Michigan Technological University
HU 3251: Great Works of World Literature
German Short Fiction
(CRN# 5150; Section R01)

Summer, 2004
Mo., Tu., We., Th., 10:05 to 11:40 a.m.
Walker Arts and Humanities Center, Room 108

Professor: Dr. Dieter Wolfgang Adolphs
Office: Walker Arts and Humanities Center, Room 308
Telephone: 487-3231 (work); 482-3182 (home)
E-Mail: dadolph@mtu.edu; 3251-I@mtu.edu
Home Page: http://www.hu.mtu.edu/%7Edadolph/
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:45 a.m. to 12:15
(other times by appointment)

Syllabus

Required Books and Readings:
Boccaccio: Decameron; excerpts; see http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Italian_Studies/dweb/dweb.shtml
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

Prerequisite: UN 1002 or UN 1003

Course Description:

This course will be focusing on German short fiction, i. e., the "Novelle" or
(English) novella, as well as Goethe’s epistolary (;i.e., 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 (15 points)
b) regular reading assignments (15 points)
c) five reading responses ("log sheets;" 20 points)
d) two oral reports (20 points)
e) abstract for final paper (5 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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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, 17 May**
Introduction to HU3251

**Tuesday, 18 May**
Report: Boccaccio's life
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, 19 May**
Report: Boccaccio's *Decameron*
Mann's life, *Life A* (Childhood until 1905)
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. 1-15 (chapters 1-2)
Beginning of film, *Tonio Kröger*

**Thursday, 20 May**
Report: Thomas Mann’s *Tonio Kröger*
Mann, *Tonio Kröger*, pp. 29-55 (chapters 5-9)
*More:* film, *Tonio Kröger*
Reading/viewing response I due on Monday (24 May):
1. Boccaccio, *Decameron*
2. Mann's novella, *Tonio Kröger* (beginning)

**Week 2**

**Monday, 24 May**
Report: Thomas Mann's Life (1905-1955) and Later Works
Report: Interpretations of *Tonio Kröger*
Mann, "Tonio Kröger," pp. 29-55 (chapters 5-9)
Conclusion of film, *Tonio Kröger*

**Tuesday, 25 May**
Report: Goethe's Life and Works
"*Tonio Kröger,* text and film, final discussion
Introduction to Goethe's *Novella*

**Wednesday, 26 May**
Report: Kleist's Life and Works
Discussion of Goethe's *Novella*
First Discussion of Kleist's *Earthquake in Chile*
Thursday, 27 May
Report: Interpretations of Earthquake in Chile
Final Discussion of Kleist's Earthquake in Chile
Discussion of Goethe's Werther, pp. 3-31
Reading/viewing responses due on Tuesday (1 June):
1. Mann's novella, Tonio Kroger
2. Goethe's Novella or Kleist's Earthquake in Chile

Week 3

Tuesday, 1 June
Report: Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach
Report: Goethe's Werther
First discussion of Krambambuli
Discussion of Werther, pp. 31-56

Wednesday, 2 June
Report: Thomas Mann's Lotte in Weimar
Final discussion of Krambambuli
Discussion of Werther, pp. 31-56

Thursday, 3 June
Report: Heyse (Life and Works)
Report: Heyse's theory of the novella
Film (beginning): Lotte in Weimar
Novellas of Realism, pp. 11-28, Heyse's L'Arrabbiata
Two reading/viewing responses due on Monday (7 June):
1. Krambambuli
2. L'Arrabbiata

Week 4

Monday, 7 June
Report: Theodor Storm (Life and Works)
Werther, pp. 56-76
Discussion of the (first half) of The White Horse Rider
(Novellas of Realism, pp. 172-225)

Tuesday, 8 June
Report: Interpretations of The White Horse Rider
Werther, pp. 77-100
Final Discussion of Storm's The White Horse Rider
Paper abstract due tomorrow (9 June) at noon

Wednesday, 9 June
Report: Storm's "Aquis Submersus"
Werther, pp. 100-24
Discussion of the (first half) of Storm's Aquis Submersus
Paper abstract due today at noon

Thursday, 10 June
Report: Interpretations of Aquis Submersus
Final discussion of the of Storm's "Aquis Submersus"
Reading report due on Monday, 14 June
7. Storms novellas
8. Werther
**Week 5**

**Monday, 14 June**
- Report: German Poetic Realism
- Report: Conrad Ferdinand Meyer (Life and Works)
  - *Werther*, pp. 125-45
  - *Novellas of Realism*, pp. 277-303 (Conrad Ferdinand Meyer's *Plautus in the Convent*)

**Tuesday, 15 June**
- Report: French and German Symbolism
- Report: Gerhart Hauptmann (Life and Works)
  - *Novellas of Realism*, pp. 304-330 (Gerhart Hauptmann, *Flagman Thiel*)
  - *Werther*, pp. 145-167

**Wednesday, 16 June**
- Report: Mann's *Death in Venice*
  - *Werther*, pp. 145-167
  - End of Film, *Lotte in Weimar*
  - *Death in Venice*, pp. 95-130
  - Beginning of the film, *Death in Venice*

**Thursday, 17 June**
- Reports: Interpretations of *Death in Venice*
  - *Death in Venice*, pp. 140-161
  - Beginning of the film, *Death in Venice*

**Week 6**

**Monday, 21 June**
- Final discussion of *Death in Venice*
- End of the film, *Death in Venice*
  - (at my house, 304 Harris Ave., Hancock)

**Tuesday, 22 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. 186-205
  - Beginning of film, *Mario and the Magician*

Reading report due on Wednesday, 23 June
1. *Werther*
2. *Death in Venice*

**Wednesday, 23 June**
- Report: Mann's essays on Freud and on Germany's future
  - Mann, *Mario and the Magician*, pp. 205-225

**Course Evaluation**

**Thursday, 24 June**
- Film (Conclusion): *Mario and the Magician*