

# GEW 6420/GEW 4930: Early Modern German Literary Culture, Spring 2016

Will Hasty

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10-12, or by appt.

## Description/Beschreibung

### English Description

A consideration of literature (sermons, religious tracts, dramas, lyric poetry, romance/early novel, philosophical essays) composed in German, ranging from the late medieval mystics of the 13th and 14th centuries (Mechthild of Magdeburg, Meister Eckhart), to the writings of Humanists, early treatises of Martin Luther, and the Faust chapbook in the 15th and 16th centuries, to German Enlightenment (selected writings of Leibniz, Lessing's dramas, Kant's essay "What is Enlightenment?") in the 17th and 18th centuries. The critical focus falls on the emergence of new subject positions in the cultural landscape of early modern Germany as religion/theology converges in unique ways with the arts, sciences, and new technologies. Discussions will be informed by supplementary readings in essays by Walter Benjamin, Mikhail Bakhtin, Michel Foucault, and others.

### German Description

Ziel des Seminars ist eine kritische Betrachtung wichtiger literarischer Texte (Predigten, Traktate, Dramen, Lyrik, Romane, und anderes), die in der Frühmoderne in Deutschland verfasst wurden. Die Frühmoderne befasst für uns eine Periode, die zeitlich vom späten Mittelalter (14-15 Jahrhundert) bis zum 18 Jahrhundert (Aufklärung) reicht. In dieser Zeit entsteht ein Konstrukt, das wir gerne die Subjektivität oder das Subjekt nennen. Auch entsteht eine neue politische Landschaft in Deutschland und Europa, in der die Entwicklung von Nationalstaaten (als das politische Hauptkonstrukt der Neuzeit) sich langsam entfaltet, und zwar in einem Spannungsverhältnis mit dem Heiligen Römischen Reich und der Möglichkeit des Imperialismus als politische Alternative. Ausser diesen grösseren kritischen Anliegen wird unsere kritische Betrachtung auch in andere Richtungen gehen, die von den einzelnen Texten und Autoren bestimmt wird. Weitere Lektüren, die die kulturelle Wichtigkeit unserer gelesenen Texte zeigen, werden entweder als weitere Lektüreaufgaben oder im Unterricht kurz behandelt.

## Texte

Required or recommended texts:

Text No. 1 Title: VOM FLIESSENDEN LICHT DER GOTTHEIT Author: MECHTHILD VON MAGDEBURG ISBN: 9783150185575 Publisher: RECLAM Copyright: Cover: paperback book Edition: This text is required

Text No. 2 Title: VOM WUNDER DER SEELE. EINE AUSWAHL DER TRAKTATEN UND PREDIGTEN. Author: MEISTER ECKHART ISBN: 9783150073193 Publisher: RECLAM Copyright: Cover: paperback book Edition: This text is required

Text No. 3 Title: DER ACKERMANN Author: JOHANN VON TEPL ISBN: 9783150180754 Publisher: RECLAM Copyright: Cover: paperback book Edition: This text is required

Text No. 4 Title: AN DEN CHRISTLICHEN ADEL DEUTSCHER NATION. VON DER FREIHEIT EINES CHRISTENMENSCHEN. SENDBRIEF VOM DOLMETSCHEN. Author: MARTIN LUTHER ISBN: 9783150015780 Publisher: Copyright: Cover: paperback book Edition: This text is required

Text No. 5 Title: BUCH VON DER DEUTSCHEN POETEREY (1624). STUDIENAUSGABE. Author: MARTIN OPITZ ISBN: 9783150182147 Publisher: RECLAM Copyright: Cover: paperback book Edition: This text is required

Text No. 6 Title: LEO ARMENIUS Author: ANDREAS GRYPHIUS ISBN: 9783150079607 Publisher: RECLAM Copyright: Cover: paperback book Edition: This text is required

Text No. 7 Title: DER ABENTEUERLICHE SIMPLICISSIMUS TEUTSCH Author: HANSJAKOB GRIMMELSHAUSEN ISBN: 9783150007617 Publisher: Copyright: Cover: paperback book Edition: This text is required

Text No. 8 Title: EMILIA GALOTTI. EIN TRAUERSPIEL IN FÜNF AUFZÜGEN Author: GOTTHOLD EPHRAIM LESSING ISBN: 9783150000458 Publisher: RECLAM Copyright: Cover: paperback book Edition: This text is required

# Assignments/Aufgaben

## Assignments

1. Presentation of the Reading Assignments in English (or German permitted if Graduate Student or possessing near-native competence)

The seminar will be arranged to be largely "student-centered" and "student-driven." This means I will ask students working in pairs to make informed presentations of the week's principal reading assignments (the students can divide the work up as they see fit).

"Informed" means that the students making the presentation in a given week will present a thorough overview of the main reading assignment(s) while at the same time focusing on particular passages or episodes that they find especially interesting and worthy of discussion and interpretation. "Informed" also means that the students who are presenting the reading assignment in a given week will consult the critical literature and bring a few citations from the critical literature (either hard copies or web presentation) for everyone to consider and discuss. The citations from the secondary literature may involve one of the particular passages or episodes in the reading assignments that the presenters have found particularly important, or they may involve more general questions about broader topics, themes, or problems in the work as a whole. We will adapt as necessary, but, at present, it looks like each student will make two, in some cases possibly three such presentations of the main readings during the course of the semester.

2. Passages for Discussion

All students who are NOT involved in presenting the readings during a given week need to read the assignment carefully and be prepared to: a) participate actively in the discussion growing out of your classmates' presentation, and b) at some point during class, be prepared to discuss one or two particular passages that you have previously identified during your reading as especially interesting or worthy of further elaboration or explication.

3. Additional Assignments

Graduate Students:

a. A research paper of article length (20-25 pages double-spaced typescript including notes)

- b. A research report about your paper to be given on one of the final days of the seminar.

Undergraduate Students:

- a. A research paper (10-12 pages double-spaced typescript including notes)
- b. A research report about your paper to be given on one of the final days of the seminar.

#### 4. Grade Percentage

Class participation (includes presentations of the readings, your selected passages, and your preparedness for and involvement in discussions): 40%

Research paper: 60%

# Syllabus/Stundenplan

## Syllabus/Stundenplan Spring 2016 (Provisory; changes may be made as necessary)

6. January: Introduction [LINK](#)

13. January: Medieval Mysticism; Mechthild von Magdeburg, Das fließende Licht der Gottheit (read as much as you can; our discussion will focus on books one and two) and Meister Eckhart, Vom Wunder der Seele: Eine Auswahl aus den Traktaten und Predigten (again, read as much as you can; we concentrate on the Einführung, "Von der Selbsterkenntnis," "Von der Abgeschiedenheit," and "Vom Reich Gottes"; I will draw your attention to interesting passages elsewhere; Links of interest: [Bernard of Clairvaux's sermons on the Song of Songs](#)).

Main Texts: Mechthild von Magdeburg, Das fließende Licht der Gottheit (read as much as you can; our discussion will focus on books one and two) and Meister Eckhart, Vom Wunder der Seele: Eine Auswahl aus den Traktaten und Predigten. Presenter: Hasty

20. January: Early Humanism in Germany; Johann von Tepl, Der Ackermann aus Böhmen; [Sebastian Brandt, Das Narrenschiff \(NHG version at Projekt Gutenberg\)](#); Read Brant: Prologue, #1, #4, #13, #50, #73; at least one more of your choice-- be prepared to indicate your favorite kind of "Nartheit": [Charles IV and Prague](#); [Recent books on Humanism](#);

Main Text: Johann von Tepl, Der Ackermann aus Böhmen. Presenters: Samantha Green, Aaron Watkins.

27. January: [Hieronymus Bosch, Ship of Fools Painting](#); [Michel Foucault, Madness and Civilization, chapter one: "Stultifera navis"](#); [Folly sites-Luther, Brandt](#); [Erasmus, Praise of Folly-Summary](#); [Erasmus-Wikipedia Article](#); [Erasmus, Praise of Folly, Excerpts](#); [Erasmus passages](#); Luther, Freiheit eines Christenmenschen.

Main Text: Luther, Freiheit eines Christenmenschen. Presenters: Nils Wadt, Grant Casto,

3. February: Martin Luther, An den Christlichen Adel Deutscher Nation; Sendbrief vom Dolmetschen. [Martin Luther Wikipedia](#); [Donation of Constantine](#).

Main Texts: Martin Luther, An den Christlichen Adel Deutscher Nation; Sendbrief vom Dolmetschen. Presenters: Savannah Beck, Johannah Mariano, Colton McCorkle

10. February: Martin Luther writings; continuing discussion; ["Historia vnd Geschicht Doctor Johannis Faust."](#)

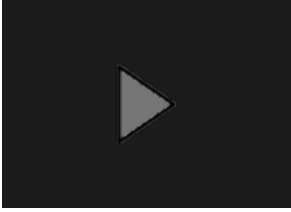
Read carefully chapters 1-7 (the beginning) and 70-71 (the end); read through the remaining chapter headings and chapters for the

passages you will need to complete the student commentary assignment.

Main Text: "[Historia vnd Geschicht Doctor Johannis Faust.](#)" Presenters: TBA

17. February:

[Dust in the Wind](#)



; [An introductory survey on Baroque literature and culture](#); [17th Century Quick Information](#); Martin Opitz, Buch von der Deutschen Poeterey (*read this brief text in its entirety; don't worry about remembering all the details, just do your best to get a sense of what Opitz is trying to accomplish and how he is proceeding*); selected Baroque lyrics ([Gryphius, Werke/bio](#); [An sich selbst](#); ; [Es ist alles eitel \(1657\)](#); [Tränen des Vaterlandes](#); [Paul Fleming, werke/bio](#); [An sich](#); [Wie er wolle geküset seyn](#) ; [Er beklagt die Enderung und Furchtsamkeit itziger Deutschen](#)); Gryphius;

Main Text: Andreas Gryphius's Leo Armenius (Acts 1 & 2). Presenters: TBA

24. February: [Gedanken über die Zeit](#); [Andreas Gryphius, Bio- Wikipedia](#); [Ebenbild unseres Lebens](#); [Texts pertaining to " Trawrspiel"](#); Baroque tragedy: Andreas Gryphius's Leo Armenius (Acts 3-5); ; [Zum Begriff Tragödie/Trauerpiel- Wikipedia](#); [selected passages](#)

Main Text: Andreas Gryphius's Leo Armenius (Acts 3-5). Presenters: TBA

Spring Break.

9. March: [Thirty Years War](#); [Baroque poetry: Catharina Regina von Greiffenberg](#); Hans Jakob Christoph von Grimmelshausen, Der abenteuerliche Simplicissimus Teutsch; [picaresque novel definition](#).

Main Text: Hans Jakob Christoph von Grimmelshausen, Der abenteuerliche Simplicissimus Teutsch, Presenters: TBA

16. March: [Positioning the Subject in Grimmelshausen's Simplicissimus](#); Hans Jakob Christoph von Grimmelshausen, Der abenteuerliche Simplicissimus Teutsch; Final Paper: Outline, Gliederung, thesis/conceptual framework, with 4-5 critical sources due today (one-two pages typescript). [Gottfried Leibniz, Explanation of Binary Arithmetic](#); [Leibniz's Neujahrsbrief an Herzog Rudolf August](#); [I-Ching hexagrams](#); [I-Ching diagram](#); [I-Ching Wikipedia article](#);

Main Text: Presenters: Hans Jakob Christoph von Grimmelshausen, Der abenteuerliche Simplicissimus Teutsch. Presenters: TBA

23. March: [Gottsched](#); [Lessing](#): [Gottsched, Versuch einer critischen Dichtkunst \(1730\)](#); [Lessing, der 17. Literaturbrief](#). [Pietismus](#); [Empfindsamkeit](#); [Was ist Empfindsamkeit?-Video](#); [The Virginia-story of ancient Rome](#); Lessing, "Emilia Galotti".

Main Text: Gotthold Lessing, " Emilia Galotti," (Acts 1-2): Presenters: TBA

30. March: FIRST DRAFT OF YOUR PAPER IS DUE TODAY; [Johann Gottfried Herder](#); [Goethe, Zum Shakespear Tag \(1771\)](#), [Prometheus-Wikipedia](#), [Goethe, "Prometheus" \(1774\)](#).

Main Text: Gotthold Lessing, " Emilia Galotti," (Acts 3-5): Presenters: TBA

6. April: [Kant, "Was ist Aufklärung?" \(1784\)](#). Presenters: TBA

13. April: Individual conferences re. your papers-in-progress and your presentations:to be scheduled.

20. April: Research presentations