**German 350: 20th Century German Theater**

Comenius 411  
TTH 12:50 – 2:00  
Spring 2005

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Office Hours:

**THTWF** 11:30 – 12:30  or by appointment

You can also reach me at any time in my virtual office: I will respond to your e-mails as promptly as possible.

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

This course is primarily designed for German majors and aims to provide students with an in-depth study of trends in German-speaking theater from expressionism to the present. We will thoroughly examine outstanding dramas from Brecht to Jelinek and read a variety of theoretical texts (e.g. by Aristotle, Lessing, Brecht etc.) in order to get a better understanding of the fundamental principles of drama and of the socio-historical context in which 20th century playwrights worked. Handouts, books on reserve, and the use of the internet will complement our study of the development of modern German theater from the end of World War I to the end of the millennium. Selected German movies relevant to the course's central theme will also be shown and discussed. Apart from some theoretical works in English, course work and class discussion and will be entirely conducted in German.

Course will meet twice a week, 70 minutes each. Course material is presented using a mixture of lectures, group discussions, student presentations, media, and World Wide Web resources. The focal point of class meetings will be the group discussion of readings, or other media.
Texts

Bertolt Brecht. *Baal*
Ernst Toller. *Hinkemann*
Horvath *Glaube, Liebe, Hoffnung*
Lasker-Schueler. *Die Wupper*
Fleissner. *Fegefeuer von Ingolstadt*
Borchert. *Draussen vor der Tur*
Handke. *Publikumsbeschimpfung und andere Sprechstücke*
Jelinek. *Wolken. Heim*
Select works by Franz-Xaver Kroetz, Thomas Bernhard & Botho Strauss.

**Evaluation**

Grades will be based upon four papers, the average of three oral presentations, attendance, and a midterm and final exam.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Papers</td>
<td>40 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Oral presentations</td>
<td>10 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15 %</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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Papers must be written in German. All papers must be double-spaced and use Times Font or similar one, size 12. The first paper should be 2 pages, the second 3, the third 4 pages, and the fourth 6 pages. All papers should be written according to the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*, or *The Chicago Manual of Style: The Essential Guide for Writers, Editors, and Publishers*. I expect papers to address some of the key theoretical issues regarding topics and the texts read throughout the semester. The exams will include itemized and essay-type questions.

Some Remarks on the Oral Presentations

Each oral presentation should be app. 10 minutes. I will indicate the topics for these presentations. There will be a discussion after each presentation. If you have any problems with your presentation, please come and see me, so I can help you.

How to prepare for oral presentations?

Use the works on reserve or relevant websites. The presentations should no be read but presented lively with the help of notes. Prepare handouts with important information; use the board or POWERPOINT.
**Ground Rules**

**Academic Honesty:** All work that you submit for credit must be your own. I adhere to the policy on academic honesty found in the *Moravian College Catalog*. Consult the Writing Center for help with plagiarism and citations issues. Be particularly careful when using Internet sources.

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance is mandatory and will be taken at each class meeting. If you miss more than two classes without a valid, documented excuse, your final grade will be lowered by one grade degree for each absence (for example, B+ to B). *Five unexcused absences is an automatic fail for the course.* No make-up exams will be given for unexcused absences. If you must miss a class, whether for family emergency, illness, or religious holidays, please notify me in advance by phone or email. Medical excuses must be documented. You are still responsible for the material covered in class when you do not attend.

**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! Students tend to hide or get "lost" behind the visor.
- 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.

A course calendar will be handed out during the second week of classes. It will contain an approximate schedule of the work to be completed in this semester.

**Viel Erfolg und gute Zusammenarbeit im neuen Semester!**