

GERM 412: Special Topic 2: Studies in German Literature and Culture

School of Asian & European Languages & Cultures

Trimester 1 + 2/3 2008

30 points

STAFF

Dr Monica Tempian (Course Co-ordinator)

vZ 614

463 5976

GERM 412 is a full-year course of either one hour per week or two hours per fortnight, involving lectures and seminar discussions. The course is taught in German and English.

COURSE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary aim of GERM 412 is to familiarize students with a thematic approach in the examination of German literature, film and culture. Students will study in depth and detail a range of works by significant German cultural figures who contributed to the development of the discourse on attitudes and mentalities from the eleventh to the twentieth century. While the analysis of attitudes, mentalities and cultural identities constitutes a major part of the course, it is accompanied by discussions of issues of economic and social structure as well. We shall analyze literary texts and films referring to their content and form and we shall also discuss their cultural, philosophical and/or socio-political contexts. Discussion topics will thus include the search for the sense of life, courtly love, religious experience and medieval imagination, the romantic hero, labor, leisure and festivity, gender relationship at the turn of the century, Nietzsche's philosophy and modern aestheticism, multiculturalism in contemporary Germany.

In addition, the course aims at developing students' ability to read, analyze and compare German texts, to comprehend the medium of film, to use bibliographies and evaluate secondary literature, and to formulate their own ideas about the works in the form of class seminars, two essays and examination answers.

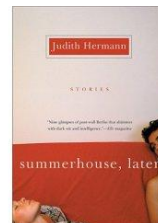
Qualities especially valued at Honours level are those fundamental to all scholarly disciplines: accuracy of knowledge, independence of judgement, lucidity of thought and precision of statement.

CLASS TIMES AND ROOMS

The course is taught by Dr Monica Tempian in her office. Times for the classes will be arranged at the first meeting for students of the course on Wednesday, 27 February at 10.00 a.m. in vZ 609. Dr Tempian is happy to provide additional information about the course at any time, or to discuss students' problems with them.

SET TEXTS

- Walther von der Vogelweide, *Minnelyrik* (lecturer's copies)
- Hildegard von Bingen, *Des einfältigen Menschen Buch von den göttlichen Werken*, in: *Scivias – Wisse die Wege* (Insel Taschenbuch Vlg.).
- J.W. von Goethe, *Die Leiden des jungen Werthers* (Reclam Vlg.).
- A.W. Schlegel, *Lucinde* (lecturer's excerpts)
- Arthur Schnitzler, *Die Traumnovelle* (Albatros Vlg.).
- Thomas Mann, *Der Tod in Venedig* (Fischer Vlg.).
- Hermann Hesse, *Narziß und Goldmund* (Suhrkamp Vlg.).
- Wladimir Kaminer, *Mein deutsches Dschungelbuch* (Manhattan Vlg.).
- Judith Hermann, *Sommerhaus, später* (Fischer Vlg.).



FILMS

<i>Hildegard von Bingen</i>	BBC documentary
<i>Eyes Wide Shut</i>	Director: Stanley Kubrick
<i>Death in Venice</i>	Director: Luchino Visconti
<i>Gegen die Wand</i>	Director: Fatih Akin



COURSE PROGRAMME

Students are expected to study in depth all of the text excerpts provided and 2 films prescribed for the course. The works will be studied in chronological order of their date of completion.

Trimester 1:

Minnelyrik (etwa 1165-1230)

Des einfältigen Menschen Buch von den göttlichen Werken. (1151)

Hildegard von Bingen documentary

Lucinde (1799)

Die Leiden des jungen Werthers. (1824)

Die Traumnovelle. (1925)

Eyes Wide Shut

MID-TRIMESTER BREAK (10 – 23 April 2006)

MID-YEAR STUDY and EXAM PERIOD (5 June – 9 July)

Trimester 2:

Thomas Mann, *Der Tod in Venedig*. (1912)

Death in Venice

Hermann Hesse, *Narziß und Goldmund*. (1930)

Judith Hermann, *Sommerhaus, später*. (1998)

Wladimir Kaminer, *Mein deutsches Dschungelbuch*. (2003)
Gegen die Wand

TEACHING METHOD

There will be introductory lectures on various theoretical topics as well as on the works studied, but all other classes will take the form of seminar discussions in which students will be expected to give class papers. Students should regard such classes **not** as “teaching sessions” in which the teacher plays an active and the students a passive role, **but** as collaborative meetings to which all contribute.

ESTIMATED WORKLOAD

Individual workloads are difficult to assess, since (a) students’ reading speeds vary; (b) in order to arrive at a satisfactory understanding of a text or film or to prepare a class paper, one student may want to read more secondary literature than another; (c) the time spent reading the texts or watching a film, while considerable, is not time spent working in the sense that reading secondary literature or writing an essay constitutes work. However, the University considers that students doing a 4-paper BA(Hons) programme should expect to work for 12 hours weekly for each full-year paper. This includes the class contact hours.

ASSESSMENT

The assessment programme is designed to evaluate the extent of the student’s understanding of the texts and films studied, and the depth and sensitivity of the student’s response to those texts and films as shown in essays and in examination answers. The essays also provide a means of assessing the student’s ability to research and think on a topic, organise thoughts and insights, and express them in a lucid, well-documented way. While an essay at Honours level should above all demonstrate the student’s own independent understanding of the subject being treated, it should also draw on relevant secondary literature, and if necessary take issue with it.

Two essays of about 2000 words in length (30% each)	60%
Final three-hour examination	40%

(No texts are permitted in the exam room.)

Both the essays and the final examination are subject to External Assessment by the German Department of another New Zealand university. Note that at Honours level the arithmetical computation of marks is less important than the teachers’ and examiners’ overall assessment of the student’s abilities and performance. See the statement to this effect on p. 54-55 of the European Languages and European Studies Prospectus, 2008.

THE ESSAYS

The essays for GERM 412 are due on Monday, 19 May and Monday, 29 September. Topics will be given out at least four weeks prior to the deadline, and the essays may be written in either English or German, as the student prefers. When preparing their essays, students should observe the guidelines given in the German Section’s *Notes on the Presentation of Essays*.

Essays *must* be handed in on time to the lecturer concerned. Students prevented by uncontrollable circumstances from completing an essay on time must, *in advance of the deadline*, formally request an extension of time from the lecturer. In cases of illness, accident or bereavement, this can be done by telephone. Essays submitted late without explanation will have penalty marks deducted at the rate of two marks a day; in the case of extreme lateness, the essay will not be marked.

Essays must include a cover sheet available from the SAELC Reception desk, 6th floor, von Zedlitz Building.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The minimum course requirements which must be satisfied in order to complete the course are: attendance of a minimum of 80% of classes and satisfactory completion of the essays and the examination. Unless notified to the contrary, students may assume that they have been awarded Terms, i.e. have met the mandatory course requirements.

STUDENT PROBLEMS AND CONCERNS - GENERAL ADVICE

We are interested in students' opinions. Please let us know any suggestions for improving the course. Students will find all the staff approachable and should feel able to discuss with them any problems they may have.

GENERAL UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS, POLICIES AND STATUTES

Information about the General University Requirements, Policies and Statutes can be found on Blackboard.

Coordinator for Pacific & Maori students

Dr Richard Millington

Email richard.millington@vuw.ac.nz

Room vZ 613

Telephone 463-5976

Coordinator for students with disabilities

Dr Richard Millington

Room vZ 613

Telephone 463-5976