

FIRST YEAR COURSE IN GERMAN

The Aims of the Course

That it should lay down the foundations of a real competence in the German language, introduce students to the history of that language and make them aware of its nature and the varieties of its usage.

That it should give students some idea of genre (of the particular workings of drama, prose fiction and lyric poetry) and of literary-historical context.

That it should get students into the habit of close reading.

Texts for two of the genres (prose fiction and drama) have been chosen from the period 1890-1933. They are:

- Drama:** Frank Wedekind, *Frühlings Erwachen* (Reclam or Goldmann)
Arthur Schnitzler, *Liebelei* (Fischer, bound together with *Reigen*)
Georg Kaiser, *Von morgens bis mitternachts* (Reclam)
Bertolt Brecht, *Die Maßnahme*, edition suhrkamp 2058 (in the version of 1931)
- Prose:** Theodor Fontane, *Effi Briest* (Reclam)
Franz Kafka, *Die Verwandlung* (Reclam)
Erich Maria Remarque, *Im Westen nichts Neues* (Kiepenheuer & Witsch)
Thomas Mann, *Mario und der Zauberer* (Fischer)

Two of these texts, Schnitzler's *Liebelei* and Kafka's *Die Verwandlung* are prescribed for special study next year, and you need to know them particularly thoroughly (look up all the words).

Poetry will be studied through a selection of poems taken from *Deutsche Lyrik: Eine Anthologie* edited by Hanspeter Brode (Suhrkamp, 1990). These are the poems:

- Der von Kürenberg: Ich zôch mir einen valken (16)
Heinrich von Morungen: Owê, sol aber mir iemer mê (18)
Walther von der Vogelweide: Under der linden (24)
Fleming: An Sich (47)
Gryphius: Thränen des Vaterlandes (50)
Hofmannswaldau: Vergänglichkeit der Schönheit (52)
Goethe: Willkommen und Abschied (93)
Goethe: Auf dem See (96)
Goethe: Erlkönig (100)
Goethe: Römische Elegien V (102)
Hölderlin: Andenken (147)
Hölderlin: Hälfte des Lebens (149)
Eichendorff: Denkst du des Schlosses noch... (171)
Müller: Der Lindenbaum (178)
Heine: Sie saßen und tranken am Teetisch (185)
Heine: Ich weiß nicht was soll es bedeuten (186)
Heine: Wie langsam kriechet sie dahin (195)
Droste-Hülshoff: Im Grase (201)
Mörike: Auf eine Lampe (213)
Mörike: Denk es, o Seele! (213)
Meyer: Der römische Brunnen (236)
Meyer: Auf dem Canal Grande (238)
George: Es lacht in dem steigenden jahr dir (250)
Lasker-Schüler: Ein alter Tibetteppich (253)
Hofmannsthal: Manche freilich ... (258)
Rilke: Der Panther (263)
Rilke: Archaischer Torso Apollos (265)

Rilke: O Brunnen-Mund (269)
Stadler: Fahrt über die Kölner Rheinbrücke bei Nacht (276)
Heym: Der Gott der Stadt (296)
Benn: Astern (288)
Trakl: Grodek (305)
Brecht: Die Liebenden (319)
Brecht: Fragen eines lesenden Arbeiters (322)
Brecht: Schlechte Zeit für Lyrik (327)
Huchel: Der Garten des Theophrast (347)
Celan: Sprachgitter (354)
Jandl: wien: heldenplatz (362)
Bachmann: Erklär mir, Liebe (366)
Enzensberger: Ins Lesebuch für die Oberstufe (371)
Brinkmann: Einen jener klassischen (374)

The easiest way of getting hold of these books is probably online on www.amazon.de or elsewhere. You can also try www.abebooks.de for second-hand copies. All of the set texts will also be available in Blackwell's in Oxford, sometimes second-hand, but you need to get them before you come up in October.

Language work will be partly topic-based. The topic is: 'Deutsche Gesellschaft und Kultur seit 1890'.

The aim is a unified course. Teaching in tutorials, classes and lectures, in language and literature, will be integrated and connected as much as possible.

Preparation

We shall begin with the poems and plays, so you should read at least them before you come up. Bring with you when you arrive in October **brief summaries of the four plays**. These are for your own use, but you should hand them in to me at the beginning of the term. You should also do all you can to increase your familiarity with and accuracy and fluency in the German language, by reading and listening to German or by going to a German-speaking country if you have the opportunity. The course, from the very beginning, will involve you in the close reading of texts in German, and you are strongly advised not to become dependent on translations. In order to learn to read German as fluently and accurately as English, you need to make sure you concentrate on the German from the very start. You will need your own dictionary (either the Oxford Duden or the Collins – the full edition, not the concise) and a copy of *Hammer's German Grammar and Usage* (fifth edition, by Martin Durrell).

There is no need to begin reading widely in German literature. The set texts will do for now. But it would be a good thing to read the most important books of the Old and New Testaments (at least Genesis, Exodus, Book of Solomon and one or all of the Gospels), the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* by Homer, and Shakespeare's major plays (esp. *Hamlet*). And read some poetry, following your own interests. You will enjoy the course more if you are familiar with a wide range of world literature.

Charlie Louth
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