

Fort-Schritt

Motion & Migration in German Literature

Dr. Rebecca Haubrich
M-W, 11.35-12.55

Course Description

Schnelldigkeit [fast-pacedness] - one of those infamously long German compounds - has become a buzzword to describe our current age of technology and information. Concerns about moving through a world of instability and uncertainty, surrounded by ever changing methods of cultural reception and communication, are becoming ever more pertinent. Paradoxically, it is literature that enables us, despite the ostensible rigidity of the written word, to address the complex issues of cultural motion, movement, and migration.

This course offers a broad introduction to German literature with a thematic focus on various forms of movements, reaching from the Germans' favorite pastime *spazieren gehen* [strolling], to the cinematic transformation of the written word into moving images, to larger questions of migration and exile in the German-speaking context, as well as to technological advances and projections of the future in philosophy and science-fiction.

Authors include Aichinger, Benjamin, Brecht, Kafka, Wolf, et al.; directors include Lang, Schlöndorff, Wiene. Readings will be in English, alongside the German original.



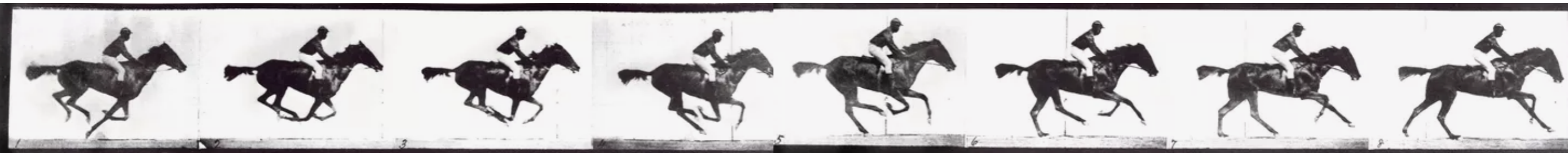
Fall 2021 / Germ2201 / Intro to German Literature

Learning Goals

This course offers a broad introduction to German literature, alongside insights to the relationship between literature and film, focusing on prose and poetic texts, philosophical and essayistic works, as well as drama. A primary learning goal is the sharpening of analytical and close reading skills that support a critical approach to historic and cultural objects in general; moreover, you will get acquainted with the broader framework of German literary movements and learn how to analyze and interpret literary works in their historical context.

Assignments

This course requires **active participation** in class and **thorough preparation** of the materials that will be discussed. There will be **2 writing assignments** throughout the course: **1 midterm paper (750-1000 words)**, and **1 final paper (1200-1500 words)**. The focus of your papers will be on close reading and analysis: You will work on your own interpretations of primary texts, which are informed by class discussions, yet will show your ability to independently engage with these works. You will be required to submit **short abstracts (3-4 sentences, alongside a preliminary bibliography)** for your writing assignments in advance. Additionally, there will be a **creative group project**, concerned with creating your own motion documentation.



Course Organization

- face-to-face delivery
- all readings will be available as PDFs

Your Instructor

Dr. Rebecca Haubrich

rebecca.haubrich@dal.ca

Office Hours: Tue., 3 - 4 pm, and
by appointment

Grading

attendance & participation:	25%
preparation:	10%
project week:	15%
midterm paper:	20%
final paper:	25%

Fall 2021 / Germ2201 / Intro to German Literature

The Flaneur walking, strolling, spazieren	Motion Pictures filming, recording, aufnehmen	Migration migrating, relocating, migrieren	Fort-Schritt progressing, advancing, fortschreiten
Week 1 Wed., Sept. 8 Walter Benjamin: <i>The Arcades Project</i> [Das Passagen-Werk]; excerpts	Week 5 Mon., Oct. 4 Hugo von Hofmannsthal: <i>A Substitute for Dreams</i> [Ein Ersatz für die Träume]	Week 8 Mon., Oct. 25 Christa Wolf: <i>Eulogy for the Living</i> [Nachruf auf Lebende], pt. 1	Week 11 Mon., Nov. 22 Karl Kraus: <i>Progress</i> [Der Fortschritt]
Week 2 Mon., Sept. 13 Walter Benjamin: <i>Berlin Childhood around 1900</i> [Berliner Kindheit um 1900]; excerpts Wed., Sept. 15 Franz Hessel: <i>Walking in Berlin</i> [Spazieren in Berlin]; excerpts	Wed., Oct. 6 [film] Robert Wiene: <i>The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari</i> [Das Cabinet des Dr. Caligari]; Siegfried Kracauer: <i>From Caligari to Hitler</i> [Von Caligari zu Hitler]; excerpts	Wed., Oct. 27 Christa Wolf: <i>Eulogy for the Living</i> [Nachruf auf Lebende], pt. 2	Wed., Nov. 24 Franz Kafka: <i>In the Penal Colony</i> [In der Strafkolonie]
Week 3 Mon., Sept. 20 Ilse Aichinger: <i>The Billboard</i> [Das Plakat] Wed., Sept. 22 Ilse Aichinger: <i>Film and Fate</i> [Film und Verhängnis]; excerpts	Fri. Oct. 8 midterm paper due	Week 9 Mon., Nov. 1 Christa Wolf: <i>Eulogy for the Living</i> [Nachruf auf Lebende], pt. 3	Week 12 Mon., Nov. 9 [film] Fritz Lang: <i>Metropolis</i> Wed., Dec. 1 Anna Seghers: <i>Tales of the Unearthly</i> [Sagen von Unirdischen]
Week 4 Project Week Mon., Sept. 27 / Wed., Sept. 29 Becoming a Flaneur - Documenting a stroll through Halifax	Week 6 Mon., Oct. 11 Thanksgiving - no class Wed., Oct. 13 Bertolt Brecht: <i>On Expressionism</i> [Über den Expressionismus]; <i>Baal</i> , pt. 1	Wed., Nov. 2 Paul Celan, Rose Ausländer: <i>selected poems</i> November 8-12 Fall Study Break	Week 13 Mon., Dec. 6 Irmgard Keun: <i>Only Women Left</i> [Nur noch Frauen...] Tue., Dec. 7 concluding discussion
	Week 7 Mon., Oct. 18 Bertolt Brecht: <i>Baal</i> , pt. 2 Wed., Oct. 20 [film] Volker Schlöndorff: <i>Baal</i>	Week 10 Mon., Nov. 15 [film] Christian Petzold: <i>Transit</i> Wed., Nov. 17 Anna Seghers: <i>Transit</i> ; excerpts	Fri. Dec. 9 final paper due

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University Policies & Statements

This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and the Senate. Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all Treaty people.

Academic Integrity: At Dalhousie, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect. As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity: http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

Accessibility: The Student Accessibility Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students on the Halifax campus who request accommodation as a result of: a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (NS, NB, PEI, NFLD): https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html

Student Code of Conduct: Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner - perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-life-policies/code-of-student-conduct.html

Diversity and Inclusion - Culture of Respect: Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity and dedicated to achieving equity. We are committed to being a respectful and inclusive community where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our university prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness: <https://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html>

University Policies and Programs:

- Important Dates in the Academic Year: http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html
- Dalhousie Grading Practices Policy: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html
- Grade Appeal Process: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/grades-and-student-records/appealing-a-grade.html
- Sexualized Violence Policy: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/health-and-safety/sexualized-violence-policy.html
- Scent-Free Program: <http://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html>

Learning and Support Resources:

- General Academic Support - Advising: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html