Michigan Technological University
HU 3251: Great Works of World Literature
German Prose Fiction
(CRN # 51455; Section R01)
Summer 2005, Track A
Mo., Tu., We., Th., 11:05 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 11:30
(other times by appointment)

Syllabus

Required Books and Readings:
Boccaccio: Decamerone; excerpts; see
http://www.stg.brown.edu/projects/decameron/engDecShowText.php?myID=noV0101&expand=day01
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
Günter Grass, Crabwalk (Harcourt, 2002; ISBN: 0151007640; German original:
Im Krebsgang, Steidel, 2002);

Prerequisite: UN 1002 or UN 1003

Course Description:
This course will be focusing on German prose fiction. Except for two novels, we
will read "long short stories," i.e., the "Novellen" or (English) novellas. The first novel is
Goethe's epistolary (i.e., written in the form of fictional letters) novel, The Sorrows of
Young Werther, and our final reading is Günter Grass' short novel, Crabwalk.

As in 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, Goethe’s 
*Werther*, and Grass’ *Crabwalk* 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 base 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, 9 May
Introduction to HU3251

Tuesday, 10 May
Report: Boccaccio's life
Boccaccio, Decameron, Proem, Introduction, Novel I
a) http://dev.stg.brown.edu:1977/decameron/
engDecShowText.jsp?myID=proem&expand=
b) http://dev.stg.brown.edu:1977/decameron/
engDecShowText.jsp?myID=day01&expand=day01
Mann, "Tonio Kröger," pp. 1-15 (chapters 1-2)

Wednesday, 11 May
Report; Thomas Mann's Life A (Childhood until 1905)
Boccaccio, Decameron, Day 10 and Epilogue
Mann, Tonio Kröger, pp. 1-15 (chapters 1-2)
Beginning of film, Tonio Kröger

Thursday, 12 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, 16 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, 17 May
Report: Goethe's Life and Works
"Tonio Kröger, text and film, final discussion
Introduction to Goethe's Novella

Wednesday, 18 May
Report: Kleist's Life and Works
Discussion of Goethe's Novella
First Discussion of Kleist's Earthquake in Chile

Thursday, 19 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 Monday (23 May):
1. Mann's novella, Tonio Kröger
2. Goethe's Novella or
   Kleist's Earthquake in Chile