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GET 3930 German Fairy Tales

T 7 & R 7-8 TUR 2354

The major historical developments that took place during the Romantic period are:

- The French Revolution
- The Restauration
- The Industrial Revolution
- The Market Revolution
- The Modernization of German States (administration, education, economic, societal structures, population migration)

All of these events, especially the failure of the French Revolution, challenged the German intelligentsia to develop new philosophical, political, and social theories. These theories aimed to provide cultural orientations appropriate for the new historical situation. Surprisingly, the Romantics recommended as one effective therapy for the ailments of modernity **fairy tales**.

Course Objectives:

- to understand why the Romantic Movement in the late 18th and 19th centuries could initiate a very successful revival of ancient folk and fairy tales;
- to understand why the Romantics began to write their own fairy tales and declared this traditional genre to be one of the most relevant forms of literature of their day;
- to understand why the collections of old folk tales became so popular as children's literature in German families;
- to read folk and fairy tales as a literary genre with merit beyond the entertainment of children;
- to understand the cultural role of folk and fairy tales (as well as other ancient narratives such as sagas and myths) in German culture since the Romantics;

- to study the fact that the popularity and cultural functions of folk and fairy tales are not limited to German-speaking countries, but are equally influential in most Western cultures, including the United States;
- to assess what light this wide-spread presence of fairy tale-like stories in modern literature and films sheds on how we think today

First, we will study the historical circumstances that made the Romantic rediscovery of fairy tales and the cultural rehabilitation of this ancient, seemingly outdated, genre possible. Next we will focus on the creation and success of the best-known collection of folk tales, those published by the Brothers Grimm.

After reading the most famous stories from the Brothers Grimm *Children's and Household Tales*, we will read some of the most famous Romantic fairy tales, written by Novalis, E.T.A Hoffmann, and Friedrich de la Motte-Fouqué.

Then we will look beyond German fairy tales and read some written by the Danish poet Hans Christian Andersen.

At this point, it will be clear that fairy tales have developed into an international cultural institution. However, we will see that the continuous production of fairy tales is not a repetitive telling of "typical" fairy tale plots. In many cases, modern fairy tales criticize the "classical" fairy tale stories as well as their cultural impact or they use fairy tales within "realistic" plots for a variety of purposes. This shows that fairy tales have widely used functions within today's culture and literature. A high percentage of literary texts written for young adults include fairy tale elements such as J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" novels. We will not be able to cover these texts in our course, but we will study some of the modern adaptations of fairy tales by analyzing American film and TV productions.

Procedures:

This course is taught in English. All the literary texts will be available in a German and English version online. This course also has a digital component in Canvas, the new course management system of the University of Florida. Students will find the links to the texts discussed in class in Canvas. In addition, using the Discussion tool in Canvas, students will publish their analysis/understanding of the text before they are discussed in class. They will also publish their comments on selected chapters of books about fairy tales in Discussions.

There will be a midterm and a final exam. These exams are take-home exams in the form of questions students have to answer in short answers or essays. The midterm exam will take place after we have finished the discussion on the Brothers Grimm tales. The final exam questions will be handed out on December 7st. The answers have to be handed in no later than December 13th. The questions for the midterm and final exams will be presented as Assignments in Canvas. The students' short essays have to be attached to the Assignment page and uploaded into the course. All essays will be checked for plagiarism. If it is proven that students copied texts from the Internet into their essay they will receive 0 points for the essay.

Academic Honesty:

On all work submitted for credit the following pledge is either required or implied:
On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.
Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action according to the judicial process.
For more details go to: <http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/Rules/4017.htm>

Students with disabilities:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Make-up Policy:

There are NO MAKE-UPS for un-excused absences. The instructor may allow students to hand in late homework assignments in certain mitigating circumstances.

Attendance and Late Policy:

Students will be permitted one unexcused absence per semester. An excused absence is either one for which a medical certificate is provided or a certified University activity for which a written excuse from the University is provided. A medical certificate must clearly state that the student was unable to attend class on the date the class was missed. (For exceptions of this policy see next item.) While there is no limit to the number of excused absences, the student is still responsible for making up missed work.

A class roll will be passed around at the beginning of the class. If a student is late, he or she will have to sign the roll after the class. Late arrivals distract other students and the instructor and will affect the student's final participation grade.

Student will lose 1% from their final grades for every unexcused absence after the first such absence as well as 1% from their final grade each time they arrive late.

GRADING

- 30% Written discussion contributions and participation in class discussion
- 30% Midterm
- 40% Final

READING LIST:

GENERAL READING:

Jack Zipes: The Complete Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm. (You can download this book for about \$15 from Google.Books)

Jack Zipes: The Brothers Grimm. From Enchanted Forests to the Modern World.
Routledge: New York & London 1988

Maria Tartar: The Hard Facts of the Grimm's Fairy Tales. Princeton University Press
1987

(Both books are available in Google Books.)

FAIRY TALES:

From the Brothers Grimm

- **Mother Holle**
- **The Wolf and the Seven Young Kids**
- **The Virgin Mary's Child**
- **Little Red Cap**
- **The Frog King, or Iron Heinrich**
- **Hansel and Gretel**
- **Brother and Sister**
- **The Seven Ravens**
- **Snow White**
- **Cinderella**
- **Snow White and Rose Red**
- **Sleeping Beauty (Brier Rose)**
- **Lucky Hans**
- **Rapunzel**
- **Rumpelstiltskin**
- **The Magic Table, the Golden Donkey, and the Club in the Sack**
- **The Bremen Town Musicians**
- **The Juniper Tree**
- **A Tale About the Boy who Went Forth to Learn what Fear was**
- **The Wolf and the Fox**
- **The Brave Little Tailor**
- **The Tablecloth, the Knapsack, the Cannon Hat and the Horn**

German Romantic Authors:

Link to Novalis: [Henry of Ofterdingen \(Links to an external site.\)](#) (Read only Chapter IX)

Link to E.T.A. Hoffmann: [The Golden Pot \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Link to Friedrich de La Motte-Fouque: [Undine \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Non-German Fairy Tale Authors:

Link to Hans-Christian Andersen: [Fairy Tales \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

We will read:

- The little Sea Maid
- The Emperor's New Clothes
- The Snow Queen

MOVIES and TELEVISION SHOWS;

- Into the Woods
- Ever After: A Cinderella Story
- Once upon a time (1st and 9th episodes)
- Frozen
- Maleficent
- (Pan's Labyrinth)
- (Tale of Tales)