

German 4465: **Between Order and Chaos: German Narrative Prose**

Instructor: Dr. Heike Polster

Email: hpolster@memphis.edu

Office hours: by appointment, 392 Dunn Hall, (901) 678-2830

In this course, we will explore German-language novellas by J. W. v. Goethe, Gerhard Hauptmann, Arthur Schnitzler, Stefan Zweig, Thomas Mann, Hansjörg Schertenleib, and Uwe Timm. The course focuses on structural-textual elements such as event, situation, conflict, symbol and turning point as well as questions concerning order, chaos, contingency, the relation between fiction and reality, and ostracism.

Required Readings:

Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von. „Novelle.“ (Email)

Hauptmann, Gerhard. „Bahnwärter Thiel.“ (Email)

Schnitzler, Arthur. „Traumnovelle.“ (Email)

Zweig, Stefan. „Schachnovelle.“ (Amazon.com, etwa \$ 8; oder ILL)

Mann, Thomas. „Mario und der Zauberer.“ (Kopie)

Schertenleib, Hansjörg. „Der Glückliche.“ (Kopie)

Timm, Uwe. „Die Entdeckung der Currywurst.“ (Amazon.com, etwa \$ 15; oder ILL)

Grading:

Class Participation: 50 %

- ❖ This implies active participation, meaning that the student asks/answers questions and shows that she has read **and considered** the assigned material.
- ❖ Students will serve as **discussion leaders** for at least two class periods over the course of the semester. Dates for these tasks will be arranged during the second class meeting. Students will come on their assigned day with 5 topics/questions which she considers to be of particular importance to discuss in regard to the assigned reading. Students will follow the model provided by the instructor during the second day of class.
- ❖ Students will present on one assigned topic (either an author or a topic or a genre) in German during the course of the semester. Dates for these presentations will be agreed upon during the third class meeting. The instructor can provide students with materials from which to work.

Longer Papers (2): 50 %

Each of these papers will consist of a thesis statement, bibliography, rough draft and final draft. Only the final draft will be officially graded. The instructor, however, reserves the right to lower the grade of any paper for which the requisite parts are not turned in on time. The final draft should be 5-6 pages in length. Students are expected to abide by the university's guidelines of academic integrity which prohibits all instances of plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined in Section I (p) of The University of Memphis Student Handbook, under the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full or clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

- ❖ **Utilizing an online translator also qualifies as cheating.**

What you can expect from me

- I am always available for questions. You can speak to me before or after class, or during my office hours.
- I will speak only German in class – and will require the same of all students – in order to give you the opportunity to immerse yourself in the language.
- I will gladly offer supplementary explanations on literature, culture, and grammar etc. in and outside of class.
- I will keep track of your preparation, participation, and grades.
- I will return corrected and graded assignments within a week.
- I will try to accommodate your learning needs. Please let me know if you need more repetitions, structured reviews, mnemonic aids, advice on creating effective study habits, etc. Furthermore, if you are dealing with health or personal issues, please inform me if you need an extension for completing assignments. Please bear in mind that I am not a counselor – I am not equipped to deal with crisis situations, but can refer you to professionals quickly, on or off campus.
- I will insure everyone's right to pursue coursework. Among other things, this means that I will address disruptive behaviors from other students in our class. If anything or anyone keeps you from learning, please let me know. It is my job to ensure that every student gets the most out of classroom instruction.

What I expect from you

Talk to me if you have any problems.

If you are concerned about the pace of this class, your progress, a particular point you can't quite grasp, or anything else I need to know in order to help you in your learning, please talk to me immediately, or send me an email. I will try to assist you in any way I can.

Attendance is required.

University and departmental guidelines grant each student a maximum of two excused absences. An absence is excused if the student notifies the instructor of the absence BEFORE THE NEXT CLASS. This also affords students the opportunity to inform the instructor as to when they expect to return to class and to check for any missed handouts, modified instructions for assignments, etc. Be sure to use this privilege wisely and sparingly -- they are intended for illness, work-related commitments, or family occasions.

Proper classroom conduct - From the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities:

"1. The instructor has ultimate control over classroom behavior and may eject from the classroom any student engaged in disruptive conduct. Disruptive conduct is defined as conduct which may include, but is not limited to, intentional interference with the normal classroom procedure or presentation of the instructor or other student(s) and/or interference with another student's right to pursue coursework."

In my classroom, please:

- speak only German.
- be on time for class, and don't leave early.
- be courteous to the other students and me.
- I expect you to write in complete sentences, and keep correspondence formal. Spell-check your emails.
- turn off your cell phone, pager, iPod, or anything else that beeps.
- refrain from private conversations during class unless you have them in German.
- do not blurt out information: give others the opportunity to participate and practice their German.
- do not sleep during class.
- do not read newspapers, do not do homework from other classes, etc.
- do not cheat (use unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes and tests, acquire tests or other academic material before such material is revealed or distributed by the instructor). More information on Academic Dishonesty can be found in the University of Memphis Code of Student Conduct.

I reserve the right to dismiss the cause of any classroom disruption from class (Student Rights and Responsibilities, section V, rubric D) and will report such misconduct to the appropriate authorities. Should any student interfere "with another student's right to pursue coursework," I reserve the right to exclude the disruptive student from class.

SCHEDULE

Dienstag 1. September	Einführung	Referat/Diskussionsleitung?
Donnerstag 3. September	Goethe	
Dienstag 8. September	Goethe	
Donnerstag 10. September	Goethe	
Dienstag 15. September	Hauptmann	
Donnerstag 17. September	Hauptmann	
Dienstag 22. September	Hauptmann	
Donnerstag 24. September	Schreibwerkstatt	
Dienstag 29. September	Schnitzler	
Donnerstag 1. Oktober	Schnitzler	
Dienstag 6. Oktober	Schnitzler	
Donnerstag 8. Oktober	(Conference) Film	
Dienstag 13. Oktober	Schnitzler	
Donnerstag 15. Oktober	Zweig	
Dienstag 20. Oktober	Fall Break	-----
Donnerstag 22. Oktober	Zweig	
Dienstag 27. Oktober	Zweig	
Donnerstag 29. Oktober	Mann	Erste Arbeit fällig
Dienstag 3. November	Mann	
Donnerstag 5. November	Mann	
Dienstag 10. November	Schertenleib	
Donnerstag 12. November	Schertenleib	
Dienstag 17. November	Schertenleib	
Donnerstag 19. November	Timm	
Dienstag 24. November	Timm	
Donnerstag 26. November	Thanksgiving	-----
Dienstag 1. Dezember	Timm	
Donnerstag 3. Dezember	Timm	
Dienstag 8. Dezember	Enddiskussion	Zweite Arbeit fällig