HU4271/4281  
Advanced Modern Language Seminar: Language and Power  
Spring 2004  

Instructors:  
Dr. Diane Shoos (French), Dr. Sigrid Weinmann (German)  

Time/Room:  
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:05 to 12:20  
French  
Walker 143  
German  
Walker 109  
Group meetings and films  
Walker 109  

Please refer to individual syllabi for instructor's office hours, meeting rooms, and additional readings in the target languages.  

Syllabus for all sections:  
January 13  
Introduction: "The Birthday"  
January 15  
Discussion of "Stranger in the Village"  
"The Tale of the Young Black Chap"  
"The Story of the Inky Boys"  
January 27  
Film: Beyond Silence  
January 29  
Film: Beyond Silence  
February 3  
Discussion  
February 17  
Francophone Film: The Wild Child  
February 19  
Francophone Film and Discussion  
March 11  
German Literature: The German Lesson, Chapter 1-10 (see handout)  
March 16  
German Literature: The German Lesson, Chapter 11-20 (see handout)  
March 25  
Francophone Literature: So Long a Letter, through Chapter 14, p. 46  
March 30  
Francophone Literature: So Long a Letter, to the end (p. 89)  
April 6  
German Film: Mephisto  
April 8  
German Film and Film Discussion  
April 22  
German Expressionism: Emil Nolde, Preparation of Presentation  
April 27  
Orai Reports, Preparation of Presentation  
April 29  
Group Presentation  

Required texts for all sections:  
"The Birthday" by Marie Luise Kaschnitz  
"The Tale of the Young Black Chap" by Heinrich Hoffmann, translated by Mark Twain  
"The Story of the Inky Boys" translated by Annis Lee Furness  
"Stranger in the Village" by James Baldwin  
So Long a Letter by Mariama Bâ  
The German Lesson by Siegfried Lenz  

Required films for all sections:  
January 27/29  
Beyond Silence (Caroline Link, 1996)  
February 17/19  
The Wild Child (François Truffaut, 1970)  
April 6/8  
Mephisto (Istvan Szabo, 1981)
Goals and Objectives:
"Language and Power" will focus specifically on the uses of language in political and social institutions. In the seminar we will consider such topics as political oppression, propaganda, resistance, racism, sexism, and the experience and abuse of personal power as revealed in and created through language.

The primary goals for this course are:
• To deepen our understanding of culture and society through literature and film selected from French and German language communities
• To develop analytical and comparative skills
• To develop an understanding of relationships between literature, film and other selected arts.

Participants in the seminar will read texts in their respective modern languages as well as texts from the other language in English translation. To further develop language skills and at the same time facilitate an intercultural perspective, the seminar will include small group meetings in the individual modern languages in addition to large meetings in English.

Student Responsibilities:
Attendance and Participation:
This class has been designed not as a lecture class but rather as a seminar whose primary format is small and large group discussion. For this reason, a minimum requirement of the course is that you attend all classes and participate actively during each meeting. Any unexcused absence will seriously affect the course grade.

Readings and Screenings:
Because we will be taking an intercultural perspective on the topic of language and power in literature and film, you will be completing not only all the reading in your target language but also the required reading in English translation. Each individual instructor may also assign translated excerpts for small group comparison and discussion. In addition, all students will view three required films (subtitled in English). Each individual instructor may require additional film screenings for the small groups at her discretion. These readings and films will be spread throughout the semester.

Writing Assignments:
As part of the course you will be completing short, informal writing assignments in the target language assigned by individual instructors. There will be two formal writing assignments in the form of two papers. The first paper (3-5 typewritten pages) should be written in the target language and should be an analysis of a reading or film in the target language. The second project assignment must consist of two components: an oral presentation as well as a written paper. A visual component would enhance the presentation. Students will present the oral component of their second paper/project on or before April 27. The second paper (5-8 typewritten pages) should be written in English and should be a comparative analysis of a reading or film in the target language and a reading or film from one of the other cultures. The individual instructor will specify due dates for both papers.
**Final Group Presentation:**
During the last class period, each language group will give a presentation. This assignment is designed to summarize what the group believes are the most important issues, questions, problems and insights raised by the class. All language groups will convene Tuesday of the 15th week to finalize their presentation which can be as formal or informal as the group desires, but each individual should participate. Please note that, because this report is worth 10% of the course grade, attendance for the planning session and this final class is mandatory.

**Evaluation:**

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<td>Writing assignments</td>
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<td>Final group presentation</td>
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