HU3504 Syllabus Summer 2015

Instructor Information

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Office Hours: via Canvas

Course Identification

Course Number: HU3504-R02, CRN
Course Name: Studies in the German Novel
Course Location: Online (Canvas and email)
Class Times: Online
Prerequisites: UN 1002 or UN 1003

Course Description/Overview

HU3504 will expose you to famous novels (and one short story) by German speaking authors. During the entire term we will aim to do both: view the various novels 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.

We will base our evaluations on close reading of the assigned texts. We also will investigate artistic adaptations of our readings in a number of movies (available through Netflix and other providers).
Course Learning Objectives

The course will address cultural issues of particular importance today, including national identity, language, immigration, post-colonialism and globalization. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the genres of the German novella and novel, their artistic qualities and techniques, and their cultural contexts such as geography and history of Central Europe, and relate historical events to attitudes and conditions today;
- Describe a variety of literary, cinematic, and artistic achievements in the German-speaking cultures, and place them within a larger cultural context;
- Identify and discuss a number of important contemporary issues in Central and Northern Europe societies, such as globalization, immigration, social inequalities, and terrorism;
- Discuss the basic components of the following cultural aspects of German and certain German-speaking societies: education, family, food, health care, holidays, political parties, public spaces, urban organization.

Course Resources

Course Website

- Canvas [http://www.courses.mtu.edu](http://www.courses.mtu.edu)

Required Course Texts


Films:

- *Young Goethe in Love* (2010), ASIN:B0070YPWAW
- *Siddhartha*, ASIN:B005BE79YA
- *Voyager* (1999), director: Volker Schlöndorff (ASIN:6304390238)
- *The Trojan Women* (ASIN:B0002T2Q6U)
- PEN WORLD CONGRESS - Moscow 2,000 (ASIN:B000ENYX9C)

**Course Fees**

Distance Learning Technology Fee $114.00

**Grading Scheme**

**Grading System**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade Points/credit</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% &amp; above</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>87% – 92%</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82% – 86%</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>76% – 81%</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>Above average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70% – 75%</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD</td>
<td>65% – 69%</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>Below average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60% - 64%</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Inferior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% and below</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Incomplete; given only when a student is unable to complete a segment of the course because of circumstances beyond the student’s control.

Conditional, with no grade points per credit; given only when the student is at fault in failing to complete a minor segment of a course, but in the judgment of the instructor does not need to repeat the course. It must be made up by the close of the next semester or the grade becomes a failure (F). A (X) grade is computed into the grade point average as a (F) grade.

**Course Requirements**

Grades will be based on the following:
• daily reading assignments or film viewings
• weekly small group discussions (six times, 20 points each) 120 points
• term paper 80 points

Late Assignments

Late assignments: no more than 50% of points.

Course Policies

Weekly Participation

Weekly participation is required. Students who miss more than one small group discussion without university-approved excuses will lower their final grade by half a grade (in addition to the points missed for late assignments); those who miss more than two discussions will lower their grade by a full grade; there will be no passing grade for students who miss more than three of the weekly small group discussions without university-approved excuses.

Collaboration/Plagiarism Rules

All sources used for assignments, including small group discussions, should be identified. This includes sources from the internet and from other electronic devices. Information exchanges on these devices are also prohibited and violate the Academic Integrity Code of Michigan Tech.

University Policies

Student work products (exams, essays, projects, etc.) may be used for purposes of university, program, or course assessment. All work used for assessment purposes will not include any individual student identification.

Michigan Tech has standard policies on academic misconduct and complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For more information about reasonable accommodation for or equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office, at (906) 487-2212 or go to http://www.mtu.edu/provost/faculty-resources/syllabus-policies/
Tentative Course Schedule

Week 1

Monday, 29 June  Introduction to HU3251 (see email announcements)

The German Novella and Goethe’s “Novella”, Canvas lectures:
file: Goethe, documents GoetheNovella1 and GoetheNovella2

Tuesday, 30 June  Reading assignment: Goethe’s Novella (web links):

   English translation, http://www.has.vcu.edu/for/goethe/novelle_e.html

   German original (optional for German Minor students),
   http://gutenberg.spiegel.de/buch/3639/1

Wednesday, 1 July  Goethe’s Werther, Book One

   Lectures on Goethe’s Werther (lecture: Werther1)
   "Introduction,” Werther, pp. v –xiii
   Reading assignment: Werther, p. 3 and pp. 7-30 (May 4, 1771-June 19)

Thursday, 2 July  Goethe’s Werther, Book One

   Lectures on Goethe’s Werther (lectures: Werther2, Werther3
   Werther, pp. 31-67 (June 21-September 10)
   Reading Groups One and Two: Discussion of “Novella” (3 questions)
Reading Groups Three and Four: Discussion of “Novella” (3 questions)

Group discussions #1 due on Monday (July 6) at noon

**Week 2**

*Monday, 6 July*  
Group discussions #1, due at noon  
*Werther*, pp. 71-105  
Lectures on "Werther"

*Tuesday, 7 July*  
*Werther*, pp. 105-136  
Lectures on "Werther"

*Wednesday, 8 July*  
*Werther*, pp. 136-67  
Lectures on "Werther"

*Thursday, 9 July*  
Film: *Young Goethe in Love*  
(http://www.imdb.com/video/hulu/vi1124510233?ref_=tt_pv_vi_1) *(Links to an external site.)*

Group discussions #2 due on Tuesday (July 13) at noon
**Week 3**

*Tuesday, 13 July*  
Group discussions #2 due at noon  
Hesse: *Siddhartha*, Part One, pp. 3-42  
*First lecture of "Hesse" folder*

*Wednesday, 14 July*  
Hesse: *Siddhartha*, Part Two, pp. 45-100  
Second lecture of "Hesse" folder

*Thursday, 15 July*  
Hesse: *Siddhartha*, Part Two, pp. 101-152  
Film: *Siddhartha*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzxr8FfDG8o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzxr8FfDG8o)

**Week 4**

*Monday, 20 July*  
Group discussions #3 due at noon

*Tuesday, 21 July*  
View lectures on Thomas Mann and first lecture on *Felix Krull*  
Read *Confessions of Felix Krull*, pp. 3-54

*Wednesday, 22 July*  
View remaining lectures on *Felix Krull*  
Read Thomas Mann: *Felix Krull*, Book Two, Chapters I-V, pp 57-105  
and start reading  
Book Three, Chapters V-VII, pp. 253-308
Thursday, 23 July

Finish reading Mann: *Felix Krull*, Book Three, Chapters V-VII

pp. 253-308 and

Read Mann: Felix Krull, Book III, Chapters VII-XI, pp. 309-384

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**Week 5**

*Monday, 27 July*  
Group discussions #4 due at noon

Max Frisch: *Homo Faber*

*Tuesday, 28 July*  
Max Frisch: *Homo Faber*

*Wednesday, 29 July*  
*Homo Faber*

Film: *Voyager* [http://www.hulu.com/watch/262815](http://www.hulu.com/watch/262815)

*Thursday, 30 July*  
*Homo Faber*, Second Station

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**Week 6**

*Monday, 3 August*  
Group discussion #5 due at noon

Watch my Christa Wolf and "Cassandra" lectures

Christa Wolf, *Cassandra, beginning*

Watch the films *Troy* and *The Women of Troy*

*Tuesday, 4 August*  
read Cassandra, first half

*Wednesday, 5 August*  
*Cassandra*, continue reading

*Thursday, 6 August*  
Read conclusion of *Cassandra*
Read beginning of Guenther Grass, *Crabwalk*

**Week 7**

*Monday, 10 August*  
read Wikipedi entries on Grass and watch Grass lecture

continue reading *Crabwalk*

*Tuesday, 11 August*  
watch/listen lecture on *Crabwalk* and on Grass’s PEN speech

continue reading *Crabwalk*

*Wednesday, 12 August*  
Final Paper due at 11:59 pm

watch lecture on *Tin Drum*

continue reading *Crabwalk*

*Thursday, 13 August*  
read conclusion of *Crabwalk*

Group Discussion #6 due on Sunday at 11:59 am