



Faculty of Arts  
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

**German 317**

The *Nibelungenlied* through the Ages

Winter 2021

Off-site, web-based, synchronous

Tuesday & Thursday 12:30-1:45

COURSE OUTLINE

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME:** Dr. Conny Burian

**OFFICE HOURS:** Office hours will be held every Tuesday from 2:00-2:50 via zoom. The zoom link will be made available through D2L. Additional zoom consultations can be scheduled upon request.

**E-MAIL:** [cburian@ucalgary.ca](mailto:cburian@ucalgary.ca) I normally respond to e-mails within 2 business days.

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** not applicable

**DESCRIPTION** This course will explore the *Nibelungenlied*, a high medieval epic whose unknown poet drew on oral traditions dating back to the fifth century to create a suspenseful and unique text centering on love, intrigue, murder, and revenge. We will discuss selected scholarly approaches to questions of heroism; the representation of women; interweaving of the 'real' and the supernatural; and many more issues that continue to spark lively debate. The course will trace the origins of the story of the Nibelungen, which include historical figures, various local legends, and Old Norse/Icelandic sagas. We will further discuss the significance of the *Nibelungenlied* as a dynamic and highly unusual literary work; examine scholarship concerning the various manuscripts; survey nineteenth- and twentieth-century adaptations; focus on the *Nibelungenlied's* rising significance as the German national epic in the eighteenth and nineteenth century that inspired Richard Wagner's *Ring* cycle; examine the *Nibelungenlied's* use in National Socialist propaganda; and conclude with an assessment of the *Nibelungenlied's* complicated legacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**OBJECTIVES** This course will help students to

- develop reading, analytical, writing, and research skills by giving them the opportunity to engage in debate;
- find relevant sources to support an argument and articulate perspectives in both oral and written form; and
- deepen students' understanding of German medieval and modern history, literature, and art.

**OUTCOMES** Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able – through research, discussion, creative responses, and writing – to engage with questions that have sparked ongoing critical debates surrounding the origins, creation, and reception of the *Nibelungenlied* throughout its 800-year-long history.

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

Whobrey, William (transl.). *The Nibelungenlied with the Klage*. Publisher: Hackett, 2018. ISBN: 9781624666759



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Whobrey's richly annotated translation is available through the University of Calgary bookstore as a paperback OR in eBook format. Visit <https://calgary-store.vitalsource.com/> to purchase immediate access.

All other readings will be made available through D2L.

The following are required for this course:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam/Camera (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Stable internet connection

**RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS**

NA

**COURSE NOTES**

Classes are held as synchronous zoom sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30-1:45. Zoom links will be provided through D2L. Please note that

- A detailed course schedule, including assigned readings, will be made available through D2L.
- All assessments are available through D2L and must be submitted through D2L. Grades and feedback will be available through D2L. Please see assessment descriptions and due dates below.
- Students are expected to attend all classes. Students are permitted to have cell phones or other devices turned on during live lectures. However, in order to not disrupt the class, students are asked to mute themselves when they are not actively participating.
- Students are not permitted to record any zoom sessions. Doing so constitutes academic misconduct and will be dealt with accordingly.
- Research paper proposal and final paper: 10% will be deducted per day for late submissions.
- Students are encouraged to observe proper netiquette and be courteous and respectful at all times.
- Important dates: First class – Tuesday, January 12, 2021; term break – no classes February 16 & 18; last day of classes – Thursday, April 15. For further details concerning the University of Calgary's academic schedule, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>

**ASSESSMENT**

**1. The following contribute to the final grade:**

Participation	15%
Presentation	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Research Assignment:	
Part 1: Proposal	15%
Part 2: Final Paper OR Creative Project	30%



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**Participation:** As already noted, students are expected to attend all classes. Throughout the semester, time will be set aside for live discussion that focuses on the *Nibelungenlied* and the assigned readings. Our detailed schedule, which will be made available through D2L, will contain links to these readings as well as questions to think about in preparation for class. Students will be asked to submit participation-self-assessments (on **Thursday, January 28**; **Thursday, March 4**; and **Tuesday, April 13**) in which they rate their homework & preparation, in-class contributions, and responses to classmates' presentations (see below) according to a rubric that will be provided through D2L. Students' overall participation grades will be based on these three self-assessments and the instructor's observations.

**Presentation:** A list of presentation topics will be provided at the beginning of term. All presentations must be posted in the D2L discussion forum. Students are asked to a) briefly summarize one of the assigned readings by identifying the author's controlling idea, supporting points, and conclusions; and b) provide a brief position statement in which they indicate whether they agree or disagree with the author's argument. Students must support their position by drawing on the text of the *Nibelungenlied* OR another scholarly source; and c) provide 2-3 follow-up questions to engage the class. Presentation topics vary to complement what we are covering in class. The presentation schedule will be flexible, allowing students to find a time that best suits their needs.

**Midterm Exam:** The midterm is an open book exam; use of the text, notes, lecture slides etc. is allowed. Students will be given 75 minutes to complete multiple choice and short answer questions concerning the text of the *Nibelungenlied*, assigned readings, lectures, and topics discussed in class. The midterm will be available to start anytime within a 24-hour period beginning at **12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, February 9, and ending at 12:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 10.**

**Research Proposal:** due on **Tuesday, March 9**. Students will be given a variety of possible essay topics concerning, for example, key concepts in the *Nibelungenlied*; tensions between heroic and chivalric ethos; the characterization of Kriemhild; Brunhild's transformation and disappearance; the "Otherworld;" and the *Nibelungenlied*'s reception. Students will be required to submit a draft containing the essay's title, a tentative thesis statement, topic sentences, and 3 secondary sources that will inform the final paper (see below). Alternatively, students may choose to complete a research-informed creative project, such as writing an additional scene that bridges some of the gaps or resolves contradictions in the *NL* that have baffled audiences for centuries: Why, for instance, does Siegfried give Kriemhild Brunhild's ring and belt? How is it possible that Etzel has no idea what Kriemhild is up to? How did young Siegfried, who apparently grew up sheltered and was not allowed to ride out alone, manage to slay a dragon and complete many other astonishing feats? Who is Hagen really – the bad guy or a dark hero? Students will be asked to explain their topic choice, describe their approach, and provide a references list with 3 secondary sources. Students are expected to use MLA or APA Style.

**Final Paper OR Research-Informed Creative Project:**

The research proposals will be returned to students no later than Thursday, March 18, with feedback. Based on the instructor's suggestions, students are expected to develop their essays by drawing on and properly acknowledging sources to support their arguments. Note that the creative project requires a brief write-up that includes drawing on sources, too. The final paper/project is due on **Thursday, April 15.**

**2. Other Class Activities that are not graded:**

Several activities are meant to help you navigate the course site and materials, provide opportunity to engage with the content and your classmates, and stay healthy and focused! Your wellness is important. Listed below are several components of the course that are not graded:

- 1) The Intro post in the discussion forum. This is a great opportunity to introduce yourself to your classmates and your instructor and to get to know others taking the course. What are you majoring in? Why are you taking this class? What is your biggest worry as you begin the winter term? You may respond to these and other questions and include a photo as well if you like. We are remote but connected.



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- 2) The scavenger hunt quiz. The quiz will be available during weeks 1 & 2. It includes questions concerning the course outline, due dates, assessments, etc.
- 3) The wellness corner: In this section of the discussion forum, I will post a few wellness tips & resources concerning yoga etc. Feel free to share your own advice on wellness here.

**GRADING SCALE**

A+ = 100-97%	A = 96-91%	A - = 90-86%
B+ = 85-81%	B = 80-76%	B- = 75-71%
C+ = 70-67%	C = 66-62%	C- = 61-58%
D+ = 57-54%	D = 53-50%	F = 49% and below

**INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT**

All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

**Academic misconduct**

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:
  - a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
  - b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
  - c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
  - d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**



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Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT**

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>.)

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

**FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES**

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: [arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate).

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).

**INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES**



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Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

**SUPPORT AND RESOURCES**

Links to information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.