Stasi Museum, and the DDR Museum.

Student profile

Course designed for intellectually curious, engaged students interested in the cultural and literary history of Germany in English translation. Must be willing to participate actively in discussions and excursions to sites and museums in Berlin relevant to course content. Attendance is crucial.

Prerequisites

none

Course Requirements

Students must attend classes, actively engage in class discussions, and regularly contribute ideas to the class to do well in this course. Three typed and double-spaced response papers on specific aspects of a text (1-2 p. each) are due on the day of the reading. Midterm and final take-home essays.

Grading

Participation (attendance, preparation, discussion): 20%

3 response papers: 15%

Oral presentations of response papers: 15%

Midterm take-home essay: 25%

Final take-home essay: 25%

Literature

A course reader will be provided.

Course readings and screenings include:

Ludwig Tieck: "Eckbert the Fair" (1797)
Heinrich von Kleist: "The Marquise of O--" (1808)
Georg Büchner: "Woyzeck" (published 1878)
Film: "Woyzeck" (dir. Werner Herzog, 1979)
Hugo von Hofmannsthal: "The Lord Chandos Letter" (1902)
Rainer Maria Rilke: "New Poems" (1907) (selections)
Franz Kafka: "The Judgment" (1913)
Georg Kaiser: "Gas II" (1918)
Hermann Hesse: "Demian" (1919)
Nietzsche: "Zarathustra's Prologue" (1883)
Bertolt Brecht: "The Modern Theater is the Epic Theater" (1930)
Film: "The Threepenny Opera" (dir. G.W. Pabst, 1930)
Wolfgang Borchert: "The Man Outside" (1947)
Günter Grass: "Cat and Mouse" (1961) (Ch. 1-7)
Friedrich Dürrenmatt: "The Physicists" (1962)
Peter Schneider: "The Wall Jumper" (1982)
Thomas Brussig: "Heroes Like Us" (1995) (Ch. 1-3)
Christa Wolf: "What Remains" (published 1990)
Jana Hensel: "After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next" (2002) (Ch. 1-2)
Film: "One, Two, Three" (dir. Billy Wilder, 1961)

Course schedule

Date	Program
Tuesday, June 1, 2010	<p>Course Introduction & Romanticism: Ludwig Tieck: "Eckbert the Fair" (1797) Heinrich von Kleist: "The Marquise of O--" (1808) Joseph von Eichendorff: "Moon-Night" (1837), "The Divining Rod" (1837) (poems)</p> <p>Excursion: Kleist Memorial - Wannsee</p>
Friday, June 4, 2010	<p>Realism: Georg Büchner: "Woyzeck" (published 1878) Screening: "Woyzek" (dir. Werner Herzog, 1979)</p> <p>Emerging Modernism: Poem: Hugo von Hofmannsthal: "Ballad of the Outer Life" (1895) Hugo von Hofmannsthal: "The Lord Chandos Letter" (1902)</p> <p>Excursion: Alte Nationalgalerie (19th C art)</p>
Tuesday, June 8, 2010	<p>Modernism: Rainer Maria Rilke: selections from "New Poems" (1907): "Morgue," "Roman Fountain," "The Ball," "The Panther," "The Carousel," "Blue Hydrangea," "Archaic Torso of Apollo" Franz Kafka: "The Judgment" (1913)</p> <p>Response paper #1 due on "The Judgment"</p> <p>Excursion: Zoologischer Garten (weather permitting) (backup plan: contemporary art museum Hamburger Bahnhof or 20th C art exhibit)</p>
Friday, June 11, 2010	<p>Expressionism I: Poems: Jakob van Hoddis: "End of the World" (1911), Georg Heym: "Umbra Vitae" (1912), Georg Trakl: "Grodek" (1915) Georg Kaiser: "Gas II" (1918)</p> <p>Response paper #2 due on "Gas II"</p> <p>Excursion: Jewish Museum - Jewish creativity and cultural contributions to modernism</p>
Tuesday, June 15, 2010	<p>Expressionism II: Nietzsche: "Zarathustra's Prologue" (publ. 1883) Hermann Hesse: "Demian" (Ch. 1-4) (1919)</p> <p>Excursion: Brücke Museum (Expressionist art)</p>
Friday, June 18, 2010	<p>Hermann Hesse: "Demian" (Ch. 5-8) (1919)</p>

	<p>Bertolt Brecht's Epic Theater: Bertolt Brecht: "The Modern Theater is the Epic Theater" (1930)</p> <p>Screening: "The Threepenny Opera" (dir. G.W. Pabst, 1930)</p> <p>Excursion: Tour of Brecht-Weigel Museum and Dorotheenstädtischer Friedhof</p>
Tuesday, June 22, 2010	<p>Postwar Literature: Wolfgang Borchert: "The Man Outside" (1947) Poems: Günter Eich: "Inventory" (1947) Ingeborg Bachmann: "Every Day" (1953)</p> <p>Excursion: Café Sibylle (post-war museum & café)</p> <p>MIDTERM TAKE-HOME ESSAY DUE</p>
Friday, June 25, 2010	<p>Günter Grass: "Cat and Mouse" (1961) (Ch. 1-7)</p> <p>Excursion: East Side Gallery (Berlin Wall: graffiti)</p>
Tuesday, June 29, 2010	<p>Friedrich Dürrenmatt: "The Physicists" (1962)</p> <p>Excursion: Checkpoint Charlie Museum</p>
Friday, July 2, 2010	<p>Divided and Post-Wall Germany I: Peter Schneider: "The Wall Jumper" (1982) Thomas Brussig: "Heroes Like Us" (1995) (Ch. 1-3)</p> <p>Response paper #3 due on "Heroes Like Us"</p> <p>Excursion: Stasi Museum</p>
Tuesday, July 6, 2010	<p>Divided and Post-Wall Germany II: Christa Wolf: "What Remains" (published 1990) Jana Hensel: "After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next" (2002) (Ch. 1-2)</p> <p>Excursion: DDR Museum</p> <p>FINAL TAKE-HOME ESSAY DUE</p>
Friday, July 9, 2010	<p>Wrap-up discussion</p> <p>Film: "One, Two, Three" (dir. Billy Wilder, 1961) (109 min.)</p>