

GERM421/Fall 2008**German Medieval Literature and Culture**

Dr. Gabriele Strauch
Office Hours: M 4:30-5:30
W 12-1
and by appointment

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Prerequisites: GERM320 or 322 or by departmental approval

Language of instruction: German

Course Description and Course Goals

This course will introduce students to the literary production by women and men in medieval Germany from the tenth to the thirteen centuries. The syllabus is organized around thematic issues and concepts which address issues of class, gender, race, ethnicity, age and colonialism. In addition to the literary texts exemplifying each theme, students read cultural, historical, and sociological studies (in German and English) to understand the broader context in which these literary texts are embedded.

The following questions will guide our readings: What do these texts tell us about medieval life in general? What roles are assigned to men, women and children? What are the cultural concepts and norms that shape medieval society? How does the institution of the Church figure in medieval life, thinking and writing?

The course will also make an attempt to connect the past to the present. To what extent are the middle ages still with us? To explore that question, we will visit local sites such as the National Cathedral of Washington, D.C. (Friday, September 19, 2-3pm) and the Library of Congress to view a medieval manuscript collection (Friday, October 10, 2:30-3:30pm). The Franciscan Monastery in Washington, D.C. is another beautiful site offering I glimpse into the medieval monastic way of life. Other reminders of the medieval past are jousting tournaments – Jousting is the State Sport of Maryland! - annual Medieval and Renaissance Festivals as well as medieval feasts.

Course format: Lectures, class discussions, student presentations, small group work, videos, music, etc.

Course requirements: Research paper, midterm, final, written summaries of readings, in class presentations, and class participation

Course materials:

- (1) Books available in UMD Bookstore:
 - a. Hartmann von Aue, Der arme Heinrich
 - b. Wernher der Gärtner, Helmbrecht
 - c. Hrotsvitha von Gandersheim, Dulcitius, Abraham
 - d. Konrad von Würzburg, Der Welt Lohn
- (2) Reader (R) – For each theme, students will receive a Reader
- (3) National Geographic, “Retracing the First Crusade”
- (4) Bibliography book– German Historical Institute

Syllabus

Sept 3 (W) **First Day** of Classes – General Introduction

September 8 – September 19: Life, people and happenings in the medieval city

- Sept 8 Katarina Kulbach-Fricke, Der Kaufmann von Köln, 11-69 (R)
- Sept 10 “Alltag im Mittelalter,” Kölnisches Stadtmuseum (R)
- Sept 15 “Juden in Köln – Daten zur Geschichte (R); „Das mittelalterliche jüdische Viertel“ (R); Kölner Dom (R)
- Sept 17 Class held on Sept.19
- Sept 19 Guided Tour of the National Cathedral, 2-3pm

September 22 – September 29: Peasants

- Sept 22 Wernher der Gärtner, Helmbrecht
- Sept 24 Meeting with Heleni Pedersoli, McKeldin Library
- Sept 29 Sabine Buttinger, „Bauern und Landleben,“ Das Mittelalter, 91-96 (R)
 Felicitas Bachmann et al., „Laß sie selten müßig geh'n – Die Bäuerin,“
Weibsbildung. Wie Frauen trotz allem zu Wissen kamen, 30-32 (R)

October 1 – October 13: Children

- Oct 1 Sabine Buttinger, „Kindheit und Jugend,“ Das Mittelalter, 80-81 (R); Klaus Arnold, „Die Einstellung zum Kind im Mittelalter,“ Mensch und Umwelt im Mittelalter, 53-64 (R); Hans-Werner Goetz, „Die Kinder,“ Leben im Mittelalter, 61-64 (R)
- Oct 6 Hartmann von Aue, Der arme Heinrich
- Oct 8 Hartmann von Aue, Der arme Heinrich
- Oct 13 Sabine Buttinger, „Die mittelalterliche Gesellschaft,“ Das Mittelalter, 71-76 (R); Sabine Buttinger, „Die eigenen Anderen: Randgruppen im Mittelalter,“ Das Mittelalter, 171-174 (R);
- Oct 15 Midterm

October 20 – October 24: Manuscript production

- Oct 20 Die Mannessische Liederhandschrift
- Oct 22 Class held on October 24
- Oct 24 The Lessing J. Rosenwald Collection, Meeting with Mr. De Simone, Library of Congress

October 27 – November 5: Women

- Oct 27 Hrotsvitha von Gandersheim, Dulcitius; Joe Ferrante, „Public Postures,“ (R); Felicitas Bachmann et al., „Luitgard,“ Weibsbildung. Wie Frauen trotz allem zu Wissen kamen, 16-18 (R);
- Oct 29 Hrotsvitha von Gandersheim, Abraham; Sabine Buttinger, „Familie und Ehe,“ „Die Stellung der Frau“ Das Mittelalter, 76-79 (R); Felicitas Bachmann et al., „Munt und Marter,“ Weibsbildung. Wie Frauen trotz allem zu Wissen kamen, 19-21 (R); Bodo von Borries/Annette Kuhn, „Und wie stand’s mit der Gleichberechtigung von Mann und Frau?“ Frauen in der Geschichte, 104-105, (R)
- Nov 3 Frauenmystik und Beginenbewegung; Dagmar Müller, „Hildegard von Bingen“, Begleiterinnen auf dem Weg nach innen, 207-211 (R)
- Nov 5 Dagmar Müller, „Mechthild von Magdeburg“, Begleiterinnen auf dem Weg nach innen, 181-185 (R)

November 10 – November 26: Jews and Muslims – Crusades: The Christian West meets the Muslim East

- Nov 10 Paffe Konrad, Rolandslied; “Retracing the First Crusade,” National Geographic, 326-365
- Nov 12 Paffe Konrad, Rolandslied;
- Nov 17 Süsskind von Trimberg (R); Frank Meier, “Juden und Muslime. Religiöse Fremdheit,” Gefürchtet und bestaunt. Vom Umgang mit Fremden im Mittelalter, 58-90 (R); James Brundage, „Proclamation of the Crusade,“ Crusades. A Documentary, 14-23 and 62-63 (R)
- Nov 19 Sabine Buttinger, „Die eigenen Anderen: Randgruppen im Mittelalter,“ Das Mittelalter, 166-171 (R); Dukus Horant (R); Gabriele L. Strauch, „Text and Context in the Reading of Medieval Literature – A Case in Point: Dukus Horant,“ Exemplaria, 69-94.
- Nov 24 Film: Kingdom of Heaven; Joshua Prawer, “The Roots of Medieval Colonialism,” The Meeting of Two Worlds. Cultural Exchange between East and West during the period of the Crusades, 23-38 (R)
- Nov 26 Film: Kingdom of Heaven
- Nov 27 (Thursday)-28 (Friday) Thanksgiving Holiday

December 1 – December 8: Courtly Literature

- Dec 1 Wolfram von Eschenbach, Parzival, (R)
- Dec 3 Wolfram von Eschenbach, Parzival, (R); Sabine Buttinger, „Burgen, Ritter und höfisches Leben,“ Das Mittelalter, 81-91 (R)
- Dec 8 Konrad von Würzburg, Der Welt Lohn
- Dec 10 Last Day of Class: Presentation of Research projects; Semester review

Thursday, December 18, 1:30-3:30pm - Final Exam and research papers due (no late papers will be accepted)

Grading:

- 25% Attendance and participation in class
- 25% Research paper (specifics to be discussed later)
- 25% Midterm exam
- 25% Final exam

Policies:

1. Students with disabilities should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to discuss any accommodation for this course.
2. The University has approved a **Code of Academic Integrity** which prohibits students from cheating on exams, plagiarizing papers, submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without authorization, buying papers, submitting fraudulent documents, and forging signatures. Plagiarism policy: all quotations taken from other authors, including from the Internet, must be indicated by quotation marks and referenced. Paraphrasing must be referenced as well. The following University of Maryland **Honor Pledge** has been proposed by the Council and approved by the University Senate: "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination." This pledge should be handwritten and signed on the front page of all papers, projects or other academic assignments submitted for evaluation in this course.
3. Religious observance : Please inform your instructor of any intended absences for religious observance in advance.
4. This syllabus may be subject to change. Students will be notified in advance of important changes that could affect grading, assignments, etc.
5. Unless otherwise directed, students are expected to remain in the classroom for 15 minutes in the unlikely event that the instructor should not arrive on time. After 15 minutes, it may be assumed that class will not be held.