

GM 241 Introduction to German Literature
Comenius 411 – MWF 8:50-10:00
Fall 2006

Dr. Josef K. Glowa
Comenius 412
Office: 610-861-1395
E-mail: jkg@moravian.edu.
Office Hours:
MW 1:00-2:00 & F 1-2 pm
or by appointment

You can also reach me at any time in my virtual office: I will respond to your e-mails as promptly as possible.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to introduce you to the history of German literature with an emphasis on the past two centuries. We will not be able to do justice to all outstanding authors of this period, but you will study a wide variety of selections as possible in order to capture the essence of individual periods or movements. A thorough textual analysis and discussion of selected texts will enable you to familiarize yourself with representative authors, works, genres, and develop your critical reading and writing skills. Although the works will be discussed chronologically, the focus is not on a comprehensive overview, but the course's goal is rather to help you acquire methods, terminology, and practice of literary analysis, and to wetten your appetite for a further study of German literature. Readings of poetry, novellas, essays, dramas, and fairy tales. Videos, as well as traditional and on-line scholarly resources will complement your coursework.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Ludwig Tieck. *Der blonde Eckbert*
2. Annette Droste-Hülshoff. *Die Judenbuche, Erzählungen*
3. Hauptmann, Gerhart. *Bahnwärter Thiel*
4. Mann, Thomas. *Tonio Kröger*
5. Brecht, Bertolt. *Die Dreigroschenoper*
6. Dürrenmatt, Friedrich. *Der Richter und sein Henker*

Format of the course:

- discussions
- student reports on readings, authors, and background information
- use of videos and musical works

Grading

- Participation 20%
- 2 Reports 15 %
- Three interpretations of works discussed in class 30 % (at least 3-4 pages each in German, including bibliography)
- Midterm 15%
- Final Exam 20 %

Attendance

Your participation is of utmost necessity to make this course a success. Attendance is mandatory and will be noted in each class. You will be allowed one absence with no questions asked. Each unexcused absence (beyond the first) will affect your final grade. Students with more than three unexcused absences will automatically fail this class. If you must be absent, notify me ahead of time. Obtain the assignment from me or from a classmate, so that you can hand it in on time. Some form of documentation will be required for excused absences such as illness, family emergencies, and academic obligations, or any College-sponsored extra-curricular event such as varsity sports. It is your responsibility to inform me in advance of any scheduled events. Regardless of your reason for missing class, you will want to keep up with your work.

Participation

You will be expected to have completed all the readings prior to each class meeting, and to engage in informed discussions pertaining to a text's content, its formal features, its cultural context, or other relevant aspects. Sometimes you will be given written questions to answer at home. They will facilitate your readings and help you to be better prepared.

Reports

You will be expected to give two brief reports throughout the semester (10-15 min.). They may be the results of homework assignments regarding questions about a specific work, author, genre, period, or a relevant work of literary criticism.

Midterm & Final Exam

Both Midterm and Final consist of short questions/answers, mainly in German. Some questions pertaining to literary theory may be answered in English. The Final is comprehensive and will include a short essay in German and English.

Interpretations

For your essays you will be asked to select works discussed in class. They may be poems, prose works, or dramas. Depending on your choice, the instructor will assist you in selecting appropriate interpretative approaches. Three - four pages, double-spaced, font 12 Times or similar.

Classroom Etiquette

- ◆ No chewing gum, food, or beverages! You will need to be able to speak clearly and loudly, free of any interference.
- ◆ No ball caps!
- ◆ No pagers and cell phones!

Plagiarism and cheating will be handled according to the Student Code outlined in the current Student Handbook and in the statement on Academic Honesty at Moravian College.

Note: I reserve the right to make appropriate changes to this syllabus whenever necessary.

Viel Erfolg und auf gute Zusammenarbeit im neuen Semester!