GER 343: Survey of German Literature

Book to Film: Film Adaptations of German Literature

Lecture/Discussion – 3 credits
Instructor: Amanda Jorgenson
Contact information: jorgenam@onid.orst.edu
Office Hours: via Google+ or Skype by appointment

Course Description:
This course is designed for students who have successfully completed at least GER 213 or its equivalent. This course will be taught entirely in German!

The course will be delivered via Blackboard, your online learning community, where you will interact with your classmates and with me. Within the course Blackboard site you will access the learning materials, tutorials, and syllabus; discuss issues; submit assignments; email other students and the instructor; participate in online activities; and display your projects. To preview how an online course works, visit the Ecampus Course Demo. For technical assistance, Blackboard and otherwise, see http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/services/technical-help.htm.

Learning Outcomes:
This is a Liberal Arts Humanities Core class

Upon completion of this course you will be able to
• identify and discuss key facts and points in novel-length reports in German.
• critically evaluate reported facts and make a reasoned judgment about causes.
• critically evaluate the effectiveness of film adaptations in portraying the written reports.
• relate the texts and films to significant events, developments, and/or ideas in the historical and cultural experience of Germany in literature and film.
• relate the texts and films to significant events, developments, and/or ideas in the Western historical and cultural experience and context.
• be able interpret the influence of philosophical, historical, and/or artistic phenomena in relation to the culture of Germany.
• recognize and evaluate the diversity of human cultural and social experiences.
• communicate inter-culturally in order to devise and exchange ideas clearly and effectively.

Course Concept:
In this course you will be reading three novels and viewing films adapted from them. You will have two weeks to read each text and the following week to view the film and reflect on the two. While the texts are all very different, they have a commonality in that all are written as factual reports of events. It will be your task during this term to be able to identify key facts in
the texts and critically look at them and argue what you feel are the root causes or motives behind the events. You will do this via discussions with your peers and the instructor, reflection papers, and a final project. All films are available via Netflix, either with streaming or as a DVD. You are responsible for ordering films in a timely manner so that you can see them during the weeks assigned.

**Evaluation:**
Each assignment will be evaluated as follows:

- **6 Exemplary.** Work at this level is both exceptional and memorable. It is often characterized by distinctive and unusually sophisticated problem-solving approaches and solutions (this is a high A).
- **5 Strong.** Work at this level exceeds the standard. It is thorough, complex, and consistently portrays exceptional control of content, skills, and learning strategies (low A or high B).
- **4 Proficient.** Work at this level meets the standard. It is strong, solid work that has many more strengths than weaknesses. Work at this level demonstrates mastery of content, skills, and strategies and reflects considerable care and commitment (low to mid B).
- **3 Developing.** Work at this level shows basic but inconsistent mastery and application of content and skills. It shows some strengths, but tends to have more weaknesses overall (C-range).
- **2 Beginning.** Work at this level is often superficial, fragmented or incomplete. It may show a partial mastery of content and skills, but it needs considerable development before reflecting the proficient level of performance (D-range).
- **1 Exploring.** Work at this level is minimal. It typically portrays a lack of understanding and use of appropriate skills and strategies. Work at this level may contain major errors (F - not passing).

Grades will be totaled within weighted categories (see below). Your final grade will be based on a weighted percentage of all assignments. Incomplete assignments will be given a zero.

**Assignments:**

- **Classroom Participation (20%):**
  1. **Online Verbal Discussions (10%):**
     You will meet with your instructor weekly via online to discuss questions about the course texts and aspects of what you are reading. Meetings will be in real time via Google+. Depending on the size of the course, two weekly meeting times will be set on the first day of the course, and the student is required to attend or provide an alternative time at least 24 hours in advance (barring illness or injury).
  2. **Discussions on Voxopop (voxopop.com) (10%):**
     You are required to check Blackboard a minimum of three times weekly. Every week there will be discussion questions posted in the forum to which you will respond by voice at the German 343 voxopop site (you will already have been invited to join the sight, but the link will also be provided to you via the Forum board). You are required to post at least one original voice thread comment (due by Wednesday) and at least two thread responses on 2 different responses left.
by your classmates (due by Friday) on the Voxopop site. Your responses should be original (in your own words, please use quotes from the assigned readings to back up your argument), coherent, respectful of the opinions of others and contribute significantly to the topic discussed. Your responses will be graded on a weekly basis.

- **Written Work (70%)**

  1. **Weekly Homework (20%)**:  
     Each week you will be given assignments based on the readings and surrounding culture found under the “Weekly Assignments” folder under the title “Woche # Hausaufgaben”. All homework is due on Friday of the week in which it is assigned. You will submit your completed assignment in the “Weekly Assignments” folder under “Woche # Hausaufgaben.”

  2. **Reflection Papers (30%)**:  
     You will write three reflection papers regarding the works that we read and watch. While they may contain brief summaries of the texts and films, their primary focus should be on critically evaluating the plot events and making an argument about the truth behind those events. Papers should be a minimum of 500 words, remembering that reasoned content is far more important than simply achieving a desired word-count. Reflection papers are due at the end of each three-week cycle. Please submit completed papers under the title “Aufsatz #.”

  3. **Term project (20%)**:  
     A term project is required for all students. This project is an opportunity for you to apply your research skills and knowledge you have gained in this class. The instructor will provide topic guidelines. The final project may be a short movie accompanied by a brief summary describing your project, a paper (about 1000 words) that you share on Blackboard, or any other multimedia project. The approval of the instructor is required. Short written prospectus due in week 6, final project due on Friday of week 10.

- **Service (10%)**:  
  Any outreach activity, service learning activity or combination of activities of at least 6 hours. Possible activities: attending a lecture, film screening or event relevant to German culture, being an active member or Stammtisch, Kaffeestunde or a German club. You will have to provide documentation in order to receive credit. Look on Blackboard for weekly announcements of German events.

**Learning Resources:**

German majors are required to read at all three of the works in German, German minors two of the works! All texts and films are required for this course!

A computer with dedicated Internet access and a webcam.

A Google+ Account (contact instructor if an invitation is needed)

A Netflix Account with DVD rental access, or access to a video rental service with an extensive foreign film library.

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This course is offered through Oregon State University Extended Campus. For more information, contact:

Web: ecampus.oregonstate.edu    Email: ecampus@oregonstate.edu    Tel: 800-667-1465


Note: Where possible, E-reader (Kindle, Nook, iPad) versions are acceptable.

Incompletes:
Take this course only if you plan to finish it in a timely manner (during this term). I assign an "I" or incomplete only when there is a strong and compelling case for doing so (e.g., health reasons, military commitment). I will not consider assigning an incomplete unless the individual has completed over 50% of the course tasks (e.g. completed the assignments up and including week 5 and submitted the prospectus for the final project). Please note that students receiving incompletes are subject to assignment weight reduction (and consequently may not be eligible for A or A- grades) because some of their work will be submitted late.

Special Needs:
Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

Expectations for Student Conduct:
Please see the policy found at http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stuchon/achon.htm

Learning Environment
In an academic community, students and faculty, and staff each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment, whether online or in the classroom. Students, faculty and staff have the responsibility to treat each other with understanding, dignity and respect. Disruption of teaching, administration, research, and other institutional activities is prohibited by Oregon Administrative Rule 576-015-0015 (1) and (2) and is subject to sanctions under university policies, OSU Office of Student Conduct.

Academic Integrity
Students are expected to comply with all regulations pertaining to academic honesty, defined as: An intentional act of deception in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work. For further information, visit Avoiding Academic Dishonesty, or contact the office of Student Conduct and Mediation at 541-737-3656.

Conduct in this online classroom
Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email postings) in compliance with the university's regulations regarding civility. Students will be expected to treat all others with the same respect, as they would want afforded themselves.
Disrespectful behavior to others (such as harassing behavior, personal insults, inappropriate language) or disruptive behaviors in the course (such as persistent and unreasonable demands for time and attention both in and out of the classroom) is unacceptable and can result in sanctions as defined by Oregon Administrative Rules Division 015 Student Conduct Regulations.

Communications:

Ground Rules for Online Communication & Participation:

- **Online threaded discussions** are public messages, and all writings in this area will be viewable by the entire class or assigned group members.
- Posting of personal contact information is discouraged (e.g. telephone numbers, address, personal website address).
- **Online Instructor Response Policy**: I will check email frequently and will do my best to respond to course-related questions within 24 hours on weekdays. **NOTE**: I will not respond to email sent after 8 p.m. PST until the following day.
- **Observation of "Netiquette"**: All your online communications need to be composed with fairness, honesty and tact. Spelling and grammar are very important in an online course. What you put into an online course reflects on your level of professionalism.
- Please check the Announcements area and the course syllabus before you ask general course "housekeeping" questions (i.e. how do I submit assignment 2?). If you don't see your answer there, then please contact me.

Guidelines for a productive and effective online classroom:

- Web-based instruction does not only accommodate different learning styles by delivering the content through various media such as text, video, audio, and the web but it also provides students with the advantage of being able to control the pace and sequence of instruction. With this freedom you have simultaneously the responsibility to carefully study all learning materials provided, participate in online discussions in a meaningful way, and submit assignments when they are due.
- The discussion board is your space to interact with your colleagues related to current topics or responses to your colleague’s statements. It is expected that each student will participate in a mature and respectful fashion.
- Participate actively in the discussions, having completed the readings and thought about the issues.
- Pay close attention to what your classmates write in their online comments. Ask clarifying questions, when appropriate. These questions are meant to probe and shed new light, not to minimize or devalue comments.
- Think through and reread your comments before you post them.
- Assume the best of others in the class and expect the best from them.
- Value the diversity of the class. Recognize and value the experiences, abilities and knowledge each person brings to class.
- Disagree with ideas, but do not make personal attacks. Do not demean or embarrass others. Do not make sexist, racist, homophobic or victim-blaming comments at all.
- Be open to be challenged or confronted on your ideas or prejudices.
Student Assistance:
Contacting the instructor
The best way to contact me is via e-mail or in person during my office hours via Google+.

Technical Assistance
If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the OSU Computer Helpdesk online.

Tutoring

NetTutor meets the needs of Ecampus students. NetTutor is a leading provider of online tutoring and learner support services fully staffed by experienced, trained and monitored tutors. Students connect to live tutors from any computer that has Internet access. NetTutor provides a virtual whiteboard that allows tutors and students to work on problems in a real time environment. They also have an online writing lab where tutors critique and return essays within 24 to 48 hours.

Course Calendar:

Week 1 Introduction and Homo Faber
Week 2 Homo Faber
Week 3 Film: The Voyage
Week 4 Die Verlorene Ehre der Katharina Blum
Week 5 Die Verlorene Ehre der Katharina Blum
Week 6 Film: Die Verlorene Ehre der Katharina Blum
Week 7 Bis zur letzten Stunde
Week 8 Bis zur letzten Stunde
Week 9 Film: Der Untergang
Week 10 Final Projects and Discussions

Student Evaluation of Teaching
We encourage you to engage in the course evaluation process each term – online, of course. The evaluation form will be available toward the end of each term, and you will be sent instructions through ONID. You will login to “Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted.