Term 2 2026-2027

Course Code & Title:	**GERM2100** **Exploring German Literature**
Language of Instruction: English	Units: 3

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to some most representative figures in German literature. Emphasis is placed on the critical and analytical reading of their major works in English. All readings and discussions are in English. No knowledge of German is required.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student should demonstrate the ability to

- classify the important periods, writers and works of German literature.
- understand and analyze literary works as reflections of the social and political context of their time.
- distinguish various literary forms, such as dramas, novels, poetry and short stories.
- discuss and compare the portrayal of basic human issues (love, hate, friendship, loyalty, betrayal, family, coming of age, struggle for freedom, the supernatural) in important works of German literature in different periods.
- approach literature from a creative perspective through hands-on practice.

Course Content

	Topics	Content/Concepts
0	Periods of German Literature	Overview of the development from the beginning to present
1	Medieval Times 600-1600	Das Nibelungenlied (*Song of the Nibelungs*) - ~1200
2	Enlightenment 1720-1800	Lessing (1729-1781): Nathan der Weise, *(Nathan the Wise, 1779)*
3	Storm and Stress 1770-1800	Schiller (1759-1805): An die Freude, Die Bürgschaft *(Ode to Joy, 1785, The Pledge, 1798)*
4	Weimar Classicism 1786-1805	Goethe (1749-1832): Goethe: Faust (*Faust, 1806-1831)*
5	Romanticism 1795-1840	Eichendorff (1788-1857): Mondnacht (*Moonlit night, 1835*) Poetry, Music and Art
6	Vormärz 1830-1848	Heine (1797-1856) Deutschland. Ein Wintermärchen *(Germany, A Winter's tale. 1844)*
7	Realism	Ebner-Eschenbach (1830-1916) Krambambuli, *1883*
8	Expressionism 1910-1925	Kafka (1883-1924), Die Verwandlung (*Metamorphosis, 1915*)
9	WWII 1939-45 and beyond	Celan (1920-1970), Todesfuge (*Death fugue, 1945)* Borchert (1921-1947): Nachts schlafen die Ratten doch *(Rats Sleep at Night, 1947)*
10	Post-war: Swiss Literature	Dürrenmatt (1921-1990), Der Besuch der alten Dame (*The Visit, 1956*)
11	Contemporary Literature	Judith Hermann (1970 -) Sommerhaus, später (*Summerhouse, later*, 2001)
12	Migration Literature	Yoko Tawada (1960 -) Wo Europa anfänt (Where Europe Begins, 2002)

Learning Activities							
Interactive classwork[1] (hr/day)		Extra-curricular activities (hr/course)		Web-based teaching (hr/day)		Homework / Self-study (hr/day)	
in /	out class	in /	out class	in /	out class	in /	out class
3			2		0.5		3
M			O		M		M

M = Mandatory / O = Optional

[1] Interactive classwork focuses on student-centered activities as pair work, group work, role-playing and student-teacher interaction.

Assessment Scheme		
Task nature	Description	Weight
Participation and Homework	Participation includes preparing for class and doing the readings, arriving on time, attending lessons and making active contributions in discussions.	10%
Online Quizzes	Quizzes regarding the readings of the course, which are to be completed before lessons.	15%
Presentation	Introducing an author and his/her works	25%
Written assignment	Assignment on a work discussed in class	30%
Final Exam	Exam about the works discussed in this course	20%

Important Points to Note for Assessments: All in-class assessments (written and oral) are conducted under **closed-book conditions** unless otherwise announced by the course teachers explicitly. Students are not permitted to consult textbooks, workbooks, notes, dictionaries, handouts, or any other reference materials during the assessment. Mobile phones, smart watches, tablets, laptops, AI tools, and all other electronic devices must be switched off and put away before the assessment begins.

Notes:
- Students are required to arrive on time.
- Students are required to attend at least 75% of the class. Treat 75% attendance as the minimum, not the maximum.
- **Should a student miss more than 25% of the class, he/she will automatically fail the course.**
- If a student is unable to attend, he/she should review the content and homework that are missed and make them up him/herself.
- **For missed tests, make-up tests will not be arranged unless the student can provide an official supporting document, such as a medical certificate.**

Learning Resources

Course Materials

Excerpts and handouts will be provided by the teacher
Youtube Channel (German CUHK, Literatur):
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2e0DtFeEEi1j_-AONLzVu2JugO5gRAvT

Recommended reading

- **Watanabe-O'Kelly, Helen** (ed) (1997) The Cambridge history of German literature. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- **Kim, Vivian** (1992) A concise history of German literature to 1900. Columbia: Camden House.
- **Stoehr, Ingo Roland** (2001) German literature of the twentieth century: from aestheticism to postmodernism. Rochester, N.Y.: Camden House.

Assessment Rubrics					
General Grade Descriptors:					
	A	B	C	D	F
General	Outstanding performance in all learning outcomes and meeting all specified assessment requirements.	Good performance in all learning outcomes.	Satisfactory performance in the majority of learning outcomes.	Barely satisfactory performance in a number of learning outcomes.	Unsatisfactory performance in a number of learning outcomes and/or failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

Schedule (Subject to change):

Week	Date	Content	Presentation	Remarks
1	Jan 11-17	Introduction / Medieval Epic		
2	Jan 18-24	Enlightenment	Sample presentation	
3	Jan 25-31	Storm and Stress	1. Storm and Stress	Department add/drop (until Jan 29 (Fri)) **(exceptional cases only)**
4	Feb 1-7	Weimar Classicism	2. Weimar Classicism	5 Feb (Fri) - 11 Feb (Thu): CNY
5	Feb 8-14	*no class*	*no class*	5 Feb (Fri) - 11 Feb (Thu): CNY
6	Feb 15-21	Romaticism	3 Romanticism	**18 Feb (Thu) Intro of Summer Courses + German Movie Night**
7	Feb 22-28	Vormärz	4. Vormärz	
8	Mar 1-7	Realisam	5. Realism	
9	Mar 8-14	*Reading week*	*no class*	8 Mar (Mon) - 13 Mar (Sat): Reading week
10	Mar 15-21	Expressionism	6. Expressionism	18 Mar (Thursday) German Night
11	Mar 22-28	WWII	7. WWII	26 Mar (Fri): Good Friday
12	Mar 29 – Apr 4	Swiss Literature	8. Swiss Literature	29 Mar (Mo) Easter Monday
13	Apr 5-11	Contemporary Literature	9. Contemporary Literature	
14	Apr 12-18	Migration Literature	13. Migrationsliteratur	
15	Apr 19-25	Wrap-up		Final Exam

Class section and teachers' contact details:

Class	Time	Classroom	Weeks	Teacher	Email
GERM2100	Wed 2:30PM-5:15PM	Hui Yeung Shing Bldg G03	13	Ms. Annette Fromel	annettefromel@cuhk.edu.hk

Adverse Weather Arrangements

In the event that a face-to-face class is suspended due to adverse weather conditions, the teacher may, where appropriate, conduct the class online at the scheduled class time. Students will be informed

through Blackboard and/or email of any such arrangement. If a student is unable to participate in the online session due to technical difficulties or other unforeseen circumstances, alternative arrangements (e.g. access to lecture recordings, supplementary materials, or make-up arrangements, where applicable) will be provided.

For further information and inquiries, you are welcome to contact the Course Coordinator:

Contact	Telephone	Email	Office
Ms. Annette Frömel	3943 7699	annettefromel@cuhk.edu.hk	Rm G21, Leung Kau Kui Building
General Office	3943 9836	lin@cuhk.edu.hk	Rm G17, Leung Kau Kui Building Office Hours: Monday to Thursday: 8:45am to 1:00pm and 2:00pm to 5:30pm Friday: 8:45am to 1:00pm and 2:00pm to 5:45pm

Schedule (Subject to change):

Week	Date	Content/Remark	Presentation (on Tue)	
1	Jan 09 – 15	Introduction / Medieval epic		
2	Jan 16 – 22	Enlightenment	Sample Presentation	Online add drop
3	*Jan 23 – 29*	*Lunar New Year Vacation*		*NO CLASS*
4	Jan 30 – Feb 05	Storm and Stress	1. Storm & Stress	Department add-drop (-3.2., exceptional cases)
5	Feb 06 – Feb 12	Weimar Classicism	2. Weimar Class.	
6	Feb 13 – Feb 19	Romanticism	3. Romanticism	
7	Feb 20 – Feb 26	Vormärz	4. Vormärz	
8	Feb 27 – Mar 5	Realism	5. Realism	**Reflection paper**
9	*Mar 6 – Mar 12*	*Reading Week*		*NO CLASS*
10	Mar 13 – Mar 19	Expressionism	6. Expressionism	
11	Mar 20 – Mar 26	Expressionism		
12	Mar 27 – Apr 2	WWII	7. WWII	
13	Apr 3 – Apr 9	Swiss Literature	8. Swiss Lit	5. 4. (Wed) Ching Ming, 7.4. Good Friday
14	Apr 10 – 16	Contemporary Lit	9. Contemporary Lit	10.4. Easter Monday
15	Apr 17 – 23	Wrap-up		**Final Exam**

Class section and Teacher's contact details:

Class	Time	Classroom	Weeks	Teacher	Email
GERM2100	Th 10:30AM - 12:15PM	LHC G01	13	Ms. Annette Frömel	annettefromel@cuhk.edu.hk
	Tu 01:30PM - 02:15PM	ERB 306	13		

For further information and inquiries you are welcome to contact the teacher or the General Office :

Contact	Telephone	Email	Office
General Office	3943 7110	lin@cuhk.edu.hk	Rm G17, KKL Building **Office Hours:** Monday to Thursday: 8:45am to 1:00pm and 2:00pm to 5:30pm Friday: 8:45am to 1:00pm and 2:00pm to 5:45pm

Details of Course Website
CUHK Blackboard

Feedback for Evaluation
Our language programme highly values students' feedback and comments and is happy to use them for reflection on our teaching and improvement. Students are very welcome to provide comments and feedback on the course at any time to their course teacher or the course level coordinator through email or in personal conversation. In addition, students' feedback will be collected in the middle of the term through an open-ended questionnaire and the teacher will discuss the feedback in class and make improvements if necessary. The course will also follow the university's course evaluation exercise at the end of the term, and students' feedback will be used for future course planning and teaching.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism
Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/. With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. • In the case of group projects, all members of the group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible and liable to disciplinary actions, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed, directly or indirectly, to the problematic contents. • For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. • Students are fully aware that their work may be investigated by AI content detection software to determine originality. • Students are fully aware of the AI approach(es) adopted in the course. In the case where some AI tools are allowed, students have made proper acknowledgment and citations as suggested by the course teacher. Assignments without a properly signed declaration will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide. The submission of a piece of work, or a part of a piece of work, for more than one purpose (e.g. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration to this effect shall be regarded as having committed undeclared multiple submissions. It is common and acceptable to reuse a turn of phrase or a sentence or two from one's own work; but wholesale reuse is problematic. In any case, agreement from the course teacher(s) concerned should be obtained prior to the submission of the piece of work.

The copyright of the teaching materials, including lecture notes, assignments and examination questions, etc., produced by staff members/ teachers of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) belongs to CUHK. Students may download the teaching materials produced by the staff members/ teachers from the Learning Management Systems, e.g. Blackboard, adopted by CUHK for their own educational use, but shall not distribute/ share/ copy the materials to a third-party without seeking prior permission from the staff members/ teachers concerned.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools in Teaching, Learning and Assessment

All use of AI tools is prohibited in assignments and assessment tasks

For assignments and assessment tasks that count towards the final course grades, students are not allowed to submit work which is produced with the collaboration of or supported by the use of any generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT)*.

Any breach of the regulations will be considered an act of academic dishonesty and will be handled according to the University's *Procedures for Handling Cases of Academic Dishonesty.*

In case of queries, students should seek advice from the course teacher.

For more information about our German Programme, please join us on Instagram!

@CUHK_GERMAN