Michigan Technological University

HU 3251: Great Works of World Literature
German Prose Fiction
Summer 2007, Track A (CRN # 51335)

Mo., Tu., We., Th., 9:35 to 10:50 a.m., Fisher Hall, Room 127

Professor: Dr. Dieter Wolfgang Adolphs
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E-Mail: dadolph@mtu.edu; greatworks-l@mtu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
(Other times by appointment)

Syllabus

Required Books and Readings:
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
ISBN 1852427507

Prerequisite: UN 1002 or UN 1003

Course Description:
This course will be focusing on German prose fiction. In addition to 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 (1774 and 1787); the second novel is The
Piano Teacher (1983) by the Austrian feminist playwright and novelist (2004
Nobel Laureate), Elfriede Jelinek. Our final reading is Günter Grass' (1999 Nobel
Laureate) novella, Crabwalk (2002). We will also read a number of novellas
written by Thomas Mann (1929 Nobel Laureate), one of the most important
novelists of the 20th century.

As in one of Goethe's own short stories, 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 other novellas we will read and discuss this term were written by prominent
Austrian and German artists, including the Nobel Laureates Heyse and
Hauptmann, and expose us to 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, Jelinek's Piano Teacher, and Grass' Crab walk 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 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) sgroup presentations (or skits: 5 points)
g) final paper (4 to 6 pages; 20 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>D</td>
<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.

Attendance
Attendance is required. Students who miss more than two classes without university-approved excuses will lower their final grade by half a grade; those who miss more than three will lower their grade by a full grade. There will be no passing grade for students who more than 30% of classes without university-approved excuses. Excessive tardiness will also result in a grade reduction.

Cell Phone Free Environment
This class room is a "cell phone free environment" from 9:35 to 10:50 p.m. Students who use their cell phones during class will lower their final grade by half a grade.

Academic Integrity
MTU's Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as "knowingly copying another's work and calling it one's own or not giving proper credit or citation." The penalties for plagiarism or other forms of cheating range from receiving a failure grade on work in question to expulsion from the university. Students who have any questions about the issue, or who have questions about whether they have cited their sources properly, should consult the instructor or a coach in the Writing Center.

MTU's Policy on Discrimination and Harassment
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).

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, 14 May  
Introduction to HU3251
Video on Goethe's life in Weimar
Beginning of film, Lotte in Weimar

Tuesday, 15 May  
Goethe's Novella (Goethe, pp. 169-201)
Report: Goethe's definition of the novella
Film (further): Lotte in Weimar

Wednesday, 16 May  
Report: The Young Goethe (birth until 1774)
Report: Heyse, Life and Works
Werther, pp. 3-35
Heyse (Realism), pp. 11-28
Film (further): Lotte in Weimar

Thursday, 17 May  
Report: Heyse's "theory" of the novella
Report: Ebner-Eschenbach, Life and Works
Werther, pp. 35-70
Ebner-Eschenbach (Realism, pp. 1-10)
Film (further): Lotte in Weimar