



## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

## *German Modernism in Literature and Theory - 32809*

*Last update 26-07-2020*

*HU Credits: 2*

*Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)*

*Responsible Department: German Language & Literature*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: 2nd Semester*

*Teaching Languages: English*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Vivian Liska*

*Coordinator Email: [vivian.liska@uantwerpen.be](mailto:vivian.liska@uantwerpen.be)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: Mondays 14:00-16:00*

*Teaching Staff:*

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Prof Vivian Liska

Course/Module description:

*This course explores some of the major literary and theoretical works of German modernism from 1900 to the aftermath of WWII. Among the authors to be discussed are Friedrich Nietzsche, Walter Benjamin, Theodor W. Adorno, Hugo von Hofmannsthal, Else Lasker-Schüler, Franz Kafka, Rainer Maria Rilke, Gottfried Benn, Alfred Döblin, and Paul Celan. Special attention will be given to literature and the role of literary language in theoretical texts and to philosophical implications of modernist literary texts.*

Course/Module aims:

*The course aims at gaining a fuller understanding of the modernist paradigm through close readings of short texts in light of their literary, historical and philosophical contexts*

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

*Practice close readings of complex texts, reflect upon and interpret important literary and theoretical works in the context of their times*

Attendance requirements(%):

95%

*Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Interactive Seminar Form*

Course/Module Content:

*15 March: Introduction: What is Modernism?  
22 March: Nietzsche Fragments  
5 April: Hugo von Hofmannsthal: "Brief an Lord Chandos"/ "Letter to Lord Chandos"  
12 April: Walter Benjamin on Language and Experience  
19 April: Franz Kafka: Descriptions of a Struggle  
26 April: Else Lasker-Schüler: Poetry and Prose  
3 May: Expressionist Poetry  
10 May: no class  
17 May: no class  
24 May: Rainer Maria Rilke: "Die Turnstunde"/"The Gym Class"  
31 May: Alfred Döblin: Murder of a Buttercup Flower  
7 June: Gottfried Benn: "Brains"/"Gehirne"  
14 June: Paul Celan and Kafka: On Language and Destiny*

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21 June: Student Presentations  
28 June : Student Presentations

Required Reading:

*A Reader will be available for the students before the beginning of the course*

Additional Reading Material:

*A list with Bibliographical information will be made available for the students before the beginning of the course*

Course/Module evaluation:

*End of year written/oral examination 0 %  
Presentation 20 %  
Participation in Tutorials 0 %  
Project work 60 %  
Assignments 0 %  
Reports 0 %  
Research project 0 %  
Quizzes 0 %  
Other 20 %  
participation*

Additional information: