



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

German Modernism in Literature and Theory - 32809

Last update 28-09-2022

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

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

Teaching Staff:

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:

13. March: Introduction: What is Modernism?
Kafka: „Eine kleine Fabel“/“A little Fable,” „The Trees“/“Die Bäume“
20. March: Death of God
Kafka: „Eine kaiserliche Botschaft“/ „An Imperial Message“
Friedrich Nietzsche: „Vereinsamt“/„Lonely“ and „Der tolle Mensch“/“The Madman“
Hugo Ball: “Kandinsky”
27. March: Crisis of Language
Hugo von Hofmannsthal: “Brief an Lord Chandos”/ “Letter to Lord Chandos”
Nietzsche: “On Lies and Truth”
17. April Unsettling Literature
Franz Kafka: “Gespräch mit dem Beter”/ Conversation with the Praying Man”

24. April: no class

1. May Saving Confusion

Else Lasker-Schüler: "Der Grossmogul von Philippopel"/ "The Grandmogul of Philippopel"

8. May: Madness

Gottfried Benn: „Gehirne“/ "Brains"; Morgue poems

15. May: Violence

Alfred Döblin: "Die Ermordung einer Butterblume"/ Murder of a Buttercup

22. May: Rebellion and Youth

Reiner Maria Rilke: "Die Turnstunde"/"The Gym Class"

Franz Kafka: "Up on the Gallery"

29. May: Reading Modernism After Auschwitz

Paul Celan reading Franz Kafka: Selected Poetry

5. June: Short student presentations

12. June: Short student presentations and Closing Discussion

Required Reading:

A Reader containing all the primary material 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

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: