

SEMINAR IN GERMAN LITERATURE: GERMAN LITERATURE IN A EUROPEAN CONTEXT /
Fall Semester 2012

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2-3 pm or by appointment

Die Familie Mann und Europa

I. Course Description: The Mann family is one of Germany's foremost literary dynasties. In addition to Nobel Prize-winning novelist Thomas Mann (1875-1955), other authors in the family include his brother Heinrich (1871-1950) as well as his children Klaus, Erika, and Golo Mann. This course focuses on their dealings with other European and North American cultures from the turn of the century through the Nazi years, which the family spent in Exile, to the post-war era. We will see how the Manns' views of Italian, Russian, French, and American culture are inextricably linked to history, and to the current political issues of the 20th century. Readings will include both fictional and non-fictional texts. Readings and discussion will be in German.

Course Objectives: This course aims to

- Provide an introduction to the writings of the Mann family from the turn of the century to the 1970s
- Use the texts as a means of exploration of German literature and politics, mainly during the first half of the 20th Century
- Special emphasis is put on the interaction of German national identity and its Others as developed in the texts of Thomas, Heinrich, Klaus, Erika, and Golo Mann

Textbooks / Readings:

The majority of core texts are available at the U of C Bookstore. On the syllabus, you will find the assigned readings and the dates indicating when the texts and films will be discussed. The following texts will be available at the Bookstore:

1. Mann, Thomas. *Der Tod in Venedig und andere Erzählungen*. 1954. Rpt. Frankfurt am Main: S. Fischer, 2009. Print.
2. Mann, Heinrich. *Der Untertan: Roman*. Frankfurt am Main: S. Fischer, 1998. Print.
3. Mann, Erika. *Blitze überm Ozean: Aufsätze, Reden, Reportagen*. Ed. Irmela von der Lühe and Uwe Naumann. Reinbek: Rowohlt, 2001. Print.
4. Mann, Erika, and Klaus Mann. *Escape to Life: Deutsche Kultur im Exil*. Ed. Heribert Hoven. Reinbek: Rowohlt, 1996. Print.
5. Hansen, Volkmar, ed. *Interpretationen: Thomas Mann, Romane und Erzählungen*. Stuttgart: Reclam, 1993. Print. (recommended)

Additional material will be made available via the Blackboard Course Site. In addition, the movies *Death in Venice* by Luchino Visconti and *Escape to Life: Die Erika und Klaus Mann Story* by Andrea Weiss will be screened.

Assignments, evaluations, and due dates

Marking		Grading	
In-class presentation	20%	A+ (96-100)	C+ (65-70)
Research Paper	50%	A (92-95)	C (62-64)
Participation	30%	A- (86-91)	C- (59-61)
		B+ (81-85)	D+ (55-58)
		B (77-80)	D (50-54)
		B- (71-76)	F (0-49)

Participation: Class discussion is a key factor in this course. The quality of the sessions will depend upon your preparedness and willingness to engage with each other. You must have read and thought about the required readings before coming to class. Needless to say, you should own copies of books and print out and mark up PDF readings. Students who feel unable to actively engage in classroom discussion must bring their concerns to the instructor's attention early so that an alternative strategy to ensure adequate performance can be sought. Unexplained absences will be penalized up to a loss of a full letter on the final grade.

In-class presentation: Each student is to prepare one class session. This includes a short introduction to the text(s) to be discussed, providing questions for discussion, and leading the in-class discussion. An outline of your presentation as well as questions for discussion are to be provided in a handout that needs to be posted on blackout at least three days before class.

Research paper: Due Dec. 11 at noon. Papers should be approx. 10-15 pages for Undergraduates, 15-20 pages for Graduate Students, letter sized paper, Times New Roman font 12, double-spaced), and preferably written in German. Topic needs to be discussed with and approved by instructor, preferably during office hours. The instructor may also approve of writing the paper in English. At the discretion of the instructor, papers submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

By turning in a paper, you certify that the work is your own; that you have given proper credit and citation to the work of others; and that you have not committed any other form of plagiarism or academic dishonesty. For definitions of plagiarism, please see the course calendar. Students are required to complete all assignments in order to receive a passing grade in this course.

Writing skills statement: All writing assignments will be marked according to content, form, analysis, and originality as well as clarity of writing including grammar, spelling, and organization. To improve your writing skills, contact the Effective Writing Centre (SS 301). If you are a student with a disability, who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to:

- Register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237), and
- Discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Syllabus / Agenda and Assigned Readings

	Tuesday	Thursday	Screening
Week 1: September 11/13	Introduction	Thomas Mann, <i>On Myself</i>	
Week 2: September 18/20	Thomas Mann, <i>Tristan</i>	Thomas Mann, <i>Tristan</i>	
Week 3: September 25/27	Thomas Mann, <i>Der Tod in Venedig</i>	Thomas Mann, <i>Der Tod in Venedig</i>	
Week 4: October 2/4	Thomas Mann, <i>Der Tod in Venedig</i>	No class	Luchino Visconti, <i>Morte A Venezia</i>
Week 5: October 9/11	Discussion of <i>Morte A Venezia</i>	Thomas Mann, <i>Betrachtungen eines Unpolitischen</i> (excerpts)	
Week 6: October 16/18	Heinrich Mann, <i>Zola</i>	Heinrich Mann, <i>Der Untertan</i>	
Week 7: October 23/25	Heinrich Mann, <i>Der Untertan</i>	Heinrich Mann, <i>Der Untertan</i>	Andrea Weiss, <i>Escape to Life</i>
Week 8: October 30 / Nov. 1	Discussion of <i>Escape to Life</i> film / Erika Mann, Biography and Early Writings (from <i>Blitze über dem Ozean</i>) - Ausgerechnet ich: Fragment einer Autobiographie - Wie ich Auto-Monteur lernte - Geht die Kunst nach Brot? - Frau und Buch - Der „Dennoch“-Fasching Münchens	Erika Mann: Texts from <i>Die Pfeffermühle</i> (selections) - plus: Unterwegs mit der Pfeffermühle (from <i>Blitze über dem Ozean</i>) - plus: Thomas Mann, Die Pfeffermühle	
Week 9: November 6/8	Erika Mann, Political Essays (from <i>Blitze über dem Ozean</i>) - Hitler, eine Gefahr für den Weltfrieden - Gastgeber Amerika - Die Zukunft Deutschlands - Warum die Deutschen weiterkämpfen	Klaus Mann, <i>Kindernovelle</i>	
Week 10: November 13/15	Reading Days No Class	Klaus Mann <i>Essays from the Exile Years</i> - Können Deutschland und Frankreich Freunde sein? - Die Kriegs- und Nachkriegs- generation - Frank Wedekind	
Week 11: November 20/22	Erika and Klaus Mann <i>Escape to Life</i> (selections)	Erika and Klaus Mann <i>Escape to Life</i> (selections)	
Week 12: November 27/29	Thomas Mann in Exile <i>Bruder Hitler</i> <i>Deutschland und die Deutschen</i>	Heinrich Mann in Exile <i>Ein Zeitalter wird besichtigt</i> (selections)	
Week 13: December 4/6	Golo Mann, <i>Literary Essays</i>	Golo Mann, <i>Wallenstein</i> (excerpts)	
Week 14: December 13	December 11, Noon: Term Papers due		