Syllabus

Instructor: Dieter Wolfgang Adolphs
Room: Fisher Hall, Room 127
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 308
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 (other times by appointment)

Books/Readings:
Boccacio: Decamerone (excerpts; see
http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Italian_Studies/dweb/dweb.shtml)
(English)
(English)
http://dev.stg.brown.edu:1977/decameron/engDecShowText.jsp?myID=day01&expand=day01
c) http://dev.stg.brown.edu:1977/decameron/engDecShowText.jsp?myID=day10&expand=day10
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, The Sorrows of Young Werther and Novella,
Ebner-Eschenbach, Heyse, Raabe, Storm, Meyer, Hauptmann, German
Novellas of Realism, Volume Two, edited by Jeffrey L. Sammons, New
York: Continuum, 1989;
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 Stress,” 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 (15 points)
b) regular reading assignments (15 points)
c) five reading responses (“log sheets;” 25 points)
d) two oral reports (20 points)
e) optional abstract for final paper (5 bonus points)
f) final paper (4 to 6 pages; 25 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>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>67-71.9%</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>62-66.9%</td>
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<td>0-61.5</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, 19 May**
Introduction to HU3251

**Tuesday, 20 May**
Boccaccio, *Decameron*, Proem, Introduction, Novel I
b) [http://dev.stg.brown.edu:1977/decameron/engDecShowText.jsp?myID=day01&expand=day01](http://dev.stg.brown.edu:1977/decameron/engDecShowText.jsp?myID=day01&expand=day01)
Mann, “Tonio Kröger,” pp. 1-15 (chapters 1-2)

**Wednesday, 21 May**
Report: Boccaccio's life
Report: Boccaccio's *Decameron*
Boccaccio, *Decameron*, Day 10 and Epilogue
c) [http://dev.stg.brown.edu:1977/decameron/engDecShowText.jsp?myID=day10&expand=day10](http://dev.stg.brown.edu:1977/decameron/engDecShowText.jsp?myID=day10&expand=day10)
Mann, “Tonio Kröger,” pp. 15-29 (chapters 3-4)
Beginning of film, *Tonio Kröger*

**Thursday, 22 May**
Report: Thomas Mann’s Life A (Childhood until 1905)
Report: Thomas Mann’s *Tonio Kröger*
Mann, “Tonio Kröger,” pp. 29-55 (chapters 5-9)
Conclusion of film, *Tonio Kröger*
Reading/viewing response I due on Tuesday (27 May):
1. Boccaccio, *Decameron*
2. Mann's novella, “Tonio Kröger” (beginning)

**Week 2**

**Tuesday, 27 May**
Report: Goethe’s Life A (childhood until 1775)
Report: Goethe’s short story, “Novella”
Goethe, “Novella” (in *The Sorrows of Young Werther*, pp. 169-201)
Chapter 4 of “Tonio Kröger”
Film (beginning): *Hamlet*

**Wednesday, 28 May**
Report: Kleist’s Life and Works
Heinrich von Kleist, *The Earthquake in Chile* (handout)
Report: 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: Goethe’s early years and *Werther*
Film: *Hamlet*
Goethe, *Werther*, pp. 3-15
Thursday, 29 May  
Report: Goethe’s Werther  
Report: Goethe Life B (1775-1832)  
Report: Interpretations of Goethe’s “Novella”  
Report: Interpretations of Mann’s “Tonio Kröger”  
Report: Interpretations of Kleist’s “Earthquake in Chile”  
Report: Paul Heyse, Life, Works, and View of the Novella  

Novellas of Realism, pp. 11-28, “L’Arrabbiata”  
Goethe, Werther, pp. 16-31  
Film (conclusion): Hamlet  
Reading/viewing response II due on Monday (2 June):  
3. Tonio Kröger (text and film)  
4. Goethe’s “Novella”

Week 3

Monday, 2 June authors  
Report: Influence of Werther on readers and future

Report: Wilhelm Raabe, Life and Works  
Werther, pp. 31-55  
Novellas of Realism, pp. 1-10 (Wilhelm Raabe, “Celtic Bones”)  

Tuesday, 3 June  
Report: Theodor Storm, Life and Works  
Novellas of Realism, pp. 109-171 (Theodor Storm, “Aquis Submersus”)  

Wednesday, 4 June  
Report: Interpretations of Storm’s “Aquis Submersus”  
Novellas of Realism, pp. 172-225 (Beginning of Theodor Storm, “The White Horse Rider”)  

Thursday, 5 June  
Report: Interpretations of Storm’s “White Horse Rider”  
Novellas of Realism, pp. 225-276 (Conclusion of Theodor Storm, “The White Horse Rider”)  
Reading response III due on Monday (9 June):  
5. At least one story from Novellas of Realism  
6. Werther

Week 4

Monday, 9 June  
Werther, pp. 56-76  
Report: Conrad Ferdinand Meyer, Life and Works  
Novellas of Realism, pp. 277-303 (Conrad Ferdinand Meyer’s “Plautus in the Convent”)
Tuesday, 10 June  Werther, pp. 77-100
Report: Interpretations of Meyer's “Plautus in the Convent”
Report: Gerhart Hauptmann, Life and Works
Novellas of Realism, pp. 304-330 (Gerhart Hauptmann, “Flagman Thiel”)

Wednesday, 11 June  Werther, pp. 100-24
Report: Interpretations of Hauptmann’s “Flagman Thiel”
Report: French and German Naturalism in Art and Literature
Report: Thomas Mann, Life and Works
Report, Thomas Mann's novella, “Death in Venice”
Death in Venice, pp. 95-106

Thursday, 12 June  Werther, pp. 125-45
Death in Venice, pp. 106-130
Reading report IV due on Monday, 16 June
7. Meyer and/or Hauptmann
8. Werther and/or Death in Venice

Week 5

Monday, 16 June  Werther, pp. 145-167
Death in Venice, pp. 130-140
Beginning of the film, Death in Venice

Tuesday, 17 June  Death in Venice, pp. 140-161
Continuation of the film, Death in Venice

Wednesday, 18 June  Conlusion of film, Death in Venice

Thursday, 19 June  Report: Interpretations of Mann's “Death in Venice”
Report: Mann’s “Death in Venice” in Film and Music
Mann, Mario and the Magician, pp. 186-205
Term paper due on Monday, 23 June

Week 6

Monday, 23 June  Report: Interpretations of Mann's “Mario and the Magician”
Report: Mann's stance against Fascism and his American Exile
Mann, Mario and the Magician, pp. 205-225
Beginning of film, Mario and the Magician
Tuesday, 24 June  Mann, “A Brother” (pp. 297-302)
Reading report V due on Wednesday, 25 June
9. *Werther*
10. *Death in Venice or Mario and the Magician*

Report: Mann's essays on Freud and on Germany's future
*Course Evaluation*

Thursday, 26 June  Film (Conclusion): *Mario and the Magician*