

LT322 Der deutsche Literaturbetrieb

Seminar Leader: Andreas Martin Widmann
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Course Times: Wednesday & Friday 10:45-12:15
Office Hours: Friday, 2-3, or by appointment

Course Description

This course introduces students to the German literary and publishing world which is currently undergoing significant changes. While traditionally operating within a realm defined by nationality and language, many German writers and publishers have recently begun to transcend such boundaries. In response to David Damrosch's conception of world literature and what he calls the "true transnationalism of our national traditions," and Pascale Casanova's influential study *The World Republic of Letters*, students will explore some of the factors at work in the literary field. We will first assess the extent to which the international image of German literature is still defined by canonical male modernists such as Franz Kafka, Bertolt Brecht or Paul Celan, before identifying current trends and modes of writing. Connecting the past to the present, the course will further address questions regarding the contemporary German "Literaturbetrieb": can creative writing be studied (or taught)? What role do journals and magazines play, both corporate and independent, in the literary scene? How do manuscripts get published and/or become books? What are the functions and effects of literary awards, fellowships etc.? How do translations and translators shape and expand the German literary market? And how do German writers and publishers respond to the challenges of the digital era? Classroom discussions will be supplemented by field trips to some established Berlin literary institutions such as Akademie der Künste, as well as to independent initiatives. In addition, we will be joined by "agents in the field" from the German literary world. Guests may include staff members from *Literarisches Colloquium Berlin*, *Haus der Kulturen der Welt*, *Deutsches Literaturinstitut Leipzig*, *Rowohlt Verlag*, *Internationales Literaturfestival Berlin (ilb)*, editors from the magazines *EDIT* and *Merkur*, as well as freelance translators and writers.

Requirements

All students should have B2 German proficiency. Requirements for assessed writing assignments and presentations will be adapted to the individual level proficiency

Students are required to come to class prepared and with the relevant materials and texts, as well as to take part in field-trips to places off-campus. This may involve allowing for extra-time to get back to BCB during the lunch break.

Participation consists in contributing productively to class discussion in a respectful manner, and in demonstrating a sound knowledge of the texts assigned.

A hardcopy of the Course Reader should be purchased. Some additional reading materials will be made available prior to classes dedicated to these texts and subjects. These texts should be printed for use in class. Please note that in seminars we will work with printed texts only. NO COMPUTERS, TABLETS OR PHONES should be used in class.

Please note that essays that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late. If an extension for an essay is agreed, the essay must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

All assignment must be completed in order to pass the course.

Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity (e.g. due to plagiarism) will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section III Academic Misconduct.

Attendance

Please note that, in accordance with Bard attendance policy, attendance at ALL classes is expected. More than two absences (that is absences from two sessions of 90 minutes) in a semester may significantly affect the participation grade for the course.

For regulations governing periods of illness or leaves of absence please consult the Student Handbook

Policy on Late Submission of Papers

Syllabi for core and elective classes should note or refer to the following policy from the Student Handbook on the submission of essays:

Grade Breakdown

Participation: 35%

Midterm Essay (1000 words): 20%

Review of Literature (700 words): 10%

In-Class Presentation: 10%

Final Essay (1500 words): 25%

Schedule

Please note that this syllabus is subject to change. You are responsible throughout the semester for knowing what you have to do for each class.

Woche 1: Deutsche Literatur im globalen Kontext

Mittwoch, 4. September	Einführung
Freitag, 6. September	Terry Eagleton: „Was ist Literatur“ (Auszüge) Sandra Richter: <i>Eine Weltgeschichte der deutschsprachigen Literatur</i> (Auszüge) Andreas Maier: <i>Ich</i> (Auszüge)

Woche 2: Was ist ein Autor?

Mittwoch, 11. September	Michel Foucault: „Was ist ein Autor?“ (Auszüge)
Freitag, 13. September	Autorfunktion und Inszenierung Horstkotte/Leonard: <i>Gegenwartsliteratur</i> (Auszüge)

Woche 3: Öffentlichkeit

Mittwoch, 18. September	Exkursion: Lesung und Diskussion mit Ocean Vuong (internationales Literaturfestival Berlin) Achtung: Abendveranstaltung, 21 Uhr
Freitag, 20. September	Medien und PR im Literaturbetrieb Andreas Maier: <i>Ich</i> (Auszüge)

Woche 4: Wege zum Buch

Mittwoch, 25. September	Schreiben lernen? DLL vs. DIY Chad Harbach: „NYC vs. MFA“
Freitag, 27. September	Michael Lentz: „Schreiben lernen! Haben andere nicht nötig!“ (Auszüge)

Woche 5: Wege mit Buch

Mittwoch, 2. Oktober	Exkursion ins Literarische Colloquium Berlin
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(tbc.)

Freitag, 4. Oktober

F.C. Delius: *Der Königsmacher* (Auszüge)

Woche 6: Arbeit

Mittwoch, 9. Oktober

Wie Texte entstehen

Freitag, 11. Oktober

Hanna Lemke: „Wasserleiche“
Gast: Hanna Lemke

Woche 7: Buchmarkt

Mittwoch, 16. Oktober

Literatur als Spektakel: Frankfurter Buchmesse /
Deutscher Buchpreis

Freitag, 18. Oktober

Pascale Casanova: *The World Republic of Letters*
(Auszüge)

Freitag, 18. Oktober: Abgabe Midterm Essay

Woche 8: Genres

Mittwoch, 23. Oktober

Bestseller nach Anleitung: Historisches Erzählen

F.C. Delius: *Der Königsmacher* (Auszüge)

Freitag, 25. Oktober

Randformen: Lyrik, Experimentelle Prosa

Elke Erb: Gedichte

Arno Schmidt: *Brand's Haide* (Auszüge)

Fall Break

Woche 9: Berlin und anderswo

Mittwoch, 6. November

Stuart Taberner: "From Province to Berlin"
(Auszüge)

Andreas Maier: *Ich* (Auszüge)

Robert Schneider: *Schlafes Bruder* (Auszüge)

Freitag, 8. November

Gast: Mathias Zeiske (Herausgeber Edit, Volte-
Reihe; Haus der Kulturen der Welt) (tbc.)

Woche 10: Institutionen

Mittwoch, 13. November	Gast: Alexander Lehnert (Netzwerk Freie Literaturszene Berlin)
Freitag, 15. November	Exkursion Akademie der Künste (tbc.)

Freitag, 15. November: Abgabe Review of Literature

Woche 11: Verlage

Mittwoch, 20. November	Gutenberg-Galaxie vs. Kindle
Freitag, 22. November	Gast: Katja Sämann (Lektorin, Rowohlt Verlag) (tbc.)

Woche 12: Schreiben global I

Mittwoch, 27. November	Mehrsprachigkeit und Sprachwechsel Yoko Tawada, Herta Müller, Uljana Wolf
Freitag, 29. November	David Damrosh: <i>What is World Literature?</i> (Auszüge)

Woche 13: Schreiben global II

Mittwoch, 4. Dezember	Lesbarkeit / Readability Eugen Ruge: <i>In Zeiten des abnehmenden Lichts</i> (Auszüge) Herta Müller: <i>Herztier</i> (Auszüge)
Freitag, 6. Dezember	Gast: Steffi Ochel (Übersetzerin aus dem Englischen und Niederländischen) Walter Benjamin: „Die Aufgabe des Übersetzers“ Susan Sontag: „Die Welt als Indien“

Woche 14: Deutsche Literatur anderswo

Mittwoch, 11. Dezember	Gast: Katy Derbyshire (Übersetzerin aus dem Deutschen ins Englische)
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Freitag, 13. Dezember

Abschluss

Completion Week

Donnerstag, 19. Dezember: Abgabe Final Essay

Fall 2019 classes start on Monday, September 2 and run until Friday, December 20 with fall break planned from Monday, October 28 – Sunday, November 3. Completion week is from December 16-20. Students are required to be on campus during completion week.

Scheduled class times will be available online under the relevant course heading:
<https://berlin.bard.edu/academics/courses/>