German 4350
German Travel Literature
Spring 2015

Instructor: Dr. Christoph Weber
Email: christoph.weber@unt.edu
Office: LB 401-E
Office phone: (940) 565-2569
Main office phone: (940) 565-2404

Class meets: Mo/We 3:30-4:50 pm (LB 1114)
Office hours: Mo/We 1:00-1:50 pm (or by appointment)

Course Description:
This course offers an introduction of key travel texts written by German speaking authors. As we analyze and discuss different genres and media representations of travel narratives (such as travel memoirs, scientific travel accounts, and films on travel), we will explore a myriad of travel destinations – Italy, the South Pacific Islands, America’s wilderness, and Middle Eastern cities – through the author’s lens. Starting with the Grand Tour of the 1800s and ending with the 20th century phenomena of mass tourism, we will pay close attention to persisting and changing cultural attitudes towards travel and the indigenous people inhabiting the travel destinations that are deemed “other” and “exotic”. Such an approach will guide us in the reevaluation of our own cultural assumptions of what we consider to be “foreign”. At the end of the semester, we will take a closer look at representations of modern modes of travel hit by disaster. Besides of gaining a broader knowledge of German cultural history and literature, this course also aims at strengthening the necessary skills to read, analyze and discuss advanced level German language texts.

Course Texts:
We will be reading excerpts from the following travel texts. All reading materials are provided by the instructor.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: Italienische Reise
Johann Gottfried Seume: Spaziergang nach Syrakus
Georg Forster: Reise um die Welt
Adelbert von Chamisso: Reise um die Welt
Alexander von Humboldt: Forschungsreise in die Tropen Amerikas
Maximilian Prinz zu Wied: Reise in das innere Nordamerika
Ida Pfeiffer: Reise einer Wienerin ins Heilige Land
Annemarie Schwarzenbach: Winter in Vorderasien
Thomas Mann: “Das Eisenbahnunglück”
We will build upon a wide range of language skills in German 4350:

1. **Reading:** Throughout the course, we will be reading a variety of German literary texts of various lengths. Most of the course texts are glossed and can be found on blackboard. I recommend investing in a good quality, comprehensive German dictionary. You may also use an online dictionary as a supplementary tool: (http://dict.leo.org). Remember that your reading should point towards a general comprehension of the content and that you do not get hung up on specific words. Allow sufficient time for reading and do not wait until the last minute. Also, you may want to take a look at the questions supplied with the texts before you start reading. They help you to seek out the main points of the assigned reading materials.

2. **Speaking and listening:** Spoken German also constitutes an integral component of the course. You will be expected to participate actively in class discussions and group work.

3. **Grammar:** You are expected to have a good grasp of intermediate German grammar concepts (although you are responsible for reviewing grammar that still presents you with difficulties, your instructor will be very happy to assist you in these efforts). Occasionally, we may revisit some fundamental grammatical concepts.

4. **Writing:** Another focus will be on writing in German - to express ideas, convey information, and improve style and accuracy. Besides improving your linguistic skills, both the summaries and position papers are also meant to help you prepare for the midterm and exam. In all writing assignments, the grade will be based on organization and content as well as accuracy of structures and forms.

**Course Evaluation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance and Active participation</th>
<th>10%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation (1)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes (5)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Papers (5)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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</table>

**Grade Distribution:**

- A = 100 – 90%
- B = 89.9 – 80%
- C = 79.9 – 70%
- D = 69.9 – 60%
- F = 59.9 – 0%
Assignments/Course Requirements:

1. **Participation:** Besides becoming more knowledgeable about central topics of German culture, you will be expected to work steadily on developing your proficiency in reading, writing, and oral expression. Careful preparation for class and regular, active participation are the foundation of this course. **Cellular phones must be switched off and kept out of sight. If it is visible to the instructor, you will receive a zero grade for participation on that day. The use of laptop computers in class is not allowed.**

2. **Homework:** Homework will typically consist of taking notes, formulating comments, and asking questions on the reading assigned for the class. **I expect that you come to class prepared and having completed the homework assigned for that day.** I do not accept late homework unless this has been cleared with me in advance. If you don’t have it in class – for whatever reason – you will not receive credit for it. Additionally, if you haven’t completed the reading for a particular class, you can’t participate, which will negatively impact your homework and participation grade. Besides facilitating discussion during class, this activity is meant to further activate your linguistic skills in German and help you in the writing of the summaries as well as in the preparation for the final exam. **All homework assignments can be found in the “Hausaufgaben” folder on the blackboard site.**

3. **Papers:** You will write **four summaries** (each of them giving a brief overview of the material covered in the last class periods) and **one short position paper** (commenting on a specific point in Werner Herzog’s film *Aguirre* we will be viewing). The instructor will return the turned in draft with comments and corrections, after which you will rewrite the essay incorporating the corrections.

   Please format any of these works as follows:
   * Length: Varies with each assignment
   * Font: Times New Roman
   * Font Size: 12, double spaced
   * Extra margin right: 2 inches
   * Always hand in a printed version! Do not send it as an e-mail attachment!

   **Failure to follow this format may result in a lower grade of up to 10%.**

4. **Presentation:** During the semester, you will give one group presentation (a short biographical sketch of an author we discuss in class). Note that it will NOT be sufficient to read out a written text (but key words on flash cards are allowed).

5. **Midterm and Final Exam:** At the middle and at the end of the semester, we will be taking a comprehensive exam in German. It will consist of questions on the readings and discussions of the class. In preparation of this exam, you will be turning in homework regularly, and write summary papers. Note that taking notes during class will immensely help you.
General Course Policies:

ATTENDANCE: Regular attendance is required. Repeated unexcused absences and tardiness will affect your grade significantly. Three tardies is the equivalent of one absence. Leaving class before the end of the period will be considered an absence. You are allowed a maximum of three (3) absences, whether excused or unexcused, without penalty. **After three absences, your final grade will suffer in percent (1 percent will be deducted from the final grade for each unexcused absence).** After the twelfth absence, you will receive a failing grade for the entire class. Excused absences are only: A.) illness with doctor's documentation, B.) official university sponsored activities, and C.) the observance of certain religious holidays (see University Class Attendance Regulations in the UNT Policy Manual http://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-2-5 for details).

MACHINE TRANSLATION: The use of machine translators (aka computer translation) such as Babel fish is strictly prohibited. Any assignment that is determined to have been translated from English by a computer will receive an F.

TUTORS: Some of our students work with tutors and can benefit from this additional work. Please note that tutors help you do your work but may not do it for you. **If a tutor helps you to complete the writing assignment, I need to see both your first draft and a final version of the assignment, showing evidence of your unaided work and results of the tutor's input.**

STUDENT BEHAVIOR IN THE CLASSROOM: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr

**Specifically for TAMS students:** If you are absent for any reason, you are required to file an absence report with Dr. Allen of the TAMS Academic Office. You must complete the “Absence Form” on the TAMS Academic Website. In addition, as your professor, I will send periodic attendance reports to the TAMS Academic Office. TAMS students are not allowed the use of computers in the classroom.
SUCCEED AT UNT RESOURCE: UNT has launched a campaign—Succeed at UNT—to provide students with consistent student success messages, and user-friendly, accessible links to student support services. The following six focused messages:

1) Show up.
2) Find support.
3) Take control.
4) Be prepared.
5) Get involved.
6) Be persistent.

To better familiarize yourself with this service, go to https://success.unt.edu/.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS: In accordance with Section 51.911 of the Texas Education Code, UNT will allow a student who is absent from class for observance of a religious holy day to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time. Students are required to file a written request with each professor within the first 15 days of the semester to qualify for an excused absence. A copy of the state rules and procedures regarding holy days and the form for notification of absence from each class under this provision are available from the Registrar’s Office.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES: UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify you with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). The system sends voice messages (and text messages upon permission) to the phones of all active faculty staff, and students. Please make certain to update your phone numbers at www.my.unt.edu. Some helpful emergency preparedness actions include: 1) ensuring you know the evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas, determining how you will contact family and friends if phones are temporarily unavailable, and identifying where you will go if you need to evacuate the Denton area suddenly. In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT: The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability
Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

**STUDENT EVALUATION OF TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS:** The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class. Besides SETE, there is also a student evaluation carried out by the department.

If you have questions or concerns at any point during the semester, please contact your instructor. Plan on attending office hours at least once during the semester, even if it is just for an informal visit. Furthermore, I encourage you to use *Gesprächsrunde* and any other activities or films for additional speaking practice.

For more information about the German program at UNT, please follow the link listed below:

http://foreignlanguages.unt.edu/undergraduate-programs/german
### Vorläufiger Semesterplan:

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<th>Woche 1</th>
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<th>Willkommen &amp; sich kennen lernen</th>
<th>Lesestücke und Termine: Kurzaufsatz: Ein Reiseerlebnis (150 Wörter) Auswahl der Autorenreferate</th>
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<td>Woche 2</td>
<td>Montag, 26.01.</td>
<td>Einführung: Reisen nach Italien während der Frühmoderne</td>
<td>J. W. Goethe <em>Italienische Reise</em> Goethe: Leseteil I</td>
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<td>Mittwoch, 28.01.</td>
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<td>Woche 3</td>
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<td>J. W. Goethe <em>Italienische Reise</em></td>
<td>J. G. Seume <em>Spaziergang nach Syrakus</em> Seume: Leseteil II Quiz I: Goethe u. Seume</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mittwoch, 04.02.</td>
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<td>Einführung: Entdeckungsfahrten in die Südsee Summary #1</td>
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<td>Woche 4</td>
<td>Montag, 09.02.</td>
<td>J. G. Seume <em>Spaziergang nach Syrakus</em></td>
<td>J. G. Forster <em>Entdeckungsreise nach Tahiti</em> Forster: Leseteil I Autorenreferat</td>
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<td>Mittwoch, 11.02.</td>
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<td>Woche 5</td>
<td>Montag, 16.02.</td>
<td>J. G. Forster <em>Entdeckungsreise nach Tahiti</em></td>
<td>A. v. Chamisso <em>Reise um die Welt</em> Chamisso: Leseteil I Autorenreferat</td>
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<td>Mittwoch, 18.02.</td>
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<td>A. v. Chamisso <em>Reise um die Welt</em> Chamisso: Leseteil II Quiz II: Forster u. Chamisso</td>
</tr>
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<td>Mittwoch, 25.02.</td>
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<td>A. v. Humboldt <em>Die Forschungsreise in den Tropen Amerikas</em> Humboldt: Leseteil II</td>
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<td>Woche 7</td>
<td>Montag, 02.03.</td>
<td>Einführung: Entdeckungsreisen nach Amerika</td>
<td>Mittsemesterexamen Lernen Sie für das Examen!</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mittwoch, 04.03.</td>
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<td>Woche 8</td>
<td>Montag, 09.03.</td>
<td>A. v. Humboldt <em>Die Forschungsreise in den Tropen Amerikas</em></td>
<td>Humboldt: Leseteil I Autorenreferat</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mittwoch, 11.03.</td>
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<td>Humboldt: Leseteil II</td>
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<td>Woche 9</td>
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<td>Frühlingsferien Kein Unterricht</td>
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</table>
| Woche | Montag, 23.03. | M. Prinz zu Wied  
*Reise in das innere Nordamerika* | Wied: Leseteil I  
Autorenreferat |
|-------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
|       | Mittwoch, 25.03. | M. Prinz zu Wied  
*Reise in das innere Nordamerika* | Wied: Leseteil II  
Quiz III: Humboldt u. Wied |
| Woche 11 | Montag, 30.03. | Film: *Aguirre – Der Zorn Gottes* | |
|       | Mittwoch, 01.04. | Film: *Aguirre – Der Zorn Gottes* | |
| Woche 12 | Montag, 06.04. | Einführung: Reisen in den Nahen Osten | Summary #3 |
|       | Mittwoch, 08.04. | Ida Pfeiffer  
*Reise einer Wienerin in das Heilige Land* | Pfeiffer: Lesestück I  
Autorenreferat |
| Woche 13 | Montag, 13.04. | Ida Pfeiffer  
*Reise einer Wienerin in das Heilige Land* | Pfeiffer: Lesestück II  
Position Paper „Aguirre“ |
|       | Mittwoch, 15.04. | Annemarie Schwarzenbach  
*Alle Wege sind offen* | Schwarzenbach: Leseteil I  
Autorenreferat |
| Woche 14 | Montag, 20.04. | Annemarie Schwarzenbach  
*Alle Wege sind offen* | Schwarzenbach Leseteil II  
Quiz IV: Pfeiffer u. Schwarzenbach |
|       | Mittwoch, 22.04. | Thomas Mann  
„Das Eisenbahnunglück“ | Mann: Leseteil I  
Autorenreferat |
| Woche 15 | Montag, 27.04. | Thomas Mann  
„Das Eisenbahnunglück“ | Mann: Leseteil II  
Quiz V: Mann |
|       | Mittwoch, 29.04. | Film: *Titanic 1943* | Summary #4 |
| Woche 16 | Montag, 04.05. | Film *Titanic 1943* | |
|       | Mittwoch, 06.05. | Rückblick & Reflexionen über den Kurs | |
| Woche 17 | | Schlussexamen | Lernen Sie für das Schlussexamen! |