Instructor: Dr. Katya Skow
Office: CA 223D
Office Hours: 11:00-12:00 MWF; 2:15-3:00 T Th; by appt.
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Short Texts in Modern German Literature: Poetry, Novellas, Stories

Objectives: This class explores themes and forms in modern German literature. Students examine and discuss representative texts of the twentieth century. We will discuss the texts within their own context and within their historical context. Students will learn how to listen to, take notes on, and process short introductory lectures in German on topics important to the material we are reading. Students will practice close and critical reading of the texts, discuss them in class in German, and analyze and interpret them based on their reading and information gathered from class discussion and lecture. Students practice discussing topics in writing in German using primary source materials. Exams measure students’ acquisition of the material, ability to synthesize critically the information, and the extent to which they can express this in written German.

Process: We will prepare and discuss texts each class. Most of the texts will be emailed to you as attachments which you will need to print out. A large part of your grade will reflect the extent of your preparation. Class will be a mixture of discussion, lecture, and student presentation. In addition to reading, students are expected to prepare (occasional) short presentations, participate in discussions, ask pertinent questions, and take notes, which I will check periodically. As far as written work goes, I require submission of three short (3 pages each) primary source papers in German (topics to be assigned), completion of text-related homework assignments, and both midterm and final examinations.

Requirements:

40% 3 three-page primary source papers in German, each on a different text and topic (1st 10%, 2nd and 3rd 15% each)
15% Participation (active discussion)—daily grades
3 excellent, you were an active participant in discussion, you asked pertinent questions, you were prepared
2 fair/good, you contributed to some extent in discussions, but you were not as well-prepared as you could have been
1 needs work, you are awake and seem to be following the discussion, but make no effort to contribute to discussion
0 failure, you are either asleep, not paying attention, or have clearly not prepared the assignment

15% Preparation (completion of any text-related homework assignments, the occasional content quiz...)
13% Mid-term Examination
17% Final Examination

Dates:
1st paper 9 October
Mid-term 21 October
2nd paper 6 November
3rd paper 4 December
Final 18 December (1-4 pm)
Texts (most of these are quite short):
Thomas Mann, Tristan (1913)

Georg Heym, „Das Schiff“ (1913)


Bert Brecht „Die Morität von Mackie Messer“ (1928)

Kurt Tucholsky, „Das Ideal“ (1928)


Paul Celan „Todesfüge“ (1945)

Wolfgang Borchert, „Nachts schlafen die Ratten doch,“ (1947) „das Brot“ (1946), „Die Küchenuhr“ (1947)

Luise Rinser „die rote Katze“ (1956)

Heinrich Böll, „Der Bahnhof von Zimpern“ (1959)

Wolfgang Wondratschek, „Die Mittagspause“ (1969)

Wolf Biermann, „Das Märchen vom kleinen Herrn Moritz, der eine Glatze Kriegt“ (1972)


Böll, „Du fährst zu oft nach Heidelberg“ (1977)

Elisabeth Alexander „Familie in Kürze“ (1983)
