

COURSE OUTLINE
General Education/ Approved for Area C4

GERMAN 142: German Folk Literature, Legend and Lore

Spring 2014
MWF 12-12:50
Eureka 102
class call number: 33837

Instructor: Dr. Marjorie D. Wade
Office: Mariposa 2021
Office phone: 278-5508 (no voice mail)
mdwade@csus.edu
Office Hours: MWF 11-11:50 and by appt.

Textbooks: *The Complete Grimm's Fairy Tales*. Pantheon Press
The Saga of the Volsungs, translated by Jesse L. Byock, University of California Press
V. Propp, *Morphology of the Folktale*. University of Texas Press
J. Russ, *German Festivals and Customs*. Oswald Wolff, London

Catalogue Description: Study of the traditional folk literature--fairy tales, folk tales, legends, ballads and folk songs of the German-speaking people--their holiday traditions, festivals and social customs. Readings in English. No German language requirement. (3 units)

Course Description: A study of the folk literature, traditions, and customs of the German-speaking world and their impact on the traditional culture of contemporary American society.

The first third of the course will be devoted to the study of the German calendar year--holiday customs, the celebration of various national holidays, saints' days, the significance of the calendar divisions, i.e., the equinox and the *Sonnenwend* celebrations at the solstice--and an introduction to the traditional practices associated with rites of passage--baptisms, courting practices, wedding and funeral ritual. Comparisons with other world celebrations and American customs will be made.

One third of the course will be the study of the German fairy tales, folk tales, and legends. A brief overview of the history, geography, and climate of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland will provide an introduction to the study of the folk tales. These literary forms will be considered from various points of view--historical, linguistic, structural, and psychological analysis.

The final third of the course will consider the traditional material culture of the German-speaking world--the national dress, folk art, furniture design, Alpine architecture, folk dance, folk instruments and music. Parallels with other national cultures and world civilizations are considered.

Course Requirements: The course format combines lectures, discussion of the reading assignments and requires regular lecture attendance, timely fulfillment of reading assignments and participation in discussions. Each student will write a formal paper, an original fairy tale, which must conform to the structural outline of Propp's *Morphology*. All lectures, readings and discussion are in English. There is no German language requirement. German 142 fulfills the requirements for General Education, Category C 4 and may be taken for credit by German majors/minors.

Exams: There is a one-hour midterm and a two-hour final examination, scheduled for Wednesday, May 21st in Eureka 102 from 10:15-12:15

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. See campus policy on academic dishonesty at www.csus.edu/admbus/umannual/UMA00150.htm.

No electronic devices are to be used in class. This includes laptop computers.

Students with special needs should notify me during the first week of the semester and consult the University's office for services to Students for Disabilities.

(For students making class presentations that require use of smart classroom facilities, please contact IT techs personally in MRP 2054, in advance of your presentation date, for assistance with specific cords and attachments to be used with projectors and laptops.)

Grades: Grades will be determined on attendance and quality of classroom participation, the formal paper or fairy tale and on an average of the grades received on class quizzes, the midterm and final examination.

Grading Scale: 90-100% =A, 80-89% =B, 70-79% =C, 60-69% = D, less than 60% F

General Student Objectives: The German-speaking world became the cultural and historical center of European civilization with the foundation of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation and has made major contributions to Western culture. Many of our customs, traditions, ideals, and values are firmly rooted in the ancient practices and culture of our Germanic forebears. More than one fourth of the population of the United States is of German ancestry and Germanic culture has left an unmistakable mark on our customs, traditions and literature.

This course will address the following objectives:

1. Develop an awareness and understanding of the origins, nature and scope of German customs, traditions, folklore, and fairy tales.
2. Document the changes and transformations which took place as the German-speaking people accepted the Christian faith, then underwent the upheavals of the Reformation, political unification, social and cultural change. These changes will be studied in the context of historical, linguistic and cultural perspectives.
3. Develop analytic and comparative approaches to the study of folk literature, legend, customs and traditions and to relate these traditional attitudes, beliefs and practices to our own traditional cultures.
4. Develop library research skills in accessing information (books and articles) on different topics; secure appropriate primary and secondary sources; organize information; and encourage resourcefulness in gathering information through interviews and observations.
5. Develop appropriate writing skills.

TOPICS AND READINGS

Week	Topic	Reading Assignment
I	What is "Germanic" Folklore? The Indo-European Languages, the Culture and Religious Beliefs of the Central European Peoples, and their Geography	maps and handouts
II	"Folklore": Defined and Collected Alan Dundes, <u>The Study of Folklore</u> , (Prentice-Hall, 1965) The Winter Solstice and Advent Celebrations St. Barbara's Day/St. Nikolaus' Day/St. Silvester	handouts Russ, pp.1-10 Russ, pp. 34-41
III	Christmas Traditions/Legends The "Christkindlmarkt" Origins and Traditions of the Christmas Tree Christmas Music/traditional Christmas Poems / <u>Der Struwwelpeter</u> Holiday Foods/Lebkuchen//the Nußknacker stories	Russ, pp. 13-34
IV	Lent/ Easter/ Spring Celebrations Harvest and Wine Festivals Münchner Oktoberfest Oberammergau Passion Play/Local Festivals	Russ, pp. 34-120
V	Family Life/Courting and Wedding Traditions Baptisms/Funeral Customs Superstitions	Russ, pp. 121-153
VI	Folk Literature The Northern Myths Legend/jokes/riddles/proverbs/blessings/etc.	Grimm, pp. 17-321
VII	Grimm's Fairy Tales: Types and Characteristics The Animal Helper/ The Supernatural Adversary	Grimm, pp. 322-471

	Study of Form and Themes in Fairy Tales Heroic Virtues/Villainous Vices: Reflections of Cultural Mores and Traditional Values	Propp, pp. 1-24
VIII	Cultural Values Comparisons and Contrasts The Catholic South and the Protestant North	Grimm, pp. 472-716
IX	Reading and Discussion of the Fairy Tales Analysis of Folk Tales Functions of the Dramatis Personae	Grimm, pp. 718-833 Propp, pp. 25-65
X	Discussion and Identifications of the Motifs and Functions of the Dramatis Personae Propp's "Morphology" of the Folk Tale	Propp, pp. 66-124
XI	Discussion and Psychological Analysis of Selected Tales: "Hansel and Gretel", "Little Red Riding Hood", "Snow White", "Cinderella", "Sleeping Beauty", and others	
	FAIRY TALES DUE	
XII	Bruno Bettelheim, <u>The Uses of Enchantment: The Meaning and Importance of Fairy Tales</u> , (Vintage Books, New York, 1977)	
XIII	Folk music: Folk Instruments/songs/ lyrics /ballads James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim, <u>Into the Woods</u>	tapes video
XIV	Folk art: Patterns/ Motifs/Materials	slides
XV	Folk costume: Regional design/ color/ patterns Traditional Wear	videos/slides