

German Literary and Cultural Tradition(s)

Spring 2020

Logistical Information

Class: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12:50 to 1:40 in 338 O'Shaughnessy Hall.

Office: 349 Decio Hall

Office Hours: Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:45 and Fridays from 2:00 to 3:15 as well as by appointment. Impromptu meetings can often be arranged before class on Mondays and Wednesdays and before and after class on Fridays.

Phone: (574) 631-8142 (office); (574) 302-1813 (cell).

E-mail: mroche@nd.edu; **Web:** <http://mroche.nd.edu/>

Course Description

What are the major developments in the literary and cultural history of German-speaking Europe? Who are the significant figures and what are the greatest works in the German tradition? How do these figures and works relate to one another? What themes permeate the tradition? How are they like or unlike what one sees in other cultures? Are there distinctive and defining characteristics of the German tradition, or should we speak of traditions? What are the most productive and compelling questions with which to approach a work of literature or culture?

These and related questions will be explored in this class. Students will read, discuss, and analyze selected texts representing prose, poetry, and drama. They will also be exposed to the visual arts, music, film, and philosophy. They will become familiar with fundamental techniques of approaching and interpreting works, which will help prepare them for more advanced courses.

We will survey a number of figures and works, dwelling longer on a few. We will read in its entirety one of the best known works in all of German literature, Lessing's Enlightenment drama *Nathan der Weise*, a work that even today is part of German public discourse. We will read a shortened but otherwise unaltered version of the greatest work of German literature, Goethe's *Faust*. In addition, we will read many shorter pieces and will explore, partly together, partly on the basis of student initiative, works of broader German culture.

German literature and culture is arguably peerless in its richness. The syllabus supplement articulates this richness in a wide array of fields from aesthetics, art history, and music to philosophy and theology and on to environmentalism and the philosophy of higher education.

To begin to approach the richness of this German intellectual tradition, we will combine four strategies. First, we will explore briefly together a large number of German artists and thinkers. Second, partly through supplemental readings we will gain an overview of the intersection of literature, culture, and history. Third, we will linger with a few works and a few authors so that you are able to develop some of the focused capacities that are signature elements of German higher education: the capacity to read a work closely and with attention to details. Fourth, students will be given opportunities to choose their own paths within German literature and culture and explore some topics on their own.

Learning Goals

1) Engagement with Great Works: Students will be able to discuss and analyze a selection of great works along with basic literary concepts and historical context relevant for these works and for much future reading of literature. Students will grow in their appreciation of the value of reading great works and asking great questions as part of a life-long process of continual learning. In so doing, they will cultivate their enjoyment of the life of the mind, building resources for the continued development of their inner world, and they will learn to value complexity and ambiguity. In relating to these works and questions in a personal way, they will also recognize a strong relationship between their academic work and personal lives.

2) German Language Skills: Students will advance in their ability to read, write, speak, and understand German. Through practice they will reinforce basic issues as well as improve their capacity for articulate and precise mastery of the language, both spoken and written, and they will improve their basic communication skills insofar as they accompany the organization and communication of their thoughts.

3) German Cultural Literacy: Students will become familiar with a selection of important and influential literary works from the German tradition, thus increasing their exposure to the kinds of works that have been part of most well-educated Germans' repertoire across the ages. In understanding, analyzing, and interpreting these works, students will also gain an indirect window onto selected aspects of German literary, intellectual, and social history.

4) Hermeneutic Capacities: Students will improve their skills in interpreting, analyzing, and evaluating literary and cultural works. They will develop their capacity to ask pertinent and interesting questions and to argue for and against various interpretations. They will recognize the extent to which the parts and wholes of great works relate to one another.

5) Intellectual Virtues: Students will improve their capacities to process difficult materials, formulate clear questions, listen carefully and attentively, explore ideas through dialogue, and express their thoughts eloquently and persuasively. They will also continue to develop various intellectual virtues, such as temperance, modesty, justice, intellectual hospitality, diplomacy, courage, honesty, perseverance, patience, curiosity, and wonder.

Principles of Student Learning

The course will be organized in accordance with several common-sense pedagogical principles, most of which were embodied already by Socrates and which have been given empirical verification in our age:

- *Active Learning*: Students are not passive minds into whose heads content is to be poured. Students learn by becoming involved, asking questions, engaging in discussions, solving problems, defending positions, writing and rewriting papers, in short, by energetically devoting themselves to the learning process. Educators speak of active or student-centered learning. Students learn most effectively when they are actively engaged, not simply listening or absorbing material. In fact simply taking an exam, even when you perform poorly, helps you to learn the material. Accordingly, this course will be student-centered, with considerable focus on student-student discussion, regular written contributions, and paper topics chosen by students.
- *Peer Learning*: Students learn greatly from their peers. You are influenced by the people with whom you spend your time, for good or for ill. Who among your friends awakens your most noble intellectual passions and helps you become a better interlocutor and person? The research shows that the student's peer group is the single greatest source of influence on cognitive and affective development in college. We will enjoy many student-student discussions in which the teacher simply plays a guiding role. You are also encouraged to discuss our various texts and questions with one another and with others beyond the classroom.
- *Existential Engagement*: Students learn more when they are existentially engaged in the subject, when they care about the questions under discussion and recognize their significance. If you volunteer in a soup kitchen, your course on the economics of poverty takes on a different meaning. If you spend a semester in Berlin, German history and politics become far more important to you. To that end and because of their intrinsic value, we will read these works not only to understand them in their own context, as interesting as that is, but also to ask, to what extent they speak to us today. Can we learn not only *about* these works, but also *from* them? That means relating these works to your past experiences, daily lives, and future aspirations, without falling into a purely subjective interpretation of the meaning.
- *Intrinsic Motivation*: Motivation plays a large role in learning. The best learning comes not from external motivation, seeking external approbation and praise, but from intrinsic motivation, from identification with a vision of wanting to learn.
- *High Expectations and Feedback*: Students learn the most when their teachers have high academic expectations of them and when students receive helpful feedback that supports them in their quest to meet those high expectations. To know what you don't know is to help focus your learning. A combination of being challenged and being supported helps learning immensely. You can be sure that if the coach of an athletic team is nonchalant

about physical fitness, discipline, timing, teamwork, and the like, the team will not win many games. So, too, an easy A will not help you in the long run, as you interview for highly competitive postgraduate fellowships or positions at the best graduate schools or with the leading firms. The best way to learn is to shoot very high and to recognize what might still be needed to meet those high aspirations. Detailed feedback and discriminating grades are ways of pointing out strengths and weaknesses to students, challenging them to stretch, so that they are not lulled into thinking that their current capacities cannot be improved, and they needn't learn more.

- *Effortful Learning:* Many think that easier paths to learning make for better learning. In truth, the evidence shows that easier learning is often superficial and quickly forgotten, whereas effortful learning leads to deeper and more durable learning as well as greater mastery and better applications. For example, trying to solve a problem before being taught a solution leads to better learning. Hard learning, making mistakes and correcting them, is not wasted effort but important work; it improves your intelligence. Striving to surpass your current abilities and experiencing setbacks are part of true learning, which, unlike superficial learning, develops and changes the brain, building new connections and increasing intellectual capacities. For better learning, difficulties are desirable: the harder the effort, the greater the benefit. For example, instead of simply reviewing notes on our readings, you might reflect on the reading: What are the key ideas? What ideas are new to me? How would I explain them to someone else? How does what I read relate to what I already know? What questions do I have? What arguments speak for and against a given position?
- *Breadth of Context:* If you put what you are learning into a larger context and connect it with what you already know and are learning in your other courses, your learning will be deeper and more stable. If you can connect a story, an idea, or a principle as you uncover it to other stories, ideas, and principles or to what you yourself think, then the stories, ideas, and principles will more likely resonate for you in the future. In our class, seeing connections across works as well as seeing connections between our discussions and discussions and works in other classes as well as your own life will help give you that larger context. The more you know, the more you can learn. Ask yourself, what larger lessons can be drawn from what I am exploring.
- *Faculty-Student Contact.* The greatest predictor of student satisfaction with college is frequent interaction with faculty members. Students are more motivated, more committed, and more involved and seem to learn more when they have a connection to faculty members. So take advantage of opportunities to connect with your teachers. Drop in during my office hours (come when you have a need or a question or simply when you would like to chat). Take advantage as well of other opportunities we will find for informal conversations. And don't hesitate to ask for help.
- *Meaningful Investment of Time:* Students who major in disciplines that are less demanding of students' time tend to make fewer cognitive gains in college. Everyone who wants to learn a complex and demanding subject must make a substantial effort.

Learning occurs not only during class time. It derives also from the investment you make in learning, the quality of the time you spend reading, thinking, writing, and speaking with others outside of class. For this three-credit advanced course you will want to spend more than six hours per week preparing. An advantage you have in this course is that the works are challenging and fun, so your study can be work and pleasure simultaneously.

- *Diversity*: Another learning principle is diversity. When you discover that your roommate is Muslim, you suddenly become more curious about Islam. That is not especially likely at Notre Dame, so we need to cultivate intellectual diversity, engaging works from other cultures and in languages other than English. We want to hear different perspectives from one another, even the most unusual, since thinking outside the box can help us see more clearly. Do not be shy about asking off-the-wall questions or making unusual comments. And don't let contrary views bother you emotionally. All such contributions can be useful, as the process of discovering truth involves listening to various perspectives. In addition, many of the works we will study introduce us to radically different world-views from our own, but precisely in their difference, they may provide interesting antidotes to some of the cliches of the present.
- *Self-Reflection*: Students learn more when they are aware of how they best learn (so that they can focus their energies), what they most lack, and how they can learn more. How can I become a better student? How can I learn to guide myself? We may occasionally have meta-discussions in which we reflect on our discussion at a higher level. Around what central interpretive question did the debate we were just having revolve? Why did we relinquish one interpretation and adopt another? How would we describe the evidence that spoke for and against the various positions? Why was today's discussion particularly successful or less successful? What is helping us learn? The latter question underscores why I have just placed these principles before you.

We will pursue each of these dimensions. Above all, your learning will depend on your active engagement. To that end the following contributions to learning will affect the assessment of your performance.

Student Contributions to Learning and Assessment Guidelines

Nearly half of the grade will be based on daily contributions, oral and written, during the semester. 40% will be based on more formal written work, where you will be asked to perform at the highest possible level. 15% will be devoted to assessing your comprehensive understanding of the material and your attainment of learning goals.

You should have a good sense of your overall performance along the way, as 70% of your grade involves your work during the semester, with 30% reserved for your final paper and final exam collectively.

- 1) **Class Contribution**: 20%;

Students will be expected to contribute regularly to discussions and adopt various facilitative roles during the semester. Active and meaningful engagement in the classroom is one of the strongest indicators of good learning. It will help you develop your German and allow you to test your ideas. Class contribution is not equivalent with the quantity of class participation; instead both quantity and quality will be considered. Because student learning is aided by active student participation in the classroom, students will want to prepare well and contribute regularly and meaningfully to discussions.

After the review of the syllabus, the language for this class will be German.

2) **Regular Written Contributions:** 25%

For each class, beginning with our first discussion of the Baroque, students will prepare at least three well-crafted sentences with insights or questions. They may be interwoven to form a brief paragraph, or they may be isolated or independent observations. You may include questions designed to elicit discussion (that is, open-ended, questions that encourage analysis and debate) or statements that explore the following: an insight that you have into the work, an idea that you find compelling or less compelling, an aspect of the work that struck you as unusually significant, a comparison with earlier passages or works, etc. I will almost always offer you some pre-reading or study questions; students have found it very useful to address one or more of these questions.

In terms of length you might shoot for around 150 words, give or take. If you are struggling with basic issues of grammar, you might write less but try to make fewer mistakes. If you have good command of grammar, you should feel free to write a bit more.

These daily exercises will help your class preparation, allow you to explore ideas, and will be a superb strategy to aid you in your developing language skills. *These daily exercises will always be in German, typed and double-spaced, and brought to each class, so that I can give you feedback.*

You will want to keep all of your contributions in a folder and in order. I may ask you to offer a self-analysis of your strengths and weaknesses.

If you run into an occasional printing snag, I will be happy to receive your e-mail immediately before or after class. However, these should be very rare exceptions. I will not accept e-mail submissions on a regular basis, and any e-mail submissions not sent immediately after class will be eligible for at most a check.

In a few cases I add the stipulation “Tandem Submission.” Students should prepare for class together in groups of two or three and present one set of comments or questions. In other cases I list “Student Questions.” In these cases students are to prepare not comments but specifically study and discussion questions.

On the day you distribute your hand-out or on the day of your Referat (your choice), you need

not submit a written contribution.

Your handouts will function as your submissions on the three days of student explorations.

On occasion I will ask you to take out a piece of paper and respond to a question of one kind or another. These will be brief in-class exercises designed to aid your learning. If you reflect on material learned and on various combinations of texts and ideas, you will be adopting the best strategy to ensure long-term learning. Simply going through the exercise of being tested on questions aids learning. These in-class exercises will also be helpful preparatory work for the final examination and will allow you to familiarize yourself with the form of the final examination.

3) Three Papers: 40%;

Students will write three papers. These will be excellent opportunities to practice very good German and to pursue thoughts in greater detail. These papers will count in sequence, 12%, 13%, and 15%. The first paper will be at least 750 words, the second at least 1,000 words, and the third at least 1,250 words. You should list at the bottom of each essay the number of words your essay contains. These word lengths correspond approximately to three pages, four pages, and five pages, respectively.

Students will choose their own topics by focusing on one or more works we have explored together in class.

All papers should be Times New Roman or a similar standard font, 12 point, and double spaced.

Each paper should have a title and pagination. You will want to use [MLA style](#). (MLA stands for the Modern Language Association.) This style is widespread in the humanities and relatively simple and user-friendly. The library has reference materials that spell out MLA style, such as the *MLA Handbook* or the *MLA Style Manual*, and there are short versions available on the Web. I have a few copies students may borrow upon request. With permission, students may choose an alternative format.

The first two papers are to be rewritten after you receive my comments and then resubmitted within one week of their return to you. Rewriting is an excellent strategy to improve your capacity for writing. The grade will be adjusted based on the revision. You may not seek outside help, beyond me, for your regular submissions. You are free to consult with peer tutors after you have drafted your revisions, but in that case you must note at the end of your paper precisely on how many corrections the peer tutors assisted you.

Please submit your papers via Drop Box on Sakai. Late submissions of all papers will be downgraded a partial grade (for example, from a B to a B-), with a further drop of a partial grade for each 24 hours that passes beyond the due date.

5) Final Examination 15%

A final examination will allow you to show what you have been learning throughout the semester. Our final examination is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. in our regular classroom.

The goals of each assignment and of all evaluation are to improve understanding and performance. For more detailed comments on these assignments and on assessment guidelines, see below.

Calendar of Classes and Readings

Please note that in some cases, such as most of the sessions on poetry, I have assigned more works than we could possibly discuss in class. This practice will give you a broader context into an author or movement. In most cases I will either designate in advance the work or works on which we will focus our collective discussion, or I will ask you to identify the works that you think we should discuss most intensely.

Each class of students is different, and if it turns out that we need to devote more time to grammar puzzles, we can do so, but we may then adjust one or two readings or move a small percentage of the analyses of works from discussion to lecture, though the preference and most likely scenario is to make student-centered discussions our dominant mode of learning.

January 15, 2020 Orientation

Barock

January 17, 2020 Manfred Mai's *Deutsche Geschichte*: "Vom rechten Glauben" (46-50); "Glaubens- und Kirchenspaltung" (54-55); and "Der Dreißigjährige Krieg" (55-59). Please read these passages and listen to the audio via Sakai; also Andreas Gryphius, "Es ist alles eitel"

January 20, 2019 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No Class)

January 22, 2020 Andreas Gryphius, "Es ist alles eitel" (continued); "Menschliches Elende"; "Tränen des Vaterlandes / Anno 1636"; "Ebenbild unseres Lebens"; "Abend"; Brockes, "Kirschblüte bei der Nacht"

Aufklärung

January 24, 2020 Lessing, Nathan der Weise, 5-32

January 27, 2020 Lessing, Nathan der Weise, 33-56
Mai Required: 65-66 ("Was ist Aufklärung?")

January 29, 2020 Lessing, Nathan der Weise, 56-76

- January 31, 2020 Lessing, Nathan der Weise, 77-98
Please listen to the audio version of scenes III.5-7 on Sakai (via Library Reserves).
- February 3, 2020 Lessing, Nathan der Weise, 98-127
Please listen to the audio version of scenes IV.2 and IV.7 on Sakai (via Library Reserves).
- February 5, 2020 Lessing, Nathan der Weise, 127-152
- Sturm und Drang, Klassik und Romantik**
- February 7, 2020 Goethe, “Willkommen und Abschied”; “Prometheus”; “Ganymed”; “Das Göttliche”; “Natur und Kunst”; “Eins und Alles”.
Tandem Submission
- February 10, 2020 Peer Review Session for First Paper
- February 12, 2020 Goethe, Faust, 1-27
No written contribution today because of your forthcoming paper submissions.
- First paper are due via Drop Box on February 13 at 5:00 p.m.**
- February 14, 2020 Goethe, Faust, 28-57
Please note that we meet today in the Rare Books and Special Collections section on the first floor of the Library. Our host will be Dr. Julie Tanaka, Curator of Special Collections.
- February 17, 2020 Goethe, Faust, 58-82
- February 19, 2020 Goethe, Faust, 83-110
- February 21, 2020 Watch selected scenes from Faust on Library Reserves:
- Prolog Im Himmel 6:39-11:47
Nacht (Faust-Monolog) 11:55-16:16
- Studierzimmer II (Mephisto und Schüler) 46:52-54:31
- Gretchens Stube (Meine Ruhe ist hin) 134:11-135:35
Marthens Garten (Gretchenfrage)135:36-139:06
Marthens Garten (Mephistos Zynismus)139:07-140.02
- Student Questions**

February 24, 2020	Student Explorations I
February 26, 2020	Schiller, “An die Freude”; Beethoven, 9. Sinfonie
February 28, 2020	Hölderlin, “Die Eichbäume”; “Hyperions Schicksalslied”; “Meiner verehrungswürdigen Großmutter. Zu ihrem 72. Geburtstag” Tandem Submission
March 2, 2020	Novalis, Christenheit oder Europa
March 4, 2020	Selected Paintings from Capar David Friedrich; Eichendorff, “Schläft ein Lied”; “Sehnsucht”; “Mondnacht”
March 6, 2020	Review/Overview/Preview Mai Required: 61-64 (“Die Preußen kommen”) and 73-76 (“Ein Franzose ordnet Deutschland neu”)
March 9, 2020	Spring Break
March 11, 2020	Spring Break
March 13, 2020	Spring Break
	Die Schule des Verdachts
March 16, 2020	Heine, “Traum und Leben”; “Fragen”; “Das Fräulein stand am Meere”; “Die schlesischen Weber”; “Doktrin”
March 18, 2020	Heine, Deutschland. Ein Wintermärchen, Caput I-II; “Nachtgedanken”; “Bei des Nachtwächters Ankunft zu Paris”; “Zur Beruhigung” Mai Optional: 79-83 (“Was ist des Deutschen Vaterland?” and “Wieder keine Revolution”)
March 20, 2020	Marx, “Die entfremdete Arbeit” (excerpts); “Geld”; “Zur Kritik der Hegelschen Rechtsphilosophie” (excerpts); “Thesen über Feuerbach” (excerpts) Mai Required: 86-90 (“Die ‘soziale Frage’ verlangt Antworten”)
March 23, 2020	Peer Review Session for Second Paper Mai Required: 90-92 (“Einigkeit und Recht und Freiheit”)
March 25, 2020	Student Explorations II Mai Required: 92-95 (“Durch Eisen und Blut zum Ziel”); Mai Optional: 96-98 (“Sozialistengesetz und Sozialgesetze”)

Second papers are due via Drop Box on March 26 at 5:00 p.m.

Expressionismus, Neue Sachlichkeit, Weimarer Republik

- March 27, 2020 Else Lasker-Schüler, “Weltende”; Jakob van Hoddis, “Weltende”; Alfred Lichtenstein, “Die Dämmerung” and “Der Morgen”; Georg Heym, “Der Gott der Stadt” and “Die Stadt”; Gottfried Benn, “Kleine Aster” and “Mann und Frau gehen durch die Krebsbaracke”
Mai Optional: 106-10 (“Mit Freude in den Krieg”)
- On Sunday, March 29, we will travel to the Chicago Lyric Opera to hear Sir András Schiff perform Beethoven’s four sonatas from 1801: Beethoven Sonata No. 12 in A-flat Major, Op. 26; Beethoven Sonata No. 13 in E-flat Major, Op. 27, No. 1 (Quasi una fantasia); Beethoven Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp Minor, Op. 27, No. 2 (Moonlight); and Beethoven Sonata No. 15 in D Major, Op. 28 (Pastoral).
- March 30, 2020 Discussion of Beethoven
- April 1, 2020 Film I (We will collectively choose one film from among three options: Wiene, *Das Kabinett des Doktor Caligari* (1920) 71 minutes; Murnau, *Der Letzte Mann* (1924) 91 minutes; or Von Sternberg, *Der Blaue Engel* (1930) 106 minutes)
Tandem Submission
- You should watch the entire film in advance of each session, such that you will have seen the film twice, which is essential for deeper analysis.
- April 3, 2020 Film II (Further discussion of the chosen film.)
Mai Required: 115-18 (“Die Weimarer Verfassung und der Versailler Vertrag”)
- April 6, 2020 Selected artworks from Käthe Kollwitz, Emil Nolde, Franz Marc, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Ludwig Meidner, Max Beckmann, Otto Dix, and George Grosz
- April 8, 2020 Kafka, “Vor dem Gesetz”; “Der Kübelreiter”; and “Eine kaiserliche Botschaft”
- April 10, 2020 Good Friday
- April 13, 2020 Easter Monday
- April 15, 2020 Lang, M (110 minutes)

You should watch the entire film in advance of each session, such that you will have seen the film twice, which is essential for deeper analysis.
Mai Required: 119-22 (“Gefährdung und Stabilisierung der Weimarer Republik”)

- April 17, 2020 Lang, M (110 minutes)
Mai Required: 122-25 (“Die braune Gefahr”)
- April 20, 2020 Brecht, “3. –aber Neuerungen!” from “Anmerkungen zur Oper ‘Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny’”; selected songs from the 1930 performance of *Die Dreigroschenoper*
Tandem Submission
- Nationalsozialismus**
- April 22, 2020 Brecht, *Furcht und Elend des dritten Reiches* (“Die jüdische Frau”; “Der Spitzel”)
Mai Optional: 131-35 (“Auf dem Weg in den totalitären Führerstaat”)
- April 24, 2020 Student Explorations III
Mai Required: 136-38 (“Widerstand gegen das NS-Regime”)
- April 27, 2020 Peer Review Session for Third Paper
- April 29, 2020 Langgässer, “Saisonbeginn” and Mann, “Die Lager”
Mai Required: 138-42 (“Von Hitlers Rassenwahn zum Holocaust”)
No written contribution today because of your forthcoming paper submissions.

Final papers are due via Drop Box on April 30 at 5:00 p.m.

Required Works

Lessing, G. E. *Nathan der Weise*. Reclam XL. Text und Kontext. Ed. Thorsten Krause. Stuttgart: Reclam, 2015. 978-3150191569. This edition has considerable annotations at the bottom and at the end. Please note that I have placed on Sakai a vocabulary list for this work from an out-of-print edition published by Suhrkamp and edited by Christoph Schweitzer. Another edition edited by Schweitzer, which has helpful annotations for American college students, is also on reserve as a book. Should anyone be struggling with the work, I have also placed on reserve an abridged and simplified version of the work in the Einfach Klassisch series, edited by Diethard Lübke, which you are welcome to read in advance of the full work, as it will aid your understanding; and an English translation of the drama. Finally, I have placed on streaming reserve an audio recording of the play, which will help you with both listening skills and interpretive understanding. Only selected scenes will be assigned, but you may benefit from listening to other

scenes as well. Please note that, as with most productions, the recording offers a truncated version of the play.

Goethe, *Faust*. Einfach Klassisch. Ed. Diethard Lübke. Berlin: Cornelsen Verlag, 2014. 978-3-464-60946-0. This is an accessible version of Goethe's *Faust I*, with annotations for students. The text has not been changed, though the spelling has been modernized/standardized, as is common. The main adjustment is that the text has been abridged. However, this is also the way in which plays are performed; rarely does a director include every word, as it would make performances too long. Also I have placed on streaming reserve a brief audio recording of the play as well as an extensive video version of the work. Please note that there will be modest differences in which lines are included in the individual scenes. Both of these can be a great aid to you, and selected scenes of the video version will be assigned.

Manfred Mai, *Deutsche Geschichte* (Weinheim: Beltz and Gelberg, 2012/2019). This is readable and accessible German history, which is ideal for your level. In addition to a print copy in the Library and copies I will be giving you for your own private libraries, a recorded version of the book is available via Library Reserves. This audio version offers you a great way to practice your listening comprehension. We will read and listen to a few brief excerpts already for our first regular session. With the exception of that first set of readings, which will be central to that day's discussion, you will want to focus your primary class preparation on the literary and cultural texts on the syllabus and your daily contributions, so please read the history book simply for the background information and main ideas. There is no need to look up words you do not know unless they seem to be unusually important. Please note that under Vocabulary you will find two files of Mai Vocabulary, one general or basic file and one with selected vocabulary by chapter. What we don't read from Mai this semester will make great summer reading for you.

Recommended Work

In Spring 2017 the Department made a decision to use only one reference grammar in all advanced classes, *Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik*, by Jamie Rankin and Larry D. Wells (6th Edition) 2016. 978-1-305-078840. If you are an underclassman or if you would like to own a good reference work for postgraduate learning, you will want to buy this text, which is available as a paper or electronic copy. We also have a few copies for loan in 318 O'Shaughnessy, and I have placed a copy on reserve.

Reference Materials

In terms of orientation to the authors, the best simple introductions to topics and writers can be found in the first floor reference area of the library, in the PT section. There you will find, for example, the *Encyclopedia of German Literature*, the *Oxford Companion to German Literature*, and the *Metzler Lexikon Autoren: deutschsprachige Dichter und Schriftsteller vom Mittelalter bis zur Gegenwart*, and other such works, which have entries on topics, authors, and works.

Library Reserves

We will be making occasional references to European and German history. Most of you will have a basic understanding of some of the important events—the Reformation, the French Revolution, the revolution of 1848, the unification of Germany in 1871, the Treaty of Versailles, World War I, etc—but for those of you without basic knowledge and for those of you who wish to bore more deeply, we have Mai. In addition, I have placed on reserve a recent German history in English and in German:

Hagen Schulze's *Germany: A New History* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998).
Hagen Schulze's *Kleine deutsche Geschichte* (Munich: DTV, 2013).

In addition, you will find good basic materials on German history (in German and in English) at the [Tatsachen über Deutschland](#) Website.

The films we will view are currently available via Library Reserves. Once you click the title and accept the terms, the video will play in your web browser. You need to ensure that you have the Quicktime Video plugin installed. OIT recommends that you use Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox to ensure compatibility. In the unlikely event that you have issues with streaming videos, you can always use a computer in one of the labs on campus.

I have bought an extra copy of each DVD. If you wish, I can hand out a copy in class, and you can view the film at a time or at times you agree upon among yourselves. Students in previous semesters have sometimes enjoyed the collective screenings, in some cases multiple viewing sessions with different groups of students.

Sakai

I have placed some materials on Sakai and will continue to do so on an occasional basis.

Under Course Resources, you will find the following folders: Exercises; Images; Learning Resources for Content; Learning Resources for Language; Optional Reading; Optional Viewing; Readings; Student List with Emails; Syllabus; Study Questions; Vocabulary; and Writing Aids.

You will want to spend some time exploring this site. At various times I may draw your attention to one or another folder or file. The Readings Folder includes the readings for almost all of the classes. Any readings that you do not find in the Readings Folder on Sakai or in the three books, you will find under Reserve Reading. I will try to alert you to these exceptions. I will not alert you when I add readings to either destination unless they are close to the date of their being assigned. Study Questions will include pre-reading questions to help guide your thinking as you read the works. As I post new study questions, you will be notified. Under Vocabulary I have already added a general vocabulary list of words for German literature and culture, by frequency level, that you are likely to encounter in this class and beyond. For most sessions I will be adding vocabulary lists for the various readings. In some cases these will be part of the hand-out on readings.

My default practice has been to provide students with printouts of the readings and in most cases simply to post to Sakai the study questions and vocabulary aids.

Disability Accommodation

If you have, or think you may have, a disability, please contact Sara Bea Disability Services, so that we may discern how accommodations can best be implemented in this course. Additional information about Sara Bea Disability Services and the process for requesting accommodations can be found at sarabeadisabilityservices.nd.edu.

Support for Student Mental Health at Notre Dame

Care and Wellness Consultants provide support and resources to students who are experiencing stressful or difficult situations that may be interfering with academic progress. Through Care and Wellness Consultants, students can be referred to the University Counseling Center (for cost-free and confidential psychological and psychiatric services from licensed professionals), University Health Services (which provides primary care, psychiatric services, case management, and a pharmacy), and the McDonald Center for Student Well Being (for problems with sleep, stress, and substance use). For more information, visit care.nd.edu.

Policy on Attendance and Tardiness

You should attend every class. Up to two unexcused absences will be integrated into the class contribution grade. Three unexcused absences will lead to the reduction of the final grade by one partial unit, for example, from a B to a B-. Four unexcused absences will lead to the reduction of the final grade by two partial units. Five or more unexcused absences will lead to failure of the course.

Personal absences and non-acute medical conditions (such as an ordinary cold or a headache) do not represent excused absences; however, acute medical conditions or contagious medical conditions are excused but require documentation, as is spelled out in the Academic Articles. Excused absences for medical or other reasons will not affect your grade in any way.

If you are ever absent, be it excused or unexcused, it is your responsibility to find out from a colleague what you missed.

We will begin class on time. If you are late, it is your responsibility to touch base with a peer to see what you have missed. Recurring tardiness will affect your class contribution grade.

Grading

Grading System of the University of Notre Dame

See <http://registrar.nd.edu/gradingsystems.pdf>

Letter Grade	Point Value	Description	Explanatory Comments
A	4	Truly Exceptional	Work meets or exceeds the highest expectations for the course.
A-	3.667	Outstanding	Superior work in all areas of the course.
B+	3.333	Very Good	Superior work in most areas of the course.
B	3.000	Good	Solid work across the board.
B-	2.667	More than Acceptable	More than acceptable, but falls short of solid work.
C+	2.333	Acceptable: Meets All Basic Standards	Work meets all the basic requirements and standards for the course.
C	2.000	Acceptable: Meets Most Basic Standards	Work meets most of the basic requirements and standards in several areas.
C-	1.667	Acceptable: Meets Some Basic Standards	While acceptable, work falls short of meeting basic standards in several areas.
D	1.000	Minimally Passing	Work just over the threshold of acceptability.
F	0	Failure	Unacceptable performance.

Criteria for Grading Class Contribution

Criteria for a Grade of B

The student ...

prepares well for each class by completing all assignments; rereading or reviewing, when appropriate; and making appropriate notes;

does not miss classes for any unexcused reasons and comes to each class on time;

makes daily contributions that show thorough familiarity with the assigned reading and thoughtful reflection on the material;

asks good, searching questions that spark and advance discussion;

is able to analyze and recognize flaws and mistakes when sample sentences are given;

is able to answer difficult questions;

listens well and exhibits by facial expressions and body posture the active art of listening;

participates in the give-and-take of discussion, for example, by offering initial comments, asking clarifying questions of other students, offering evidence to support positions, or proposing alternative perspectives;

is willing to engage an issue from multiple points of view;

is able to make connections across works;

can recognize strengths and weaknesses in an argument;

demonstrates the capacity to think on his or her feet;
speaks directly to other students and not simply to the teacher;
is more interested in the group dynamic of truth seeking through dialogue than in demonstrating his or her own excellence;
exhibits respect, tact, and diplomacy in debate with others.

The student is able to express his or her thoughts clearly and with good pronunciation, so that everyone understands. The student makes very basic grammatical errors only occasionally. The student exhibits good progress in accuracy and fluency over the course of the semester.

Criteria for a Grade of A

The student does all of the above and ...

regularly takes a leadership role in discussions through quality and quantity of contributions;
exhibits intellectual hospitality, effectively encouraging the participation of others and successfully drawing good ideas out of others;
gives unusually deep and rich responses to interpretive and searching questions;
consistently links the discussion to earlier works and themes;
asks fascinating and unexpected questions;
is forthcoming with excellent insights and questions.

The student communicates exceptionally well, speaking in such a way as to be clearly understood by others. The student has excellent pronunciation and exhibits very few basic grammatical errors. The student progresses in accuracy and fluency over the course of the semester.

Criteria for a Grade of C

The student ...

comes prepared to class;
occasionally contributes isolated, but thoughtful, comments to the discussion;
makes comments that are backed with evidence;
discerns the difference between more relevant and less relevant comments;
exhibits respect for others and treats all persons with dignity.

The student is able to make him or herself understood, although grammatical errors and vocabulary gaps are frequent; the student exhibits only modest progress in the capacity for oral expression.

Criteria for a Grade of D

The student ...

comes to class, but rarely contributes to the discussion;

has difficulties contributing to the flow of the conversation;
has difficulty giving evidence for his or her claims.

The student's speech is riddled with errors and rarely shows progress or improvement.

Criteria for a Grade of F

The student ...

does not speak at all or makes comments that exhibit a lack of preparation;
exhibits little or no respect for the class.

The student's speech is riddled with errors and rarely shows progress or improvement.

Criteria for Grading Short Written Contributions

Each daily contribution will be given a mark of Check, Check Plus, or Check Minus. On very rare occasions I may give a Check Double Plus or a Check Double Minus. A non-submission will be recorded as a Check Double Minus.

- Check = Good insights and adequate control of grammar, with mistakes not overly abundant and sentence structure not being of minimal complexity. Good Work.
- Check Plus = Excellent insights and excellent control of grammar, with mistakes mainly involving modest issues or arising from ambitious formulations. Excellent Work.
- Check Double Plus = Extraordinary insights and extraordinary command of grammar. Exceeds even the most ambitious expectations.
- Check Minus = Little intellectual insight or effort and/or overabundant mistakes. These submissions may be rewritten for the next class after they have been returned. If you choose to resubmit, return both the original and the revision, stapling or clipping the two together. The highest possible grade for a revision would be a check.
- Check Double Minus = No submission, no serious insights, and/or overly abundant mistakes. Unacceptable work for the 30000-level. These submissions may be rewritten for the next class after they have been returned. If you choose to resubmit, return both the original and the revision, stapling or clipping the two together. The highest possible grade for a revision would be a check.

The collection of short written contributions will then be translated into letter grades, using the criteria below.

Criteria for a Grade of B

The student ...

prepares comments and/or questions in advance of each class and according to the guidelines;
makes contributions that show thorough familiarity with the assigned material and thoughtful reflection on it;
makes insightful observations on the works;
is willing to engage an issue from multiple points of view;
is able to make connections across the works of the semester;
asks good, searching questions;
offers compelling analyses;
draws interesting comparisons;
can recognize strengths and weaknesses in an argument;
is able to marshal evidence in favor of a position.

The student writes in a language that is understandable, varying in structure, and avoids a high number of grammatical and stylistic errors, especially those that are basic in nature or have been discussed in class. The style is not pedestrian or overly simple but exhibits a range of grammatical structures, including some complexity. The student exhibits, where necessary, increasing consistency and improvement in writing.

Across time the student receives more check pluses than checks.

Criteria for a Grade of A

The student does all of the above and ...

offers unusually rich and intelligent observations;
consistently links the discussion to earlier works and themes as well as issues of greater significance;
asks fascinating and unexpected questions;
gives evidence of a searching mind, the mind of a developing intellectual.

The student exhibits a developing capacity for smooth and interesting writing, with only occasional mistakes.

The student almost always receives a check plus and occasionally even receives a check double plus.

Criteria for a Grade of C

The student ...

contributes regularly and conscientiously, but for the most part makes observations and asks questions that fall below the criteria for a B grade.

The student exhibits a fair control of grammatical structures, but with limited variation in sentence structure. One sees little use of new or complex vocabulary. Spelling is poor. The contributions have far too many errors that should not be surfacing at this stage.

The student will have received very few check pluses and is likely to have received some check minuses.

Criteria for a Grade of D

The student ...

contributes most of the time but still misses some sessions;
exhibits basic knowledge of the material;
makes primarily pedestrian comments.

The student exhibits poor control of grammatical structures and little variation in sentence structure. Basic problems in grammar, spelling, or punctuation surface regularly.

The student will generally have received mainly checks and check minuses.

Criteria for a Grade of F

The student ...

frequently fails to contribute to the discussions;
contributes comments that show a lack of knowledge of the material;
makes observations that are unhelpful in advancing the discussion or irrelevant.

The student exhibits very poor control of grammatical structures and little variation in sentence structure. Problems in grammar, spelling, or punctuation interfere with the writer's capacity to communicate.

The student will have received few, if any, check pluses and a very high number of check minuses.

Criteria for Grading Papers

Criteria for a Grade of B

Clarity

The paper presents a clear thesis.

Complexity

Though clear, the thesis is also complex and challenging, not simplistic. The arguments integrate both content and form of the works. Multiple points of view are engaged, and the limits of one's own interpretation are acknowledged, either through the avoidance of overreaching or through the refutation of alternative arguments. The essay integrates a variety of connected themes and exhibits a curious mind at work.

Structure

The title is effective. The introduction is inviting and compelling, appropriate and succinct. The essay is structured logically and coherently, with good analyses. The overall outline or organization makes sense, and the paragraphs flow appropriately, one to the other. The conclusion is powerful.

Evidence

Appropriate support is given for the paper's claims, for example, evidence from the work being interpreted, historical information, or a chain of abstract arguments. The analytical framework is strong and convincing.

Independence

The paper does not simply restate the obvious or repeat what others have said, but builds on what is known to exhibit the student's own thinking about the topic. The writer avoids simply repeating plot structures or paraphrasing the ideas of others. The student exhibits some level of independence and a new perspective.

The essay exhibits good usage and variety of vocabulary, displays solid control of grammatical structures, with some variation in sentence structure, and the number of mistakes is modest, most of them being understandable at this level and not basic mistakes. As the semester advances, fewer mistakes occur.

Criteria for a Grade of A

The paper integrates the expectations of a B grade, but is in addition highly effective in communicating meaningful ideas, impressively original, and unusually engaging. The paper is thoughtful, deep, creative, and far-reaching in its analysis and evidence.

The language exhibits a developing capacity for smooth and sophisticated writing, and mistakes are very few in number.

Criteria for a Grade of C

The thesis of the paper is clear, and the paper takes a stand on a complex issue. The writer exhibits some competence in exploring the subject. Most of the essay is well-organized, and the logic is for the most part clear and coherent. Some evidence is given for the points made in the

essay. The argument is sustained but not imaginative or complex. The paper exhibits clear weaknesses; these might include, for example, plot summary, simplicity, repetition, false assumptions, a derivative quality, or avoidance of alternative perspectives that should be considered. The writer barely goes beyond paraphrase. While some of the criteria for a B grade may have been fulfilled, a majority has not.

Errors include both more complex areas of advanced writing as well as basic issues that should be part of the student's repertoire at the 30000-level. Examples of basic errors that occur frequently at the C-level involve gender, case, adjective endings, verb conjugations, appropriate helping verbs, subject-verb agreement, word order, and punctuation, that is, items that students should be able to control, at the very least by consulting dictionaries and an editing check list.

Criteria for a Grade of D

The thesis of the paper is missing, unclear, or overly simple. The writer tends toward plot summary and paraphrase. The paper includes some arguments, but counter-arguments are not considered in any serious way or are misconstrued. The essay's structure is not readily apparent. Ideas are present but are not developed with details or examples. Paragraphs are poorly constructed and contain little supporting detail.

Sentences are riddled with grammatical mistakes.

The paper is inadequate in length.

Criteria for a Grade of F

The assignment is not completed or is completed in a format that is clearly substandard. The essay exhibits little, if any, preparatory reflection or study. It contains no serious ideas and lacks an argument as well as supporting evidence. The essay is difficult to read or comprehend. No meaningful structure is discernible.

Problems in grammar, spelling, or punctuation interfere with the writer's capacity to communicate.

Academic Code of Honor

This course will be conducted in accordance with Notre Dame's Academic Code of Honor, which stipulates: "As a member of the Notre Dame community, I will not participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty ... The pledge to uphold the Academic Code of Honor includes an understanding that a student's submitted work, graded or ungraded – examinations, draft copies, papers, homework assignments, extra credit work, etc. – must be his or her own." The code is available [here](#). Information on citing sources and avoiding plagiarism is available [here](#).

Students are encouraged to discuss readings with one another outside of class and should feel free to discuss assignments (including papers) with one another, but the source of all ideas must

be revealed fully and honestly. Whenever information or insights are obtained from secondary works or Web sources, students should cite their sources. Also, if you talk about the material with a friend, and that person suggests an idea, you should formally acknowledge that person's idea if you use it in your paper. If an idea is presented in class discussion, and you wish to reuse it in your paper, you should also acknowledge the source of this idea. Any unacknowledged help will be considered a violation of the honor code. The style and grammar of your papers should be entirely your own. The only exceptions would be assistance provided by me.

In preparing for the exam, you may form study groups and therefore may collaborate in advance of the exam, but not of course during the exam.

Appendix: Student Presentations and Student Explorations

Student Presentations

Students will be asked to give one brief formal presentation, with a one-page written hand-out in German and oral delivery in German of approximately 5-6 minutes. You should not speak for more than 8 minutes. On the day before we discuss your author, you will distribute your one-page handout and offer to the class two to three sentences on your author. This will give your peers some context as they read your author and prepare for class. Then on the first discussion day you will present your Referat. Students who are not prepared to deliver on schedule will be graded accordingly, since delays will affect the contextual learning of your peers. The topics will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. Options are below. A google doc will be forthcoming in the form of a sign-up sheet.

Lessing

Goethe

Schiller

Hölderlin

Novalis

Caspar David Friedrich or Eichendorff (but not both)

Heine

Marx

Beethoven

Sonata

Kollwitz

Dix or Grosz (but not both)

Kafka

If Caligari, Wiene

If Der letzte Mann, Murnau and Emil Jannings (on separate days)

If Der blaue Engel Von Sternberg and Marlene Dietrich (on separate days)

Lang

Brecht

Langgässer or Mann (but not both)

For the formal presentations themselves, here are some basic expectations.

- In the case of Lessing, which is early, you may choose either of the first two days. Otherwise, if we are spending more than one session on a figure, you will present on the first day. This is important and useful for the other students, so please plan ahead.
- If you go well over the time allotted, I may stop you midstream. Discipline in delivery is a virtue, so do not be surprised.
- Do not read your text; instead learn to speak from notes.
- Choose items that you yourself would be interested in hearing, not items that you somehow think should be included for the sake of completeness. Choose what is essential and interesting, what you would want to know about the person.
- Define any words that you think your peers might not know and speak clearly, loudly, and slowly, so that everyone understands you. (Your presentation after all is intended more for your classmates than for me.)
- To prepare your presentation, use primarily the reference section of the Library. Web resources are uneven, whereas books selected for the reference area will have gone through a more elaborate peer review process. This will also allow you to gain some sense of available resources for the future. Obviously any images are likely to be found on the Web.
- Please list your sources on the second page of your handout.
- PowerPoint is not obligatory but has tended to be well received by other students.

I will give you some basic feedback on grammar, pronunciation, content, and delivery. In past semesters, suggestions on delivery have included, for example, the following: speak at a reasonable pace, that is, slowly enough so that your peers can follow you; finish your presentation within the allotted time (this may mean a private trial run); present less material so that the more important issues are highlighted; speak freely instead of reading the presentation (speaking freely is not only a valuable skill, your audience will be able to absorb your ideas more easily); and introduce and define new vocabulary words, so that your peers are able to absorb everything you say.

For further, amusing tips, you can consult the two Kurt Tucholsky texts under Sakai (Optional Reading), which I have posted in both German and English. Tucholsky is among the wittiest Germans after Heine.

Student Explorations

Three times during the semester students will prepare exploration topics. They may do so individually or in groups of two. Your preparation will involve a one-page handout along with a readiness to speak to peers informally about the topic, without, however, reading your hand-out. Here, too, assignments will be given on a first come, first served basis. Options include:

First Session

Meister Eckhart und die deutsche Mystik (religion)

Tilman Riemenschneider (sculpture)

Matthias Grünewald und der Isenheimer Altar (painting)

Albrecht Dürer (painting)

Lucas Cranach the Elder (painting)

Hans Holbein (painting)

Giuseppe Arcimboldo (painting; though Italian by birth, his positions were at German-speaking courts)

Johann Sebastian Bach (music)

Baroque Churches (architecture/art history)

Johann Joachim Winckelmann und die Vorbildlichkeit der antiken griechischen Kunst (art history)

Der Pietismus (religion)

Immanuel Kant und der kategorische Imperativ (philosophy)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (music)

Second Session

Johann Gottlieb Fichte (philosophy)

Wilhelm von Humboldt und die klassische deutsche Universität (higher education)

G. W. F. Hegel und die Dialektik (philosophy)

Karl Friedrich Schinkel (architecture)

Friedrich Schleiermacher und seine Reden über die Religion (religion)

Ludwig Feuerbach und das Wesen des Christentums (philosophy)

Arthur Schopenhauer und der Pessimismus (philosophy)

Franz Schubert und seine Lieder (music)

Richard Wagner (music)

Friedrich Nietzsche (philosophy)

Max Weber (sociology)

Sigmund Freud (psychology)

Third Session

Richard Strauss (music)

Arnold Schoenberg (music)

Hugo von Hofmannsthal (literature)

Carl Jung (psychology)

F. W. Murnau (film) – assuming we do not choose Der letzte Mann

Siegfried Kracauer (cultural criticism)

Martin Heidegger (philosophy)

Edith Stein (religion)

Marlene Dietrich (film) – assuming we do not choose Der blaue Engel

Leni Riefenstahl (film)

Theodor W. Adorno (philosophy)

Bauhaus (architecture)

John Heartfield (photomontage)

Die Weiße Rose (history)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (theology; also an anti-Nazi dissident)

This exercise is designed as much to awaken your curiosity as to solidify knowledge. Still, any comments you can make to connect your material with our common readings and class discussions would be welcome.