



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Resistance Rebellion Revolution. Youth in German Modernist Literature - 32897

Last update 27-09-2023

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. Dr. Vivian Liska
Dr. Jan Kühne*

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Coordinator Office Hours: >> Tuesday before the course or by appointment

Teaching Staff:

Prof Vivian Liska

Course/Module description:

This course explores the theme of youth and rebellion in German modernist literature. Beginning with the late 19th century and continuing through the interwar years, we will examine the ways in which German writers of the period represented young people and their confrontation with power, conventions and authority in their works and the cultural and historical contexts that shaped these works. We will consider a range of genres, including poetry, drama, and prose fiction, and read texts by some of the most significant modernist writers of the period, including Franz Kafka, Else Lasker-Schüler, Rainer Maria Rilke and Robert Musil.

Course/Module aims:

We will pay special attention to the intersection between modernist literary forms and configurations of youth. In addition, we will examine the ways in which youth and rebellion were represented in popular culture of the period, including films and music. Topics covered in this course include:

The emergence of youth culture in Germany and its relationship to modernism

Representations of rebellion and nonconformity in modernist literature

The role of gender and sexuality in representations of youth and rebellion

The relationship between youth and politics in the Weimar Republic

The influence of German modernist literature on contemporary culture

Throughout the course, we will engage in close readings of texts, discussion, and critical analysis.

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

By the end of the course, students will have gained an understanding of the complex and multifaceted representations of youth and rebellion in German modernist literature and will have developed their critical reading, writing, and analytical skills.

Attendance requirements(%):

90%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures, Close Readings, Discussions

Course/Module Content:

Course Content:

- 1. Introduction: German Modernism*
- 2. Youth and Modernist Literature*
- 3. Frank Wedekind: Frühlingserwachen/ Spring Awakening*
- 4. Ödön von Horváth: Jugend ohne Gott/ Youth without God*
- 5. Rainer Maria Rilke: Die Turnstunde / The Gym Class*
- 6. Else Lasker-Schüler: Konzert (excerpts) / Die Wupper*
- 7. Franz Kafka: Das Urteil/ The Judgment*
- 8. Robert Musil: Die Verwirrungen des Zöglings Törleß (excerpts)/ Confusions of Student Törless*
- 9. Anna Seghers: Das siebte Kreuz / The Seventh Cross*
- 10. Christa Wolf: Cassandra / Kindheitsmuster (excerpts)/ Cassandra/ Patterns of Childhood*
- 11. Student Presentations*
- 12. Student Presentations and Closing Discussion*

Required Reading:

*See course content, sessions 3-10.
A Reader will be provided to the students.*

Additional Reading Material:

Jon Savage. 2007. Teenage: The Creation of Youth 1875-1945. London: Chatto & Windus.

Jed Esty. 2012. Unseasonable Youth: Modernism, Colonialism, and the Fiction of Development. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

John Neubauer. 1992. The Fin-de-Siecle Culture of Adolescence

Grading Scheme:

*Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 35 %
Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture/ Seminar / Pro-seminar / Research proposal 30 %
Attendance / Participation in Field Excursion 35 %*

Additional information: