

Course Outline

German 140 Heroes, Dragons and Quests General Education/ Area C4

Spring 2009
MWF 12-12:50
Yosemite 127
class call number: 35346

Instructor: Dr. Marjorie D. Wade
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Office Hours: WF 11-11:50; MW 5-5:30

Catalogue Description: Exploration of the heroic adventures of the medieval knights in their quests for fame and love, with special attention to the bridal quest and the roles of their "ladies": their social, political, and economic position, and their impact on life in the Middle Ages. Discussions will be based on the reading of selected Middle High German works in English translation. No German language requirement. 3 units

Texts: Tacitus, *The Agricola and the Germania* (Penguin)
Hrotsvitha von Gandersheim, *Callimachus* (hand-out)
Nibelungenlied (Penguin Classics)
Gottfried von Strassburg, *Tristan* (Penguin Classics)
Wolfram von Eschenbach, *Parzival* (Vintage Books)

Recommended: Frances and Joseph Gies, *Women in the Middle Ages* (Barnes and Noble)

No prerequisites: No German language requirement. All readings and discussions in English

Course requirements include regular lecture attendance, timely fulfillment of reading assignments and participation in discussions. There will be regular quizzes and writing assignments throughout the semester to test your comprehension of the medieval texts and improve your writing skills. You are encouraged to take copious notes on the historical and cultural background to the texts and on the class discussion of the epics, the literary characters and their historical prototypes. German 140 fulfills the requirements for General Education, Category C 4 and may be taken for credit by German majors/minors.

Exams: There two one-hour tests on the lectures and reading assignments, regular quizzes on the literary texts and a two-hour final examination. Final Exam is scheduled for Friday, May 23rd at 10:15-12:15 in Yosemite 127.

Grades: Grades will be determined on attendance, quality of classroom participation and short quizzes, and on the grades received on the two midterms and the final examination.
Grading Scale: 90-100% =A, 80-89% =B, 70-79% =C, 60-69% = D, less than 60% F

(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.)

Students with special needs should consult the University's office for services to Students for Disabilities.

Reading assignments are as follows:

Week	Class	Reading
1.	Introduction: Tribal organization of the "Germanen" Migrations (300-500 A.D.)	Gies, Chaps. 1-2 Tacitus, <i>Germania</i>
2.	Tacitus, <i>Germania</i> (98 A.D.) Introduction to the <i>Nibelungenlied</i> (Heroic Literature) Discussion of the text of the <i>Nibelungenlied</i> Pagan values contrasting with Christian ethic	<i>Nibelungenlied</i> Chapters 1-3 Chaps. 4-9
3.	Discussion of the text of the <i>Nibelungenlied</i> Discussion of the text of the <i>Nibelungenlied</i> Discussion of the text of the <i>Nibelungenlied</i>	Chaps. 10-13 Chaps. 14-19 Chaps. 20-28
4.	Discussion of the text of the <i>Nibelungenlied</i> Discussion of the text of the <i>Nibelungenlied</i> Historical and mythological prototypes	Chaps. 20-32 Chaps. 33-39
5.	<i>Nibelungenlied</i> parallels (<i>Volsunga Saga</i>)	

FIRST MIDTERM

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| | Influence of Christianity
Hrotsvitha von Gandersheim, <i>Callimachus</i> (ca. 970) | Gies, Chap. 5
Gies, Chap. 3 |
| 6. | Longevity/Social Position of Women in the Middle Ages
Feudalism/Chivalry/Courtly Literature
Gottfried von Strassburg | <i>Tristan</i>
Chaps. 1-3 |
| 7. | <i>Tristan</i> discussion
<i>Tristan</i> discussion (Education of a knight)
<i>Tristan</i> discussion | <i>Tristan</i>
Chaps. 4-8
Chaps. 9-14 |
| 8. | <i>Tristan</i> discussion
<i>Tristan</i> discussion
<i>Tristan</i> discussion | Chaps. 15-20
Chaps. 21-25
Chaps. 26-30 |
| 9. | <i>Tristan</i> discussion
<i>Tristan</i> discussion | Chaps. 31-35
Chaps. 36-40 |

SECOND MIDTERM

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| 10. | Wolfram von Eschenbach
Discussion of <i>Parzival</i> text
Discussion of <i>Parzival</i> text | <i>Parzival</i>
Chaps. 1-2, 3-5
Chaps. 6-9 |
| 11. | Discussion of <i>Parzival</i> text (Arthurian cycle)
Discussion of <i>Parzival</i> text
Discussion of <i>Parzival</i> text | Chaps. 10-11
Chaps. 12-13
Chaps. 14-15 |
| 12. | The Grail Society
Cundrie, Sigune, Conwiramurs, Lohengrin | Chap. 16 |
| 13. | Adoration of the Virgin
Minnesang
Castles | Gies, Chap. 4
Selected lyrics |
| 14. | Ulrich von Lichtenstein
Discussion of <i>Service of Ladies</i>
Discussion of <i>Service of Ladies</i> | <i>Service of Ladies</i> |
| 15. | "Courtesy," Etiquette, Dress
Historical models
Summary | Gies, Chaps. 6-7
Chap. 9 |