



Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

Germ 359
Heinrich von Kleist
TR 11:00-12:15
EDC 057
Winter 2017

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Jan Süselbeck

OFFICE LOCATION: CHC 118

OFFICE HOURS: on appointment

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DESCRIPTION

You think, German literature before 1900 is difficult to understand and even dead boring? Then you have not yet read the haunting and most disturbing works written by the 'Quentin Tarantino' or the 'Bret Easton Ellis' of the 19th century: Heinrich von Kleist. These literary pieces are not for the faint of heart: There is shocking violence, tough-minded revenge, there is love turning into blind hate, mindless killings, secret rape, terrifying disasters, a whodunit story and even spooky things going on.

But what does all this mean? How come that nearly nobody was reading Kleist's prose or even staging his plays during his lifetime, and why is it that he wasn't rediscovered until much later, eventually ending up as a canonical writer in German literary history? Even today, scholars wonder about where to put this strange author who does not really match with the Romanticism of his time. On the other hand, the celebrated Johann Wolfgang Goethe was also alienated: Why did Kleist ignore the harmonized and mellowed aesthetics of Weimar Classicism, describing all this terrible violence?

It will be important to have a look at recent research debates: What did Kleist actually think about war as an author and as a former Prussian soldier, what did he opine about the contemporary idea of the German nation, about race and gender, and about sexuality? How do current interpretations deal with such questions? In this seminar, we will explore and analyze Kleist's prose from exciting texts like the report of the vengeful Michael Kohlhaas to the thrilling anti-colonial massacre story *The Betrothal in Santo Domingo* and the bloody narration *The Foundling*. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to understand one of the most important writers in 19th century German literary history – Heinrich von Kleist. They will be trained to closely read and analyse prose texts that are written in a rather complex language. They will have enhanced their presentation, reading and writing skills. Last but not least, they will have learned how to do bibliographic research for writing individual academic papers.



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DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES

- 2 essays, 3-5 pages each = 40 % (20 % and 20%)
- Participation and "Tickets to class" = 20% Tickets to class are short assignments to keep your reading focussed. You will be either given questions on your readings for the week, or asked to comment or pose a good question on an aspect of the reading. The ticket to class is due on Blackboard the day before the reading will be discussed.
- Presentation (list of topics to be distributed in class) = 15%
- Final Exam (two hours in length) = 25 %

GRADING SCALE

A+ = 100-97%
A = 96-91%
A - = 90-86%
B+ = 85-81%
B = 80-76%
B- = 75-71%
C+ = 70-67%
C = 66-62%
C- = 61-58%
D+ = 57-54%
D = 53-50%
F = 49% and below

REQUIRED TEXTS

Heinrich von Kleist. Selected Writings. Edited and translated by David Constantine. London: J. M. Dent 1997.

ISBN-10: 0872207439
ISBN-13: 978-0872207431

All other readings will be available through the D2L.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

- a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
- c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."



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Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

DISABILITIES AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. Students with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre should contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Students also required to discuss their needs with the instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION ASSEMBLY POINTS

Craigie Hall: Professional Faculties food court (alternate: Education Block food court)
Education Block and Tower: Scurfield Hall atrium (alternate: Professional Faculties food court)
Kinesiology: north courtyard, MacEwan Student Centre (alternate: University Theatres lobby)
For the complete list of assembly points please consult
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT



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Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it.

Please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

SAFEWALK

To request a Safewalk escort anywhere on campus, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, please call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help Phones.

Web: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

STUDENT UNION INFORMATION

Representatives and contact details: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

Student Ombudsman: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Writing skills should cross all disciplines. Students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office (<http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca/>) can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.