This course is designed to introduce you to the history of German literature with an emphasis on women authors from the medieval period until the 20th century. We will not be able to do justice to all outstanding authors of this period, but you will study a wide variety of selections as possible in order to capture the essence of individual periods or movements. A thorough textual analysis and discussion of selected texts will enable you to familiarize yourself with representative authors, works, genres, and develop your critical reading and writing skills. Although the works will be discussed chronologically, the focus is not on a comprehensive overview, but the course’s goal is rather to help you acquire methods, terminology, and practice of literary analysis, and to weten your appetite for a further study of German literature.

REQUIRED TEXTS

book (B); website (W); Digitale Bibliothek (D); Film (F)

Sophie La Roche. *Geschichte des Fraeuleins von Sternheim*. (B)
Bettina v. Arnim. *Die Guenderode* (B)
Ebner-Eschenbach (D)
Lou Andreas-Salomé. *Lebensrueckblick* (B)
Anna Seghers. *Transit* (B)

We will view films and read selected works by these authors:
Hildegard von Bingen (W)
Mechthild v. Magdeburg (W)
Louise Karsch (D)
Rahel Vernhagen (D)
Clara Schuhmann (selected compositions)
Ingeborg Bachmann (selections)
Christa Wolf (selections)
Leni Riefenstahl (selections)
Caroline Link, *Jenseits von Afrika* (F)
Doris Dörrie, *Maenner* (F)

NOTE: Other shorter texts and films or film excerpts might be added.

Format of the course:
- discussions
- student reports on readings, authors, and background information
- use of videos and musical works

Grading
- Participation 20
- 5 Oral Reports 15 %
- Three interpretations of works discussed in class 30 % (at least 4 pages incl. bibliography)
Attendance

Participation is of utmost necessity to make this course a success. Please come well prepared and ready to participate in the discussions. Attendance will be noted in each class. Each unexcused absence (beyond the second) will be punished at the end of the semester by lowering the participation grade (e.g. three unexcused absences would lower a B to C. If you must be absent, notify me ahead of time. Obtain the assignment from me or from a classmate, so that you can hand it in on time. Some form of documentation will be required for excused absences such as illness, family emergencies, and academic obligations, or any college-sponsored extra-curricular event such as any varsity sports team. It is your responsibility to inform me in advance of any scheduled events. Regardless of your reason for missing class, you will want to keep up with your work.

Participation
You will be expected to have completed all the readings prior to each class meeting, and to engage in informed discussions pertaining to a text’s content, its formal features, its cultural context, or other relevant aspects.

Reports
You will be expected to give several brief reports throughout the semester. They may be the results of homework assignments regarding questions about a specific work, author, genre, period, or a relevant work of literary criticism.

Midterm & Final Exam
Both Midterm and Final consist of short questions/answers, mainly in German. Some questions pertaining to literary theory may be answered in English. The Final is comprehensive and will include a short essay in German and/or English.

Interpretations
For your essays you will be asked to select works discussed in class. They may be poems, prose works, or dramas. Depending on your choice, the instructor will assist you in selecting appropriate interpretative approaches. Each four pages, double-spaced.

Classroom Etiquette
♦ No chewing gum, food, or beverages! You will need to be able to speak clearly and loudly, free of any interference.
♦ No ball caps!
♦ No pagers and cell phones!

Plagiarism and cheating will be handled according to the Student Code outlined in the current Student Handbook and in the statement on Academic Honesty at Moravian College.

Note: I reserve the right to make appropriate changes to this syllabus whenever necessary.

Viel Erfolg und auf gute Zusammenarbeit im neuen Semester!