

GERM 370 / GERM 514

Reason, Revolution, Race and Gender: German 18th Century Literature

Instructor: Prof. Dr. Gaby Pailer

Term 2, 2020; Tuesday, Thursday 15:30-17:00 - Online

This course is taught in German and English.

Competence at the level of GERM 210 is required.



This course takes a gender- and canon-critical perspective, and a transcultural and post-national approach to the development of German literature, from the early Enlightenment to the bourgeois era.

The 18th century marks the "Age of Enlightenment", in which core concepts and notions of the state and the individual, political and religious systems, family politics, educational practices, human-animal relations etc., are developed, many of which reach into our modern era.

The majority of the populace being illiterate, the theatrical stage formed *the* foremost educational platform to teach people "reasonable" (Gottsched, 1730s), "moral" (Lessing, 1760s/70s), and "aesthetic" (Schiller, 1780s/90s) judgement. Immanuel Kant's maxime *sapere aude* ("dare to know") came, paradoxically, within an overall political situation of monarchical and aristocratic rule – hence, formed a mere utopian desire doomed to inherit the gender and racial binaries of the day. From a modern perspective, we'll focus on notions of identity formation, and aspects of constructedness and performativity in terms of gender, race and social justice.

This course offers a new bi-lingual approach to studying German literary texts, by operating in English and German, and utilizing diverse assignments, moving from a performative practice to scholarly analysis and interpretation. The expected language competence is GERM 210, or equivalent.

Course Readings:

- Ballads: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, "Die Braut von Korinth", and Louise Brachmann, "Die Nonne"
- Dramas: Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, *Die Juden*, and Charlotte von Stein, *Die zwey Emilien*.
- Novellas and Novels: Friedrich Schiller, *Der Verbrecher aus verlorener Ehre*, and Charlotte Schiller, *Wallberg*.
- Theory: excerpts from Immanuel Kant, Max Horkheimer/Theodor W. Adorno, Judith Butler, Michel Foucault, Silvia Bovenschen.

Course Syllabus:

Week	Readings	Approach / Assignments
Week 1 Jan. 12, 14	<u>Survey Lecture I: German Literature in the 18th Century</u>	<u>Synopsis</u> of the development of genres and themes in German 18th century literature.
Week 2 Jan. 19, 21	Goethe, "Die Braut von Korinth" / Brachmann, "Die Nonne"	Two ballads dealing with vampyrs and revenants ("Vampire" und "Wiedergänger"); performative practice, group work.
Week 3 Jan. 26, 28	Goethe / Brachmann	Scholarly comparison and discussion of critical approaches. <i>Discussion board contribution #1 due Feb. 2, 12:00 noon.</i>
Week 4 Feb. 2, 4	<u>Survey Lecture II: Enlightenment, Race and Gender</u> Kant, "Über die Frage: Was ist Aufklärung?" Horkheimer/Adorno: <i>Dialektik der Aufklärung</i> (excerpt: "Odysseus und die Sirenen"). Butler, <i>Antigone's Claim</i> .	<u>Theoretical aspects:</u> Judith Butler's theory of Gender, Body, Kinship, Concepts of Tragedy and Comedy from Ancient Greece to the German Enlightenment. <i>Quiz #1 - Friday, February 5, 12:00-1:00 PM.</i>
Week 5 Feb. 9, 11	Lessing, <i>Die Juden</i>	Lessing: Plot, structure, characters, key scenes. Selected research literature and approaches. <i>Milestone writing assignment #1 due Friday, February 12, at 12:00PM.</i>
Week 6 Feb. 16, 18	Reading Week	
Week 7 Feb. 23, 25	Stein, <i>Die zwey Emilien</i>	Stein: Plot, structure, characters, key scenes. Question of tragedy vs. comedy. <i>Discussion board contribution #2 - due March 2, 12:00PM.</i>
Week 8 Mar. 2, 4	Stein, <i>Die zwey Emilien</i>	Comparison with Sophia Lee's <i>The Canterbury Tales. The Two Emilys</i> (excerpts). <i>Quiz #2 - Friday, March 5, 12:00-1:00 PM.</i> <i>Milestone writing assignment #2 due Friday, March 12, 12:00PM.</i>
Week 9 Mar. 9, 11	<u>Survey Lecture III: Crime, Nationhood, and Gender.</u> Foucault, <i>Discipline and Punish</i> (excerpt) Bovenschen, <i>Die imaginierte Weiblichkeit</i> (excerpt)	<u>Theoretical aspects:</u> Discourse theory and gender theory pertaining to 18th century literature. Genre development of the Novella and the

	Fr. Schiller, <i>Der Verbrecher aus verlorener Ehre</i>	modern Novel. Fr. Schiller, group work: Plot, structure, characters, key paragraphs. <i>Discussion board contribution #3 - due March 16, at 12:00PM.</i>
Week 10 Mar. 16, 18	Fr. Schiller, <i>Der Verbrecher aus verlorener Ehre</i> ; Ch. Schiller, <i>Wallberg</i>	Fr. Schiller, selected research approaches. Ch. Schiller, group work: Plot, structure, characters, key paragraphs.
Week 11 Mar. 23, 25	Ch. Schiller, <i>Wallberg</i>	Ch. Schiller, selected research approaches. <i>Quiz #3 -Friday March 26, 12:00-1:00PM.</i> <i>Milestone writing assignment #3 - due March 30, 12:00PM.</i>
Week 12 Mar. 30, Apr. 1	Concluding discussion and preparation of term papers	
Week 13 April 6, 8	In-class presentation (5 min.) of planned term papers	One-page abstract is due along with presentation.
April 14	<i>End of term</i>	<i>Final term papers due at 4PM Pacific time.</i>

GERM 370 Assignments and Distribution of Grades:

1. 3 Discussion board contributions: 15%
2. 3 Quizzes: 15%
3. 3 Milestone Writing Assignments (2 pages, MLA style): 30%
4. Final term paper (6 pages, MLA style; on a topic of choice building on primary sources and theory approaches treated in class): Abstract, one slide, in-class presentation: 10%; final paper: 30%.

GERM 514 Assignments and Distribution of Grades:

1. 3 Discussion board contributions: 15%
2. 3 Quizzes: 15%
3. 3 Milestone Writing Assignments (3-4 pages MLA style): 30%
4. Final term paper (12 pages, MLA style; on a topic of choice building on primary sources treated in class): Abstract, one slide, in-class presentation: 10%; final paper: 30%.

Course Language:

This course is offered bi-lingually and operating in English and German. Competence at the level of GERM 210 is required. German majors will write at least one of Milestone Writing Assignments and the Final Term Paper in German.

Mode of Instruction:

This course will be taught online in a synchronous mode; the instructor will record all lectures. All materials are provided on Canvas.

Instructor's Office Hour and Contact Information:

- Dr. Gaby Pailer, Professor of German Literature
- Buchanan Tower 907, UBC Vancouver Campus, 1873 East Mall, V6T 1Z1
- Email: pailer@mail.ubc.ca
- Office Hour: Wednesday, 14:00 to 15:00, and by appointment