

**Borders & Crossings: German Literature and Culture  
from Romanticism to the Present**  
Freie Universität Berlin International Summer University (FUBiS) 2008  
Professor Peggy Setje-Eilers  
[peggy.setje-eilers@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:peggy.setje-eilers@vanderbilt.edu)

**June 3 - July 8, 2008: Tues. & Fri. 9:00 - 3:30 pm**

**COURSE OBJECTIVE**

In this course, you will encounter some of the most exciting textual and visual contributions to German culture in texts from the 19th to 21st centuries in English translation. Our focus will be borders - physical, ideological, intellectual, and metaphorical - and crossing borders as passages to more creative or liberated states of being, or as acts of transgression. You will gain insight into aesthetic and intellectual accomplishments of the most eventful periods in German cultural history. We will take full advantage of the unique opportunity of being in Berlin to visit sites relevant to course materials. Afternoon excursions include the Brücke Museum, Checkpoint Charlie Museum, Brecht-Weigel-Museum, East Side Gallery, and Stasi Museum. The language of instruction is English.

**READINGS**

Ludwig Tieck: "Eckbert the Fair" (1797)  
Heinrich von Kleist: "The Marquise of O--" (1808)  
Georg Büchner: *Woyzeck* (published 1878); Werner Herzog (film): *Woyzeck* (1979)  
Hugo von Hofmannsthal: "The Lord Chandos Letter" (1902)  
Rainer Maria Rilke: poems from "New Poems" (1907)  
Franz Kafka: "The Judgment" (1913)  
Georg Kaiser: *Gas II* (1918)  
Hermann Hesse: *Demian* (1919) and Nietzsche: "Zarathustra's Prologue" (1883)  
Bertolt Brecht: "The Modern Theater is the Epic Theater" (1930)  
G.W. Pabst (film): *The Threepenny Opera* (1930)  
Wolfgang Borchert: *The Man Outside* (1947)  
Günter Grass: *Cat and Mouse* (1961) (Ch. 1-7)  
Friedrich Dürrenmatt: *The Physicists* (1962)  
Christa Wolf: "What Remains" (published 1990)  
Thomas Brussig: *Heroes Like Us* (1995) (Ch. 1-3)

**REQUIREMENTS**

You must attend classes and actively engage in class discussions to do well in this course. Three response papers (1-2 pages each) on a specific aspect of a text due on the day of the reading (papers typed and double-spaced). Contribution of ideas to the class. Midterm and final are take-home essays.

**GRADING**

Participation (attendance, preparation, discussion)	20%
3 response papers	15%
Oral presentations of response papers	15%
Midterm take-home exam	25%
Final take-home exam	25%

**Syllabus: Borders & Crossings: Romanticism to the Present**

- June 3 Tues. **Course Introduction & Romanticism:**
- Ludwig Tieck: "Eckbert the Fair" (1797)
- Heinrich von Kleist: "The Marquise of O--" (1808)
- Poems: Joseph von Eichendorff:  
"Moon-Night" (1837), "The Divining Rod" (1837)
- Excursion: Kleist Memorial (on the shore of the lake Wannsee)
- June 6 Fri. **Realism:**
- Georg Büchner: *Woyzeck* (published 1878)  
Screening: Werner Herzog: *Woyzek* (1979)
- Emerging Modernism:**
- Poem: Hugo von Hofmannsthal: "Ballad of the Outer Life" (1895)
- Hugo von Hofmannsthal: "The Lord Chandos Letter" (1902)
- Excursion: Jewish Museum - Modernism and Jewish creativity
- June 10 Tues. Rainer Maria Rilke: from "New Poems" (1907):
- |                  |                           |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| "Morgue"         | "Roman Fountain"          |
| "The Panther"    | "The Carousel"            |
| "Blue Hydrangea" | "Archaic Torso of Apollo" |
| "The Ball"       |                           |
- Franz Kafka: "The Judgment" (1913)
- Response paper #1 due on "The Judgment"**
- Excursion: Zoologischer Garten
- June 13 Fri. **Expressionism:**
- Poems: Jakob van Hoddis: "End of the World" (1911)  
Georg Heym: "Umbra Vitae" (1912)  
Georg Trakl: "Grodek" (1915)
- Georg Kaiser: *Gas II* (1918)
- Response paper #2 due on *Gas II***
- Excursion: Brücke Museum (Expressionism)

- June 17 Tues. Nietzsche: "Zarathustra's Prologue" (published 1883)  
 Hermann Hesse: *Demian* (Ch. 1-4) (1919)  
 Excursion: Nationalgalerie (19th century art museum)
- June 20 Fri. Hermann Hesse: *Demian* (Ch. 5-8) (1919)  
**Bertolt Brecht's Epic Theater:**  
 Bertolt Brecht: "The Modern Theater is the Epic Theater" (1930)  
 Screening: G.W. Pabst: *The Threepenny Opera* (1930)  
 Excursion: Dorotheenstädter Friedhof & tour of Brecht-Weigel Museum
- June 24 Tues. MIDTERM TAKE-HOME ESSAY DUE**  
**Postwar Literature:**  
 Wolfgang Borchert: *The Man Outside* (1947)  
 Poems: Günter Eich: "Inventory" (1947)  
 Ingeborg Bachmann: "Every Day" (1953)  
**Excursion:** Hamburger Bahnhof (modern art museum - postwar)
- June 27 Fri. Günter Grass: *Cat and Mouse* (1961) (Ch. 1-7)  
**Excursion:** East Side Gallery (1 km. section of Berlin Wall graffiti)
- July 1 Tues. Friedrich Dürrenmatt: *The Physicists* (1962)  
 Excursion: Haus am Checkpoint Charlie
- July 4 Fri. **Divided and Post-Wall Germany**  
 Thomas Brussig: *Heroes Like Us* (1995) (Ch. 1-3)  
**Response paper #3 due on *Heroes Like Us***  
 Excursion: Stasi Museum
- July 8 Tues. Christa Wolf: "What Remains" (published 1990)  
 Wrap-up discussion.  
**FINAL TAKE-HOME ESSAY DUE**