GMST 500B / IEST 505B

A Preface to Germanic and European Studies

(German Studies Research Methods / Proseminar in European Studies)

Term 1, Wednesdays, 2:00pm-4:45pm

Instructor: Thomas Kemple

Part practical workshop and part graduate seminar, this course introduces key concepts and critically examines research techniques that have become foundational for graduate school and intellectual work (*geistige Arbeit*) more broadly. The main objective is to develop interdisciplinary methods for questioning Eurocentric orders of knowledge and rethinking Anglo-American academic norms. In other words, our task is to imagine and practice ways of deconstructing and decolonizing the canon of the humanities and social sciences. Taking the classic 'preface' as our starting point – by Kant, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, Weber, Simmel, and Freud –, we'll explore and practice academic conventions that have become institutionalized in university research, such as the research proposal, literature review, annotated bibliography, thesis statement, abstract, and keyword. Participants are expected to write about and present their own ongoing or future projects for discussion and peer review.

Reading schedule
(subject to change and open to suggestions for substitutions):

Week 1 (Sep 9): Goethe, *Faust Part I* (esp. lines 334-2072) /
Kittler, 'The Scholar's Tragedy'

Weeks 2-3 (Sep 16 / 23): Kant, 'What is Enlightenment?' / Preface, §28-30, 67, 81-87 *Critique of Judgement*
Habermas, Modernity: An Incomplete Project' / Spivak, 'Philosophy' (pp. 1-37)
* workshop on academic journals (Sep 16) (No class Sept 30)

Weeks 4-5 (Oct 7 / 14): Hegel, Preface *Phenomenology of Spirit* / Chapter IV 'Lordship and Bondage'
Derrida, 'Outwork, prefacing' / Fanon, 'The Negro and Recognition'

Weeks 6-7 (Oct 21 / 28): Marx, *Manifesto* (w Engels); '1859 Preface' / Prefaces and Chaps 1, 6 *Capital*
Berman, 'All That is Solid Melts Into Air' / Wolff, 'The Factory and the Cave'
** 2-3 page annotated bibliography or 3-4 page literature review due in class (Oct 21)
* workshop on Fraktur and Kurrentschrift (Oct 21)

Week 8 (Nov 4): Nietzsche, 'Prologue', Third Essay 11-28, *On the Genealogy of Morality*
Foucault, 'Nietzsche, Genealogy, History'
** 300 word abstract due for peer review in-class (Nov 4)
(No class November 11)

Week 9 (Nov 18): Weber, Preliminary Remark, Chapter 5 *Protestant Ethic*
Jameson, 'The Vanishing Mediator'
** 2-3 page research proposal due (peer review in-class, Nov 18)
* workshop on writing grant proposals (Nov 18)

Week 10 (Nov 25): Simmel, Preface, excerpts *Philosophy of Money*
Blumenberg, 'Money or Life'
* workshop on collected works and library research (Nov 25, meet at Koerner Library)

Week 13 (Dec 2): Freud, Preface, *Interpretation of Dreams,* '1st Dream' *Fragment of an Analysis of Hysteria*
Rose, 'Feminism and the Psyche'

** Term Paper Due Wednesday, December 9 at 5pm by e-mail **

Supplementary Readings

These readings may be either carefully read or consulted casually in addition to or instead of the main readings listed above. They can be helpful for your essay, literature review, future reference, and/or teaching. Works marked with a hashtag # below indicate fiction and poetry worth reading alongside the theoretical texts.

General works on 'theory/method': Ahmed, *In Theory*; Criser & Malakaj eds *Diversity and Decolonization in German Studies*; Daub, *What Tech Calls Thinking*; O'Neill, *Critical Conventions*; Saïd, *Culture & Imperialism*; Stein, *Avidly Reads Theory*; Taberner, *Transnational German-Language Lit. in 21C*; Wood ed, *Meaninglessness*

Goethe: Hegemann ed, *Kapitalismus u Kolonisierung*; Ronnell, *Dictations*; Tobin, *Warm Brothers*
#Goethe, 'Prometheus,' 'Ganymede'

Kant: Derrida, *On Hospitality*; Foucault, 'What is Critique?'; Habermas, *Philosophical Discourse of Modernity*
#Hoffmann, 'The Golden Pot'

Hegel: Buck-Morss, *Hegel and Haiti*; Habib, *Hegel and Empire*; O'Neill ed, *Hegel's Dialectic*
#Hölderlin, 'The Ister', 'Homecoming'

Marx: Althusser, *Lenin and Philosophy*; Carver, *Marx*; Foster, *Marx's Ecology*; Kemple, *Marx's Wager*; Silva, *Marx's Literary Style*; Smith & Evans, *'Capital' Illustrated*
#Balzac, 'The Unknown Masterpiece'

Nietzsche: Deleuze, *Nietzsche & Philosophy*; Allison ed, *The New Nietzsche*; Kofman, *Nietzsche & Metaphor*
#Nietzsche, 'Zarathustra's Prologue'

Weber: Gane, *Max Weber & Contemporary Capitalism*; Kemple, *Intellectual Work & the Spirit of Capitalism*
#Tolstoy, 'The Death of Ivan Illich'

Simmel: Frisby, *Simmel and Since*; Goodstein, *Georg Simmel and the Disciplinary Imaginary*; Kemple, *Simmel*; Pyyhtinen, *Simmel and the 'Social'*;
#Rilke, 'The Book of Poverty and Death' 1, 2, 6, 7

Freud: Gallop, *The Daughter's Seduction*; Lacan, 'The Mirror Stage', 'The Agency of the Letter; Mitchell, *Feminism and Psychoanalysis*; O'Neill, *The Domestic Economy of the Soul*
#Schnitzler, 'Dream Story'

Requirements (details provided in class)

A) Two 10-minute First Words (10 X 2 = 20%) and/or 20-minute Conference Presentation (15%): Date TBA

B) 1-2 page Annotated bibliography (10%) or 3-4 page Literature Review (15%): Due October 21 in class

C) 300 word Abstract with Thesis Statement (10%): Hard copy due November 4 in class for peer review

D) 2-3 page Research Proposal (10%): Hard copy due November 18 in class for peer review

E) Term Paper, 10-20 pages (50-80%): Hard copy or electronic copy due Wednesday, December 9, 5pm
Options: 1) 10 page maximum revised Research Proposal with abstract and thesis statement (40-50%)
2) 10-12 page Preface or Introduction (60-70%)
3) 17-20 page Long Essay (70-80%)
4) The two lowest grades of A, B, C or D will be dropped if lower than E