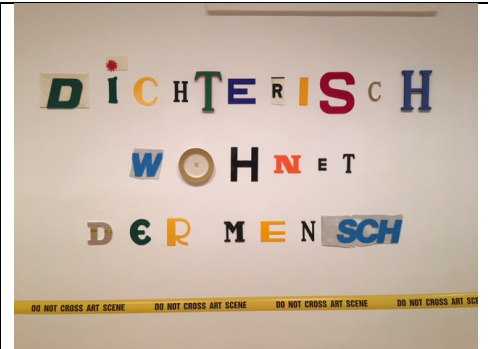


GERM 510 – Literary History

## Decolonizing German Literature, 1150 to 1950

Instructor: Prof. Dr. Gaby Pailer

Term 1, 2021; Tuesday, 2:00 – 5:00PM



Rogelio Lopez Cuenca, *Keep Reading Giving Rise*.  
Exhibition Madrid: Museo Reina Sofia, 2019.

This seminar proposes a decolonizing perspective to the traditional view of German literary history from the late 12th to the mid-20th century, putting emphasis on women and other (racialized) “others”. Students will explore examples of poetical writing in German (Medieval "Minnesong" to Bertolt Brecht), compare three samples of literary histories in German and English (ed. by Beutin, Wellbery, Brinker-Gabler), and along with this, study critical literature on German literary history (Fohrmann), aesthetic judgement (Heydebrand/Winko), canon-building and decanonisation (A. Assmann); feminist and queer studies approaches (Miller; Butler).

**Content Warning:** We will read material in this course that contains descriptions of violence, including sexual violence. Please reach out to the course instructor if you feel that you cannot read this material due to its depictions of violence, or if you wish to discuss it privately.

### Primary Course Readings

#### Medieval / Early Modern

- Medieval Poetry (e.g. Hartmann von Aue, Walther von der Vogelweide).
- Early Modern Novel: Elisabeth von Nassau-Saarbrücken, *Königin Sibille*.

#### Baroque / Early Enlightenment

- Baroque Poetry (Gryphius, Hofmannswaldau, Kuntsch).
- Baroque Drama: Sibilla Schwarz, *Trauer=Spiel wegen Einäscherung ihres Freudenortes Fretow* (1650)
- Enlightenment Drama: Johann Elias Schlegel, *Hecuba* (1736/47).

#### Classicims / Romanticism

- Poetry: Louise Brachmann, „Antigone“; Friedrich Schiller, „Das verschleierte Bild zu Sais“.
- Prose Work: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: *Unterhaltungen deutscher Ausgewanderten*.

#### „Vormärz“ / Realism

- Poetry: Annette von Droste-Hülshoff, „Der Geier“ (Ballad)
- Novella: Hedwig Dohm, *Frau Tannhäuser. Novelle*. (1888).

#### Naturalism/Avantgarde

- Poetry: Naturalism, Expressionism (Arno Holz, Margarethe Beutler, Else Lasker-Schüler, Gottfried Benn et al.)
- Short Stories: Anna Croissant-Rust, „Hochzeitsfeier“; “Aus der Kaserne“.
- Drama: Bertolt Brecht, *Coriolan*.

### Concepts of Literary History

Beutin, Wolfgang; Klaus Ehlert, Wolfgang Emmerich et. al. *Deutsche Literaturgeschichte*. Stuttgart, Weimar: Metzler. 5. Aufl. 2001.

Brinker-Gabler, Gisela: *Deutsche Literatur von Frauen*, 2 vols., Stuttgart: Metzler, 1988.

Wellbery, David (ed.). *A New History of German Literature*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press 2004.