Michigan Technological University
HU 3251: Great Works of World Literature
German Prose Fiction
Summer 2011, Track II (CRN # 51170; online)

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Syllabus

Required Books:
- Thomas Mann, Death in Venice, Tonio Kröger, and Other Writings, ed. Frederick Lubich (New York: Continuum, 1999; ISBN 0826409717);

Further Required Readings:
- Goethe, Novella (1826; PDF file; German original online: http://gutenberg.spiegel.de/?id=5&xid=890&kapitel=1#gb_found)
- Kleist: The Earthquake in Chile (1807; PDF file); German original online: http://www.gutenberg.org/etextl6645

Films (full length; in English or with English subtitles; available through Netflix):
- Werther (opera by Massenet; performance of 1986), director: Petr Weigl
- The Earthquake in Chili (1974), director: Helma Sanders-Brahms
- Death in Venice (1971), director: Luchino Visconti
- Voyager (1999), director: Volker Schlöndorff

Prerequisite: UN 1002 or UN 1003

Course Description:
This course will expose you to famous works by German speaking authors. While all of the artistic texts assigned belong to the genre of "prose fiction," only two of them are considered to be novels. In addition to these two short novels, we will read and discuss short stories, "Erzählungen" and novellas. As used for the title of our first assignment, Goethe's "Novelle," the term novella refers to a special type of "long short story" that originated in Italy and was further cultivated as a particular artistic form throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth century in Germany. The novellas we will read and
discuss this term were written by prominent Austrian, German and Swiss authors, including the Nobel Laureates Heyse, Hauptmann, and Thomas Mann, and are exponents of various major artistic currents: "Storm and Stress," German Classicism, Romanticism, Realism, Naturalism, and Symbolism. The novel The Sorrows of Young Werther, is a major work of world literature by the most famous German writer, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832). The last work, Homo Faber by Max Frisch, is a major work of contemporary literature.

During the entire term we will aim to do both: view the various novels, stories and novellas 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 online group discussions (one group for students of German, the other for students without knowledge of German).

We will base our evaluations on close reading of the assigned texts as well as short student reports on scholarly works on the texts we are reading. We also will investigate artistic adaptations of our readings in a number of movies (available through Netflix).

Course Requirements:
- a) Daily reading assignments or film viewings
- b) weekly reading responses ("log sheets," 35 points)
- c) weekly small group discussions (25 points)
- d) five quizzes (25 points)
- d) one written or online report (15 points)

Grading Scale:


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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A/B</td>
<td>87-91.9%</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>82-86.9%</td>
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<td>B/C</td>
<td>77-81.9%</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>72-76.9%</td>
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<td>C/D</td>
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<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.

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 the 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._

**Tentative Schedule**

**Week 1**

**Monday, 27 June**
- Introduction to HU3251 (Lecture 1)
- Goethe and His Time: Goethe’s “Novella” (Lecture 2)

**Tuesday, 28 June**
- Reading assignment: Goethe's _Novella_ (handout, pp. 169-201)

**Wednesday, 29 June**
- Goethe's _Werther_, Book One (1; Lecture 3)
- “Introduction,” _Werther_, pp. v –xiii
- Reading assignment: _Werther_, p. 3 and pp. 7-30 (May 4, 1771-June 19)

**Thursday, 30 June**
- Reading assignment: _Werther_, pp. 31-67 (June 21-September 10)
- Report: Interpretations of Goethe’s _Novella_
- Reading Group One: Discussion of “Novella”
- Reading Group Two: Discussion of _Werther_, pp. 3-67
- Reading response (log sheet 1) due at noon on Tuesday (5 July):
  1. Goethe's _Novella_
  2. _Werther_, Book One (pp. 3-67)

**Week 2**

**Tuesday, 5 July**
- “Book Two” of _Werther_ (Lecture 4)
- Reading assignment: _Werther_, pp. 71-110

**Wednesday, 6 July**
- “The Editor to the Reader” in _Werther_ (Lecture 5)
- Reading assignment: _Werther_, pp. 113-147

**Thursday, 7 July**
- How Composers used Goethe’s works (Lecture 6)
- Report: Interpretations of _Werther_
- Reading Group One: Discuss questions 1-5 (pp. 151-52)
- Reading Group Two: Discuss questions 5-9 (p. 152)
- Viewing: Massenet's opera, _Werther_ (order ahead of time from Netflix)
- Reading/viewing report (log sheet 2) due at noon on Monday (11 July)
  1. Goethe's _Werther_
  2. Massenet's _Werther_

**Quiz 1** (due by Monday, 11 July)

**Week 3**

**Monday, 11 July**
- Heinrich von Kleist and “The Earthquake in Chili” (Lecture 7)
- Reading assignment: “The Earthquake in Chili” (PDF file)
Tuesday, 12 July The film, *Earthquake in Chili* (Lecture 8) Viewing of the film, *Earthquake in Chili* (order well ahead of time from Netflix)

Wednesday, 13 July Paul Heyse, his “theory” of the novella, and “L’Arrabiata” (Lecture 9) Reading assignment: *L’Arrabiata* Report: Interpretations of Heyse’s *L’Arrabiata*

1. “The Earthquake in Chili”
2. “L’Arrabiata”
3. “Krambambuli”

Quiz 2 (due by Monday, 18 July)

Week 4


Wednesday, 20 July Gerhart Hauptmann and “Flagman Thiel” (Lecture 12) Reading assignment: “Flagman Thiel” Report: Interpretations of “Flagman Thiel”

Thursday, 21 July Thomas Mann’s early life and works (Lecture 13) Reading assignment: “Tonio Kroeger,” pp. 1-29 Reading Group One: Discussion of “The White Horse Rider” Reading Group Two: Discussion of “Flagman Thiel” Reading response (log sheet 4) due on noon on Monday (25 July):
1. “The White Horse Rider”
2. “Flagman Thiel”

Quiz 3 (due on Monday, 25 July)

Week 5

Monday, 25 July Final thoughts on “Tonio Kroeger” (Lecture 14)
Tuesday, 26 July
"Death and Venice" (Lecture 15)
Reading assignment, "Death in Venice," pp. 95-130
Report: Interpretations of "Death in Venice"

Wednesday, 27 July
Final thoughts on "Death in Venice" (Lecture 16)
Reading assignment, "Death in Venice," pp. 130-161

Thursday, 28 July
Film: Death in Venice (order ahead of time from Netflix)
Report: Interpretations of the film, "Death in Venice"
Reading Group One: Discussion of "Tonio Kroeger"
Reading Group Two: Discussion of the novella, "Death in Venice"

"Reading response (log sheet 5) due at noon on Monday (1 August):
1. "Tonio Kroeger"
2. "Death in Venice"
3. "Mario and the Magician"

Quiz 4 (due on Monday, 1 August)

Week 6

Monday, 1 August
Mann's "Mario and the Magician" (Lecture 17)
Reading assignment: "Mario and the Magician," pp. 186-205
Report: Interpretations of Mario and the Magician

Tuesday, 2 August
Reading assignment: "Mario and the Magician," pp. 206-225

Wednesday, 3 August
Max Frisch and Homo Faber (Lecture 18)
Reading assignment: Homo Faber, pp. 1-45
Reading Group One: Discussion of the film, "Death in Venice"
Reading Group Two: Discussion of "Mario and the Magician"

Thursday, 4 August
Reading assignment: Homo Faber, pp. 45-89
Quiz 4 (due on Monday, 8 August)

Week 7

Monday, 8 August
The film Voyager (Lecture 18)
Reading assignment: Homo Faber, pp. 90-134

Tuesday, 9 August
Reading assignment: Homo Faber, pp. 134-166
Film: Voyager (order ahead of time from Netflix)
Report: Interpretations of Voyager

Reading response 5 due on Wednesday
1. *Homo Faber*, First Station
2. *Voyager*

*Wednesday, 10 Aug.* Reading assignment: finish *Homo Faber*
Report: Interpretation of *Homo Faber*

*Thursday, 11 August* Final Thoughts (Lecture 19)
Discussion Group One: discussion of *Homo Faber*
Discussion Group Two: discussion of *Voyager*

Quiz 5 (due tomorrow, Friday, 12 August)

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Goethe’s *Werther* online
German: [http://gutenberg.spiegel.de/?id=5&xid=3793&kapitel=1#gb_found](http://gutenberg.spiegel.de/?id=5&xid=3793&kapitel=1#gb_found)
English: [http://www.bartleby.com/315/1/11.html](http://www.bartleby.com/315/1/11.html)
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Audio (German): [http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/19794](http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/19794)