Syllabus
Spring 2011

HU 3251: Great Works of World Literature

20th Century German Lit: From Turn of the Century to Reunification

Time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:05 ~ 12:55
Room: Fisher 231
Professor: Karin B. Schlenker
Office: Walker Arts and Humanities Center, Room 336
Telephone: 487-3242
E-Mail: kbschlen@mtu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday, 11:00 ~ 12:00, Other Times by Appointment

Required Books:
Mann, Thomas, Death in Venice and Seven Other Stories (ISBN 0-679-72206-8) Vintage International
Wolf, Christa, One Day a Year (ISBN 1-933372-22-2) Europa Editions

Poetry: Works by various poets will be available on Blackboard.

Films (Viewed outside of Class)
The 3-Penny Opera (1931)
Torio Kröger (1964)
The Reader (2008)
Videos (Viewed during Class)
Various Kafka Youtube Videos
Brecht on Stage (youtube)
The Wall: A World Divided

Art: Examples of Dada Art

Misc. Required Reading on Blackboard:
Selections from: Images from the Holocaust: A Literature Anthology
Various articles from journals and online

Prerequisite: UN 1002 or UN 1003

Course Description:

The 20th Century was a turbulent time in German history, and one in which Germany saw many changes. Using the written world, as well as film and even art, we will study Franz Kafka and the Expressionists, literature of the Weimar Republic (Bertolt Brecht and Thomas Mann), various Holocaust literature and World War II as well as Literature of post World War II and the divided Germany. We will end with the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The course will focus on literature in a historical context. All the writers we will study, with perhaps the exception of Franz Kafka, will be viewed through the period of history in Germany at the time they were writing. An interesting question will be if even Kafka’s writing could be read in a “political” context. Bernhard Schlink’s, The Reader, although a recent novel, encompasses Germany’s Nazi past, how Germany dealt with it post-war and poses some intriguing questions about humanity. Christa Wolf’s work gives one insight from an East German’s point of view.

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. Please note that there will be three films shown outside of class. There will be a designated time and day for these films, but if you can’t make it at that time, they will be available in the HDMZ for viewing during certain days.
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.

Grade:

- Film Viewings and Essays: 20%
- Homework/Quizzes: 30%
- Group work (discussion questions and presentations): 15%
- Abstract for final paper: 5%
- Five-page final paper: 20%
- Participation (2 absences allowed): 10%

Attendance

Attendance is required. Students are allowed two absences. After that, 5 points will be deducted from the participation grade for each time a student is absent.

Cell Phone and Lap Top Free Environment

This class room is a “cell phone free and lap top free environment” from 12:05 to 12:55 p.m. Students who use their cell phones and lap tops 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

Michigan Tech complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office, at 487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head or the Affirmative Action Office, at 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.