



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

GERM 359
Topics in German Texts in Translation
(Literature Across Borders)
Winter 2021
MWF 13-13.50 WEB-BASED

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Bernadette Raedler

OFFICE HOURS: via email; Zoom meetings may be requested

E-MAIL: braedler@ucalgary.ca (Students may expect a response within 48 hours during weekdays)

DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to contemporary German literature (21st century) that has been translated into English and other languages. All lectures, discussions and readings are in English. Which factors come into play when a German, Austrian or Swiss work is translated? How do multicultural authors decide in which language to write? Do images travel more easily across borders than texts? Is there such a thing as a World Literature? We will examine literary strategies that emphasize the relevance of a work for different cultural contexts. They may be temporal (authors tapping into different historical periods or referencing earlier German-language authors); geographical (plots at various locations, authors from more than one cultural background); linguistic (form and literary style; authors using more than one language in their works or writing in an acquired language; authors being involved in the translation of their originals).

OBJECTIVES

This course provides an overview of contemporary German literature. Students will identify important topics in German-language works, will improve their abilities to analyze literary narratives, and will become familiar with translation concepts.

OUTCOMES

Students will know important contemporary German, Austrian and Swiss authors. Students will have a toolbox at their disposal which helps them to analyze and assess literary narratives. Students will have gained an understanding about the complex tasks that are involved when a literary work is translated.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Erpenbeck, Jenny: *Visitation*. Transl. Susan Bernofsky. New York: New Directions, 2010.

Print Edition

https://www.amazon.ca/Visitation-Jenny-Erpenbeck/dp/1846271894/ref=sr_1_2?crid=2FHNMZWC3211F&dchild=1&keywords=visitation+jenny+erpenbeck&qid=1608575150&srefix=Erpenbeck%2C+Visitat%2Caps%2C217&sr=8-2

Kindle Edition

https://www.amazon.com/Visitation-Directions-Paperbook-Jenny-Erpenbeck-ebook/dp/B004702J86/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1QRK2AROP095X&keywords=visitation+jenny+erpenbeck&qid=1608575245&srefix=Erpenbeck%2C+Visitation%2Caps%2C212&sr=8-1

Visitation is also available as Audiobook.



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Krug, Nora: *Belonging. A German Reckons with History and Home*. New York: Scribner, 2018.
https://www.amazon.ca/Belonging-German-Reckons-History-Home/dp/1476796637/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=

This graphic memoir is available in two different English editions, the second keeping the German title. Students may order either copy and we will discuss the differences in class.

Krug, Nora: *Heimat. A German Family Album*. London, Penguin: 2019.
https://www.amazon.ca/Heimat-A-German-Family-Album/dp/0141980109/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1608575377&sr=8-4

Troyanov, Iliya: *The Collector of Worlds. A Novel of Sir Richard Francis Burton*. New York: Ecco, 2009.
https://www.amazon.ca/Collector-Worlds-Richard-Francis-Burton/dp/0061351938/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1608576068&sr=1-1

Shortlist for Presentations and Final Papers

This list is meant to invite students to browse additional translations that might intrigue them and might be of interest for their presentations and final papers.

Bronsky, Alina: *The Hottest Dishes of the Tartar Cuisine*.
Erpenbeck, Jenny: *Go, Went, Gone*.
Franck, Julia: *Back to Back*.
Franck, Julia: *The Blind Side of the Heart*.
Haas, Wolf: *The Weather Fifteen Years Ago*.
Kehlmann, Daniel: *F*.
Kehlmann, Daniel: *Tyll*.
Menasse, Robert: *The Capital*.
Müller, Herta: *The Hunger Angel*.
Pletzinger, Thomas: *Funeral for a Dog*.
Ruge, Eugen: *In Times of Fading Light*.
Schirach, Ferdinand von: *Guilt*.
Seethaler, Robert: *The Tobacconist*.
Stamm, Peter: *Seven Years*.
Werner, Markus: *On the Edge*.
Wolf, Christa: *The City of Angels or, The Overcoat of Dr. Freud*.
Wulf, Andrea: *The Invention of Nature. Alexander von Humboldt's New World*. (This book is also available as an Illustrated Edition, featuring the expedition to South America. Title: *The Adventures of Alexander von Humboldt*.)
Zeh, Juli: *The Method*.

COURSE NOTES

In order to enable a vivid and interactive classroom experience, this course is taught synchronously via Zoom on the dates listed (MWF 13-13.50). Students are encouraged to keep their videos turned on during class time and to keep their microphones muted unless they intend to speak. Course meetings will not be recorded. All written assignments are to be submitted on the day they are due. Please, submit Word Documents only (Times New Roman, 12 point font, double-spaced), including your full name separated by an underline (Smith_Anna) in the subject line. For each 24 hours an assignment is late, one grade point will be deducted. Please contact your instructor prior to a due date, if accommodation is necessary. Any assignment that is not submitted will be graded at zero points.



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While the course is taught in English, students may read course material in its original German or ask for permission to write their papers in German if their proficiency level allows them to do so. Students are also encouraged to submit their papers to *Interlingua*.

Guidelines for Zoom Meetings

Students need to have reliable access to technology:

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

A camera (built-in or external) is highly recommended.

Class Etiquette

Polite and supportive interaction between participants is expected.

Please, schedule your lunchbreak before or after class.

Zoom attendance is mandatory.

Class Schedule and Assessment

Homework and Participation (20%)

Continued participation in class activities is expected throughout the term in order to receive a good grade. Please, log in to class time prepared (required readings and homework completed; comments and questions available).

Project Proposal (15%)

Due **February 5**, students submit a 250-words project proposal (annotated bibliography excluded) for their final papers. The proposal should include the topic (title), a research question and a hypothesis about the answer (that will later become your thesis). The annotated bibliography should at least consist of 4 titles with additional information about the purpose of the work cited, its strengths and/or weaknesses. Students may expect feedback from the instructor before reading week.

Presentation (15%)

Each student will give a 12-minute presentation on their topic of choice for the final paper. On the day before the presentation a handout should be submitted to the instructor. Presentations will be followed by comments and questions from classmates and the instructor (max. 10 minutes). Presentations will commence **after reading week**.

Quizzes (15%)

3 Quizzes (in-class or homework, worth 5% of the final grade each) will test students' knowledge and understanding of the course content. Quizzes will be announced at least 2 class sessions ahead of time. Please let your instructor know immediately if you cannot take an assessment at the specified class time, so that the Instructor can work with you to consider alternative dates / assessments.

Final Paper (35%)

Final papers are due **April 14** (last day of class) at midnight. They will be graded based on their structure (introduction, transitions, conclusion), relevance of the topic, scope of the paper, essential background information and stylistic features. Papers should be 3000 words in length (+/- 10%).

GRADING SCALE

A+ (97-100%), A (92-96%), A- (86-91%)



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B+ (81-85%), B (76-80%), B- (71-75%)
C+ (67-70%), C (62-66%), C- (58-61%)
D+ (54-57%), D (50-53%), F (0-49 %)

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

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



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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

Website: 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, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

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>.