

MLC220 German Literature

3rd and 4th quarters, Sophomore

Instructor	ISOZAKI KOTARO
Style of Class	Lecture
Number of Credits	2
Day and Period	Thursday, period 2

Course Description

This course consists of a series of lectures on the history of early modern literature in the German-speaking world. We will focus particularly on Goethe and his era, so after studying Goethe himself, the Grimm brothers, Josef Eichendorff, E.T.A. Hoffman, and Adalbert Stifter, we will follow the course of German literature to study such writers as Gerhart Hauptmann, Hugo von Hoffmannsthal, and Franz Kafka. The lectures will describe such formal concepts as *Sturm und Drang*, Classicism, Romanticism, Realism, Naturalism, and *fin-de-siècle* art and their interrelationships. At the same time, we will read specific literary texts by these authors. When reading these texts, we will place great importance on the students' own experiences of reading and interpretation, but here, too, the instructor will make an effort to present the results of the latest research. Interpretation based in the latest cultural research leads to viewing German and European cultural history from a more modern viewpoint, and the text may serve as training in thinking. Furthermore, we cannot overlook film versions of literature as a way of demonstrating the interpretation of works from this new viewpoint. By incorporating films of the works of Goethe, Stifter, and the Brothers Grimm into the lectures, we will consider the significance of German literature from the end of the eighteenth to the early twentieth century for those of us who live in contemporary Japan.

Course Objectives

Students will

- (1) Improve their understanding of the culture of the German-speaking world, one of the core cultures of Europe, through reading German literature.
- (2) Consider the significance of German literature from the end of the eighteenth to early twentieth century for contemporary society.
- (3) Analyze the relationship between literary texts and antecedent research.
- (4) Will aim to understand literature more deeply through video materials, artworks and other forms of art while learning about the differences that arise when expressive forms and media differ.
- (5) Take responsibility for their own presentation and actively participate in cooperative learning.

Expected Outcomes

- Learning about the recent trends in research and obtaining detailed knowledge about the act of interpreting texts
- Acquire the habits of multifaceted and critical thought that are found in the study of the humanities
- Exploring the world of German literature, which has few points of contact with contemporary Japanese life, and acquiring a rich international cultural accomplishment

Prerequisites

None required, but it is desirable for students to have studied German and related fields.

Class Materials

The main teaching materials will be handed out, so no particular textbook has been specified. The instructor has designated the following reference books but will occasionally present references for specific literary works.

- (1) Hosaka Kazuo (ed.), *Doitsu bungaku: Meisaku to shujinkou* (German Literature: Famous Works and Main Characters), Jiyukokuminsha, 2009.
- (2) Tezuka Tomio and Koushina, Yoshio, *Zouho Doitsu bungaku annai* (Expanded Guide to German Literature), Iwanami Shoten, 1963.
- (3) Schraffer, Heinz, *Doitsu bungaku no mijikai rekishi* (A Short History of German Literature) Dogakusha, 2008.

(4) Rothmann, Kurt, *Kleine Geschichte der deutschen Literatur* (Little History of German Literature), Stuttgart: Philipp Reclam, 1978.

(5) *Duden. Basiswissen. Schule. Literatur*, Detlef Langermann (Hg.), Berlin (DUDEN PAETEC) 2006.

Course Method

This course will be conducted mostly as a lecture course, with incorporation of some seminar-like elements. The instructor will lecture and give reading assignments on a regular basis. The students will give individual or group presentations about the reading assignments, and the other students will be required to take an active part in the question-and-answer session. At the time of each class session, the students will write reaction papers and complete a final paper at the end of the term.

Evaluation/Assessment

Reaction papers:

The instructor will set aside time at the end of each class for the students to reflect and write down their opinions, questions, and wishes about the content of the session.

Presentation materials:

Everyone will tackle the reading assignments but students will be required to give a presentation at least once during the term. When they give their presentations, the students should provide documents in advance containing a description of the author, the basic plot of the literary work, the state of research about that work, and their own opinions and interpretations.

Final Term Paper:

When writing their final paper about a German literary work discussed in the class, students should first investigate previous research about the work and then summarize their own interpretation. Students may choose their own topic for the paper, depending on their interests but they should be based on the content of the lectures or the content of students' presentations.

Grading

30%	Reaction papers
20%	Presentation materials
50%	Final term paper

Course Schedule

Week 1:

Orientation. Overview of the history of German literature with handouts, introduction of literary works to be covered up to Goethe's era and selection of presentation topics by students

Week 2:

A lecture with PowerPoint slides including an overview of Goethe's era, Goethe and the *Sturm und Drang* movement, an introduction to *Die Leiden des Jungen Werthers*, and student presentations about this work.

Week 3:

A lecture with slides summarizing *Sturm und Drang* and Goethe's *Die Leiden des jungen Werthers*, the film version of this book and its significance

Week 4:

A lecture with slides introducing early Romanticism and Grimm's Fairy Tales. Student presentations and a lecture summarizing these works, film versions and their significance

Week 5:

An introductory lecture with slides about later Romanticism and Eichendorff's *Das Marmorbild*. Student presentations and a lecture summarizing this work, and thoughts about Romantic art (C. D. Friedrich and others)

Week 6:

An introductory lecture with slides about German fantasy literature and E.T.A. Hoffman's "Der Sandmann." Student presentations and a lecture summarizing this work. Reading Freud's "Das Unheimliche" and considering a psychoanalytic interpretation.

Week 7:

An introductory lecture with slides about the Biedermeier era in the German-speaking world and Stifter's *Bergkristall*. Student presentations and a lecture summarizing this work. Filmed version of this work and its significance.

Week 8:

Summary of the first half of the course: lecture and discussion among students, slide lecture describing Realism and Naturalism in the latter half of the 19th century.

Week 9:

An introductory lecture with slides about Naturalism and Gerhart Hauptmann's *Bahnwärter Thiel*. Student presentations and a lecture summarizing this work. Consideration of the societal influence of the natural sciences.

Week 10:

A lecture with slides about Vienna's *fin-de-siècle* art (Klimt, Otto Wagner, etc.) and its social and cultural background. Visual materials about this art and its significance.

Week 11:

An introductory lecture with slides about the collective unconscious and Hugo von Hoffmannsthal's *Erlebnis des Marschalls Bassompierre*. Student presentations and a lecture summarizing this work. Consideration of Freud's and Jung's psychoanalytical concepts.

Week 12:

An introductory lecture with slides about the crisis of language and Hoffmannsthal's "The Lord Chandos Letter." Student presentations and a lecture summarizing this work.

Week 13:

An introductory lecture with slides about Prague at the end of the nineteenth century and Franz Kafka's "Die Verwandlung." Student presentations and a lecture summarizing this work.

Week 14:

An introductory lecture with slides about popular art and Kafka's "Ein Hungerkünstler." Student presentations and a lecture summarizing this work. Consideration of the diversity of readings and interpretations of Kafka's "Vor dem Gesetz."

Week 15:

Overall summary: Lecture and discussion among the students. Consideration of the present-day significance of German literature.

Preparation and Follow-up

- (1) Read the literary works to be covered in the next lecture ahead of time. Read the relevant passages in the reference books (preparation).
- (2) After hearing the lecture, reinforce your knowledge of the content of the lecture, the handouts and the items in the relevant textbook and reference materials (follow-up).