



German 4576 | Fall 2016

## Tales of Travel in Modern German Culture

Explorers, Pilgrims, Tourists, Exiles, and Refugees

German artists, poets, filmmakers, and intellectuals have always exhibited great curiosity about other cultures. The figure of traveling, of crossing boundaries and exploring distant realities, is both a persistent motif and a creative engine of German aesthetic production. This seminar examines German culture's preoccupation with traveling and border crossings over the past 250 years. We will study the work of roaming poets and wandering visual artists, of itinerant filmmakers and inquisitive philosophers, in order to get a better grasp of what drives Germans beyond what is familiar, known, and homely. As importantly, **and in** response to the recent refugee crisis in Europe, we will also discuss various texts and images addressing the role of migrants and asylum seekers in Germany today and the way in which German culture has welcomed those fleeing their respective homelands in search of survival and exile.

All readings and discussions in German.

Pending approval, this seminar may be followed in spring 2017 by an undergraduate research seminar aiming to construct an online platform to map recent migration waves to Germany, create an archive of diverse refugee narratives, provide useful resources for researching and assisting refugee work in Germany, and compare migrant experiences in Germany with those in the United States.

Instructor: Lutz Koepnick

Class Time: Tuesday & Thursday 1:10 - 2:25 pm

For questions please email: [lutz.koepnick@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:lutz.koepnick@vanderbilt.edu)



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## COURSE INFORMATION

<b>Class Time</b>	Tuesdays & Thursdays: 1:10 - 2:25pm
<b>Room</b>	Buttrick 015
<b>Instructor</b>	Lutz Koepnick
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:lutz.koepnick@vanderbilt.edu">lutz.koepnick@vanderbilt.edu</a>
<b>Telephone</b>	615.875.9065
<b>Office</b>	Furman 121
<b>Office Hours</b>	Tu 3-4, W 1-2 & by appointment

## GRADE DISTRIBUTION

- 3 written projects (3-4 pages each): 50%
- 1 oral presentation: 10%
- Active weekly participation in class blog: 10%
- Attendance and participation: 30%

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Materials marked "ONLINE" in the course schedule will be made available electronically.

All other books are available for purchase at the Vanderbilt University Bookstore.

- Peter Handke, *Der kurze Brief zum langen Abschied* (ISBN: 3518397869 | 978-3518397862)
- Thomas Mann, *Tonio Kröger / Mario und der Zauberer* (ISBN: 3596213819 | 978-3596213818)

- Hermann Hesse, *Siddharta* (ISBN: 3518366823 | 978-3518366820)
- Abbas Khider, *Der falsche Inder* (ISBN: 978-3442744602)
- Jenny Erpenbeck, *Gehen, ging, gegangen* (ISBN: 978-3813503708)
- Merle Kroeger, *Havarie* (ISBN: 978-3867542241)
- Reinhard Kleist, *Der Traum von Olympia* (ISBN: 978-3551736390)
- *Deutschland—Erste Informationen für Flüchtlinge* (ISBN: 978-3451349331)

## COURSE POLICIES

**Class participation** is an important aspect of this class, and excessive absences will therefore adversely affect the final grade

**Policy on Pass/Fail Grading Option:** Students who take this course under the Pass/Fail option must receive a grade of C- or better in order to qualify for the Pass on their final grade.

**Academic Integrity:** Students are bound by the University rules on academic integrity in all aspects of this course. All references to ideas and texts other than the students' own must be so indicated through appropriate footnotes, whether the source is a book, an online site, the professor, etc. All students are responsible for following the rules outlined at: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/studentaccountability/>

**Special accommodations for students with disabilities:** The Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages is committed to making educational opportunities available to all students. In order for its faculty members to properly address the needs of students who have disabilities, it is necessary that those students approach their instructors as soon as the semester starts, preferably on the first day of class. They should bring an official letter from the Opportunity Development Center (2-4705) explaining their specific needs so that their instructors are aware of them early on and can make the appropriate arrangements.

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## COURSE SCHEDULE

### Week One: Introduction

Th 8/25/16

- Introduction

### Week Two: East I

Tu 8/30/16

- Film: *Hannas Reise* (2013, dir. Julia von Heinz)

Th 9/1/16

- Hesse, *Siddharta* (7-62)

### Week Three: East II & South I

Tu 9/6/16

- Hesse, *Siddharta* (63-121)

Th 9/8/16

- Michael Maurer, "Italienreisen--Kunst und Konfession" [ONLINE]
- Johann Wolfgang Goethe, "Kennst du das Land, wo die Zitronen blühen" [ONLINE]
- Johann Wilhelm Heinrich Tischbein, *Goethe in der Campagna* (1787) [ONLINE]

### Week Four: South II

Tu 9/13/16

- Mann, *Mario und der Zauberer*

Th 9/15/16

- Mann, *Mario und der Zauberer*
- Film: *Die weisse Massai* (2005, dir. Hermine Huntgeburth)

### **Week Five: North I**

Tu 9/20/16

- Caspar David Friedrich, *Das Eismeer / Gescheiterte Hoffnung* (ca. 1823) [ONLINE]
- Olafur Eliasson, *The Glacier Series* (1999) [ONLINE]
- Olafur Eliasson, *The Jokla Series* (2004) [ONLINE]

Thu 9/22/16

- Film: *S.O.S. Eisberg* (1933, dir. Arnold Fanck)

### **Week Six: West I**

Tu 9/27/16

- Rudolf Kayser, "Amerikanismus" [ONLINE]
- Stefan Zweig, "Die Monotonisierung der Welt" [ONLINE]
- Friedrich Sieburg, "Anbetung von Fahrstühlen" [ONLINE]
- Selected drawings by George Grosz, Karl Hubbuch, and Paul Gangolf [ONLINE]

Th 9/29/16:

- Handke, *Kurze Brief* (11-56)
- **ESSAY 1 DUE**

### **Week Seven: West II**

Tu 10/4/16

- Handke, *Kurze Brief* (56-111)

Th 10/6/16

- Handke, *Kurze Brief* (117-161)

### **Week Eight: West III**

Tu 10/11

- Handke, *Kurze Brief* (161-205)

Th 10/13: NO CLASS FALLBREAK

### **Week Nine: Welcome Culture? I**

Tu 10/18

- "Das Jahr 2015: Flucht und Flüchtlinge im Fokus – ein Rückblick" [ONLINE]
- *Der Spiegel*: [Fakten zur Flüchtlingskrise](#) [ONLINE]

Th 10/20

- Khider, *Der falsche Inder* [000-000]

### **Week Ten: Welcome Culture? II**

Tu 10/25

- Khider, *Der falsche Inder* [000-000]

Th 10/27: NO CLASS

### **Week Eleven: Promises of Arrival**

Tu 11/1

- *Deutschland—Erste Informationen für Flüchtlinge* [66-136]

Th 11/3

- Kleist, *Der Traum von Olympia*

### **Week Twelve: Agonies of Escape I**

Tu 11/8

- Kroeger, *Havarie* [6-81]

Th 11/10

- Kroeger, *Havarie* [82-151]
- **PROJECT 1 DUE**

### **Week Thirteen: Agonies of Escape II**

Tu 11/15

- Kroeger, *Havarie* [152-227]
- Film: Philip Scheffner, *Havarie* (2016)

Th 11/17

- Elfriede Jelinek, *Die Schutzbefohlenen* (audio version) [ONLINE]

### **Week Fourteen:**

Tu 11/22: NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK

Th 11/24: NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK

### **Week Fifteen: Visions of Self-Transformation**

Tu 11/29

- Elfriede Jelinek, *Die Schutzbefohlenen* (audio version) [ONLINE]
- DeutschKURSK [ONLINE]
- Erpenbeck, *Gehen, ging, gegangen* [000-000]

Th 12/1

- Erpenbeck, *Gehen, ging, gegangen* [000-000]

### **Week Sixteen:**

Tu 12/6

- Erpenbeck, *Gehen, ging, gegangen* [000-000]
- **PROJECT 2 DUE**

Th 12/8

- Erpenbeck, *Gehen, ging, gegangen* [000-000]