

**German 102
Spring 2011**

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:15pm to 2:30pm
Friederike Schwerin

**Introduction to German Literature:
Portraits of the Artist**

Tracing the figure of the artist in modern German novellas, poems, essays, and novel excerpts, this course examines artistic creativity as an ideal, a curse, and a mode of literary self-reflection. Readings include texts by Anna Seghers, Stefan Zweig, Thomas Mann, J. W. v. Goethe, and other – primarily twentieth-century – writers.



Dieser Kurs setzt sich mit der Figur des Künstlers in modernen deutschen Novellen, Gedichten, Essays und Auszügen aus Romanen auseinander. Wir untersuchen künstlerische Kreativität als Ideal, als Fluch, und als Art und Weise der literarischen Selbstreflexion. Zu unseren Lektüren gehören Texte von Anna Seghers, Stefan Zweig, Thomas Mann, J. W. v. Goethe und anderen Schriftstellern –hauptsächlich aus dem 20. Jahrhundert.



Spring 2011

German 151: Modern German Poetry

Mo, We 1:15pm to 2:30pm Friederike Schwerin

In this course we explore German-language poetry of the twentieth century in its search for radically new ways of expressiveness, its delight in experimentation, its premonitions of and outcry at the catastrophes of the two world wars and the Holocaust, and its grappling with the inexpressible and with the very possibility of poetry after 1945.

Whereas the experience of industrialization, urbanization, social unrest, and an unprecedented increase in the pace of life had been at the heart of late nineteenth-century poetry, a fragmented sense of society and self and impressions of life in a divided country and a globalized world are recurrent themes in late twentieth century poems.

We will chart some of the poetological debates that have accompanied the last 120 years of German-language poetic production, among them the dispute over applied, “useful” poetry versus “pure”, disinterested poetry. While there are valid and thought-provoking arguments for both points of view, Theodor W. Adorno and Bertolt Brecht

remind us that to even make such a distinction can be difficult as well as dangerous.

Poets we study include Rainer Maria Rilke, Bertolt Brecht, Paul Celan, Ingeborg Bachmann, Ursula Krechel, and many others. Ranging from expressionism to *konkrete Poesie* to rap lyrics and song texts, a wide spectrum of poetic currents and counter-currents guides us in our analytical and creative encounter with twentieth-century German *Lyrik*.

Taught in German.

