

Die Goethezeit: Von Sturm und Drang zur Weimarer Klassik

Course Designation: GER (400-level)

Credit Hours: 3

Semester/Term:

Meeting Days/Time/Location:

Instructor Information

Instructor: Katherine Kerschen

Email:

Office Phone:

Office:

Office Hours:

Course Description

What is the 'Age of Goethe'? Roughly, this descriptor applies to the second half of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century, corresponding to the decades in which Goethe and his contemporaries were producing literary and philosophical writings that would inform Western European literature and humanities for the next two centuries, indeed up to the present day. This course will introduce central literary, philosophical, and cultural themes of the late 18th century through the lens of German-speaking authors, particularly the two towering giants of the era: Johann Wolfgang Goethe and Friedrich Schiller. There will be a special focus on the periods of *Sturm und Drang* ('Storm and Stress') and *Weimarer Klassik* ('Weimar Classicism'), ending with the death of Friedrich Schiller in 1805. The course is not organized strictly chronologically, but rather is grouped around themes that were salient not only two hundred years ago, but also resonate for us today: What is the relationship of the individual to society? What is the role of religion and faith? What are the aesthetic and moral ideals we should strive for? How are women represented literarily and culturally?

Prerequisites: GER 302 or prior instructor approval; GER 310

Learning Objectives

In this course, students will expand and deepen their knowledge about the history of German literature and important social and cultural movements as well as key figures in the 18th century. Students will gain experience in analyzing and interpreting literary texts as well as how to decode the cultural, social, aesthetic, genre-specific, and biographical factors that form the context of a

text. The readings and assignments in the course will also foster the development of comprehension, speaking, and writing skills in German.

Required Materials

There are three core texts for this course. Use the ISBNs given below to make sure you purchase the correct version. All other texts will be made available in electronic form on our CANVAS site.

- *Die Leiden des jungen Werther*. By Johann Wolfgang Goethe. Reclam Verlag, 2013. (ISBN: 978-3150191248)
- *Wilhelm Tell*. By Friedrich Schiller. Reclam Verlag, 2013. (ISBN: 978-3150190203)
- *Julchen Grünthal*. By Friederike Helene Unger. CreateSpace, 2013. (ISBN: 978-1482769326)

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Active Participation – 20%

You are expected to participate actively in this class, which means that you should come to class on time, have completed all assigned readings and assignments, ask questions of the instructor, and participate in group work and class discussions. Simply being present in the course but not engaging with the material and the other students will not be sufficient to succeed in this class. Regular class attendance is also part of your participation grade. You may miss no more than 3 class sessions without prior approval from the instructor or an attested excuse (e.g. medical or family emergency). All additional absences will result in a successive lowering of your participation grade.

Homework – 20%

Throughout the semester you will be responsible for completing short homework assignments in addition to the regularly scheduled reading. The homework will consist mainly of weekly contributions to our class discussion forum on the LMS course page. Each week I will post a prompt or discussion question to the forum. You must post a 2-3 sentence response and comment on at least two of your classmates' responses. Any additional homework assignments will be announced in class and on the LMS course page and must be completed by the beginning of class on the day that they are due. **I will only accept late homework assignments if you have made arrangements with me in advance.**

Presentation – 15%

You are required to give one individual presentation during the semester. The presentation should be 10-12 minutes long, plus 5 minutes for questions and discussion afterwards. The presentations will be about prominent German literary and philosophical figures from the second half of the 18th century. You should present a short biography of the figure, his/her

major works, and his/her impact on German literary history. Topics and dates for the presentations will be assigned in the second week of the course.

Literary Analysis #1 – 20%

In order to develop your writing skills and prepare for the final paper, the “mid-term” for this course will consist of a short essay (1000-1500 words) that is a literary analysis of *Die Leiden des jungen Werthers*. This assignment has three components: 1) submit a first draft of the essay, which you will receive feedback on through a peer-review workshop; 2) meet with the instructor to discuss the feedback; 3) submit a final draft of the essay incorporating you peers’ as well as the instructor’s comments. You must complete both drafts, as well as meet with the instructor, to receive credit for the essay.

Literary Analysis #2 (Final Paper) – 25%

At the end of the semester you will complete a final paper in lieu of a written exam. The final paper may cover any topic discussed in this course. Beyond this restriction, you may choose to approach the final paper in a variety of ways. For example, you could dig deeper into the literature and secondary sources about a text discussed in class, you could search for a new, thematically-related primary text, or you could do a comparison of two texts. One-on-one meetings with the instructor will be scheduled in the week before Thanksgiving break to discuss final paper topics. The formal requirements of the paper are:

- 2500-3000 words in length
- MLA formatting
- Works Cited page containing at least 2 outside scholarly sources

Course Schedule

Dates and assignments are subject to change. Check the LMS course page for updates.

Woche	Themen	Lektüren und Hausaufgaben
1	Introduction; Overview of syllabus	
	Philosophische Strömungen im 18. Jahrhundert	„Was ist Aufklärung?“ (Kant)
2	Das ‚subjektive‘ Ich	„Selbst“ (Herder)
	Empfindsamkeit und Erlebnisdichtung	„Mailed (Goethe)“; „Der Zürchersee“ (Klopstock)
3	Die Anfänge des Sturm und Drang	<i>Die Leiden des jungen Werther</i> – S. x-xx (Goethe)
	Der Briefroman als Textgattung des Individualismus	<i>Werther</i> – S. xx-xx
4	Das Persönlichkeitsideal	<i>Werther</i> – S. xx-xx
	Das Konzept des ‚Originalgenies‘	<i>Werther</i> – S. xx-xx
5	der ‚Werther-Effekt‘	<i>Werther</i> – S. xx-xx
	Säkularisierung, Pantheismus, und Kritik an die Religion	Auszüge von <i>Ideen zur Philosophie der Geschichte der Menschheit</i> (Herder)
6	Toleranz als moralisches Ideal	Auszüge von <i>Nathan der Weise</i> (Lessing)
	Toleranz als moralisches Ideal	Auszüge von <i>Nathan der Weise</i> (Lessing)
7	Die Orientierung zur Antike	Auszüge von <i>Gedanken über die Nachahmung der griechischen Werke</i> (Winckelmann); Auszüge von <i>Iphigenie auf Tauris</i> (Goethe)
		Aufsatz über <i>Werther</i> (1. Version) fällig
	Was ist „Weimarer Klassik?“	<i>Wilhelm Tell</i> – 1. Aufzug (Schiller)
8	Ästhetische Erziehung	<i>Wilhelm Tell</i> – 2. Aufzug (Schiller); Auszüge von <i>Über die ästhetische Erziehung des Menschen</i> (Schiller)
	Ästhetische Erziehung	

		<i>Wilhelm Tell</i> – 3. Aufzug (Schiller)
9	Die ‚schöne Seele‘: auf der Suche nach dem Schönen, Guten, und Wahren	<i>Wilhelm Tell</i> – 4. Aufzug (Schiller) Aufsatz über <i>Werther</i> (finale Version) fällig
	Die ‚schöne Seele‘:	<i>Wilhelm Tell</i> – 5. Aufzug (Schiller)
10	Nachwirkung der Weimarer Klassik auf die Literaturgeschichte Deutschlands	„Brod und Wein“ (Hölderlin)
	Frauen in der deutschen Literaturgeschichte	Auszüge von <i>The Women Writers in Schiller’s Horen: Patrons, Petticoats, and the Promotion of Weimar Classicism</i> (Holmgren)
11	Die Rolle der Frau in der Gesellschaft des 18. Jahrhunderts	„Die Würde der Frauen“ (Schiller); Auszüge von <i>Pomona: Für Teutschlands Töchter</i> (von La Roche)
	Literatur für und über Frauen	<i>Julchen Grünthal</i> – S. xx-xx (Unger)
12	Der Bildungsroman – eine besonders deutsche Textgattung?	<i>Julchen Grünthal</i> – S. x-xx (Unger)
	Der Bildungsroman – eine besonders deutsche Textgattung?	<i>Julchen Grünthal</i> – S. xx-xx (Unger)
13	<i>No class- Thanksgiving Break</i>	
14	Literatur für und über Frauen	<i>Julchen Grünthal</i> – S. xx-xx (Unger)
	Literatur für und über Frauen	<i>Julchen Grünthal</i> – S. xx-xx (Unger)
15	Zu einer Neukonzeption der Goethezeit	<i>Julchen Grünthal</i> – S. xx-xx (Unger); „What is classicism?“ (Borchmeyer)
	Fazit	
	<i>Finals Week</i>	Final Paper