GERM-UA 111 Conversation and Composition

FREUNDSCHAFT / FRIENDSHIP

Andrea Dortmann  ❧ MW 12:30-1:45 EDT  ❧ SPRING 2021

Conversation & Composition is designed for students with a solid grasp of German grammar and vocabulary who wish to extend their knowledge of the German language, history, and culture through reading, discussion, and writing. Conversation & Composition is a reading and writing intensive course. Emphasis will be placed on refining written expression and developing the ability to discuss and argue opinions, as well as a thorough review of grammar.

In this course, we will engage the question: what constitutes friendship and how does friendship relate to its supposed opposite, enmity? Where are the lines between the two? Where do they overlap or transition into the other? What are the political, cultural, social, and aesthetic repercussions of friendships? We will explore narrative prose, letters, diary entries, poetry, theater, film, visual arts, music, popular culture, and journalism. Authors will include Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Arthur Schnitzler, Stefan Zweig, Thomas Mann, Anne Frank, Max Frisch, Herta Müller, Fatih Akin, Werner Herzog, among others. Conducted in German.
Introduction to German Literature
Doreen Densky

Required for the German major. Representative authors and works of German literature, with emphasis on the modern period. Basic conventions of literature and literary interpretation, as well as strategies for the effective reading of shorter and longer prose works, drama, and poetry. Guided writing assignments focus on developing the language skills necessary for effective written analysis and interpretation of literary texts in German.

This course has two major goals. First, it introduces students to a selection of representative authors and exemplary texts of German-language literature from the 18th to the 21st century. Second, it helps students develop close and critical reading skills while they learn to express themselves about literary texts in German, both in speaking and in writing. Covering the three major literary genres – poetry, prose, drama – some of the following issues will be discussed: the depiction of otherness; the representation of time and history; the uncanny; the relationship between form and content; the economy of human relationships on the basis of hierarchy, love, authority, among others.

* Conducted in German *

NYU Department of German 19 University Pl, 3rd Floor www.german.as.nyu.edu 212.998.8650
This course explores the interactions of Jews and other Western Europeans after World War II, noting their interlocking histories and memories even after the Holocaust. Students will learn about Western European Jewish life from Emancipation through the early 20th century, the Holocaust and the immediate postwar turmoil especially in Germany, Italy and France. Taught in English.
This course aims to engage curious minds in new and lasting ways that help one analyze history, literature, science, law, social collapse, ghostly returns and intersubjective relationships. The course takes off from the works of Nietzsche, Marx, and Freud. These works have defined our world in crucial ways. Their abiding influence on our every move, though often stealth, will become clear during the course of our readings. It is more necessary than ever to encounter these blockbuster texts, intellectually meaningful to this day and still programming our existential perspectives. The course offers introductory but also wide-ranging and probing materials. We shall analyze outstanding passages by these breakout writers and look at works that have come under their influence, grappling with them in fascinating ways—including the contributions of Jacques "deconstruction" Derrida, Hélène Cixous, Kathy Acker, Franz Kafka, and many other contemporary players. Taught in English.
After Hitler’s seizure of power in 1933, the number of artists and intellectuals who fled the Nazi regime soon rose into the thousands. Many of these German expatriates ultimately settled in the United States (e.g. Los Angeles, New York), where, simultaneously attracted and alienated by their new surroundings, they made a significant impact on American culture. The seminar will explore German Exile Culture in the U.S. in its broad variety spanning a spectrum from film (Fritz Lang, Fred Zinnemann) to architecture (Walter Gropius), literature (Thomas Mann, Bertolt Brecht, Lion Feuchtwanger), and philosophy (Theodor W. Adorno, Hannah Arendt). Based on the aesthetic and conceptual specificities of the artifacts, class discussions will focus on the relations between language and identity, art and politics, modernist and mass culture, public discourse and democracy. The seminar will close with a look at postwar America and the McCarthy era, when European emigrants became the target of suspicion as left-wing intellectuals. Taught in German.