Michigan Technological University: Summer 2002

HU 3252
Literature in Translation
German Short Fiction

Syllabus

Instructor: Dieter Wolfgang Adolphs
Room: Fisher Hall, Room 125
Time: Mo., Tu., We., Th., 10:05 to 11:40 a.m.
Telephone: 487-3259 (work); 482-3182 (home)
E-Mail: dadolph@mtu.edu
Office: Walker Arts and Humanities Center, Room 340
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:45 a.m. to 12:15
(other times by appointment)

Books/Readings:
Thomas Mann, Death in Venice, Tonio Kröger, and Other Writings, ed. Frederick A. Lubich, New York: Continuum, 1999

Course Description:

This course will be focusing on German short fiction, i.e., the "Novelle" or (English) novella, as well as Goethe’s epistolary (written in the form of fictional letters) novel, The Sorrows of Young Werther. As is one of Goethe’s own short story, entitled “Novelle,” the term novella refers to a special type of short story that was cultivated as a particular artistic form throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth century in Germany. The two collections of novellas and the book by Goethe we will be using do not only include some of the most famous novellas, but they also provide us with exponents of major artistic currents: "Storm and Stess," German Classicism, Romanticism, Realism, Naturalism, and Symbolism.

During the entire term we will aim to do both: view the various novellas and Goethe’s Werther as independent works of art, and understand them as cultural phenomena which owe their meaning to specific aesthetic, historical,
political and social contexts. Every class member is strongly encouraged to voice his or her personal opinion and to actively participate in class discussions.

We will based our discussions on close reading of the assigned texts as well as oral reports on historical as well as critical information. We also will investigate artistic adaptations of our readings in a number of German movies.

Every member of this course is strongly encouraged to voice her or his personal opinion and to actively participate in small group and general discussions. The course requirements are:

a) regular attendance and active participation (26 points)
b) regular reading assignments (13 points)
c) ten short reading responses ("log sheets;" 20 points)
d) two oral reports (20 points)
e) optional abstract for final paper (5 bonus points)
f) final paper (4 to 6 pages; 21 points)

Grading Scale:

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92-100%</td>
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<td>A/B</td>
<td>87-91.9%</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>62-66.9%</td>
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This course can be taken for partial fulfillment of the general education distribution requirements, and it can also count towards MTU's Modern Language and Area Study Certificate and Advanced Certificate.

Please note: MTU complies with all federal and state laws regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students (487-2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (487-3310).

Also: this course description and all schedules are tentative and may be changed. If any such changes are made, you will receive a printed update during our regular class meetings.
Tentative Schedule

Week 1
Monday, 20 May  
Introduction to HU3252

Tuesday, 21 May  
Goethe, “Novella” (pp. 169-201)

Wednesday, 22 May  
Report A: Thomas Mann, Life and Works (see our edition, pp. vii-xvi)
Mann, “Tonio Kröger,” pp. 1-29 (chapters 1-4)
Beginning of film, Tonio Kröger

Thursday, 23 May  
Mann, “Tonio Kröger,” pp. 29-55 (chapters 5-9)
Conclusion of film, Tonio Kröger
Two reading/viewing responses due on Tuesday (28 May):
1. Mann’s novella, “Tonio Kröger”
2. The film, Tonio Kröger

Week 2
Tuesday, 28 May  
Report: Heinrich von Kleist, life and works
Heinrich von Kleist, The Earthquake in Chile (handout)
Film: “Der zerbrochene Krug” (performance of Kleist’s play, “The Broken Jug”)

Wednesday, 29 May  
Report B, Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach, Life and Works
Novellas of Realism, pp. vii-xiii (Introduction)
Novellas of Realism, pp. 1-10 (Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach, “Krambambuli”)
Report C: Goethe’s early years and Werther
Goethe, Werther, pp. 3-15

Thursday, 30 May  
Novellas of Realism, pp. 74-108 (Wilhelm Raabe, “Celtic Bones”)
Goethe, Werther, pp. 16-31
Two reading/viewing responses due on Monday (3 June):
3. At least one story from Novellas of Realism
4. Goethe’s Werther

Week 3
Monday, 3 June  
Werther, pp. 31-55

Tuesday, 4 June  
Report C: Theodor Storm, Life and Works
Novellas of Realism, pp. 109-171 (Theodor Storm, “Aquis Submersus”)

Wednesday, 5 June  
Novellas of Realism, pp. 172-225 (Beginning of Theodor Storm, “The White Horse Rider,”)

Thursday, 6 June  
Novellas of Realism, pp. 225-276 (Conclusion of Theodor Storm, “The White Horse Rider,”)
Two reading/viewing responses due on Monday (10 June):
5. At least one story by Theodor Storm
6. Werther