

Department: GERM

Course No.: 240W

Title: German Literature in Translation

Credits: 3

Contact: Roger Travis or Katharina von Hammerstein

WQ: W

Catalog Copy: 240W. German Literature in Translation. Either semester. Three credits. Prerequisite: ENGL 105 or 110 or 111 or 250. May not be used to satisfy the undergraduate foreign language requirement or the major requirement in German.

Reading and analysis of significant works of German literature from one or more periods.

W Criteria: (1) This course introduces students to works of German literature in English translation. Apart from developing close reading and critical thinking skills and understanding the literature and history of another culture, the course focuses on improving writing. Students learn to critically analyze and interpret literary texts and practice to write several papers of varying length (amounting to a total of 15 pages) and of varying degrees of difficulty: content summaries, literary analyses, biographical pieces about specific authors, book reviews, and advertisements for books. The writing assignments are usually based on class discussions and they are often individualized to meet students' areas of interest. They further students' writing abilities in the area of literary investigation and scholarship and deepen their knowledge about a particular author, text, and/or topic. The course introduces students to several citation formats and discusses issues of intellectual property and copyright. The writing component counts for 50 per cent of the course grade.

(2) and (3) Papers are returned to students with the instructor's written commentary and suggestions on content, thesis formulation, organization, structure, clarity, style, grammar, and spelling. Further modes of writing instruction are formal in-class instruction and individual conferences. Students may be asked to dissect and evaluate anonymous positive and negative examples. One visit to the Writing Center (CLAS 159) is mandatory. Students are asked to revise their papers on the basis of the instructor's feedback. For each paper, the first version accounts for 40% of the grade and the revised version for 60% of the grade. The grades for all papers amount to 50% of the total course grade.

(4) Students cannot pass this course without passing the W component.