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# GER 300

## Comics und Graphic Novels in der deutschen Literatur

This class is conducted in German

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### Course Description

This course examines the historical, social, and literary influences and effects of a sometimes controversial literary form: the graphic novel. The course will look at the form and function of comics, graphic novels, and other visual texts in order to better understand how they achieve their meanings and how these meanings are accessed by the reader. Furthermore, the course will apply this knowledge to contemporary graphic novels by German authors, with special attention paid to their forms as well as the social and historical contexts from which they originate.

### Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. discuss the history of visual texts (e.g. graphic novels).
2. describe the characteristics of the graphic novel literary form.
3. compare and contrast the various types of graphic novels, highlighting the literary advantages and disadvantages of each.
4. critique the literary effectiveness of a given visual text.
5. analyze visual texts critically, focusing on context, form, and meaning.

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Prerequisite(s):** GER-301 or prior instructor approval. (*This class is conducted in German, almost all readings are in German!*)

### Grading Scale

94-100	A	87-89	B+	77-79	C+	60-69	D	0-59	F
90-93	A-	83-86	B	70-76	C				
		80-82	B-						

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Instructor: Ines Martin

Fall 2018

MWF 2:30-3:20pm

Room: 206 Hammond

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Office: 253 Burrowes

Office Hours: MWF 9-11, TTh 2-4 & by appointment

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### Materials

- *Comics richtig lesen* by Scott McCloud (ISBN: 3551748179)
- *Luther* by Moritz Stetter (ISBN: 3579070541)
- *Die Verwandlung* by Eric Corbeyran & Richard Horne (ISBN: 3868732667)
- *Insekt* by Sascha Hommer (ISBN: 3938511281)
- *Im Land der Frühaufsteher* by Paula Bulling (ISBN: 393908063)
- *Heute ist der letzte Tag vom Rest deines Lebens* by Ulli Lust (ISBN: 3939080365)
- *drüben!* By Simon Schwartz (ISBN: 3939080373)

### Grade Distribution

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10%

Participation

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20%

Homework & Quizzes

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20%

Presentation

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20%

Written Reflections (5)

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30%

Final Paper/Project

# Requirements

## Participation - 10%

Students are expected to come to class on-time and prepared to discuss the day's material. Active participation (including asking questions, working in groups, and making constructive comments during class discussions) is an important part of succeeding in this course. Students may miss no more than 3 classes during the semester without prior approval (e.g. medical emergency). Each absence beyond the third will result in a successive lowering of the students' participation grade.

## Homework - 10%

Unless otherwise noted, homework assignments are due at the beginning of class on the next day that the class meets. Homework assignments may take the form of classroom blog/forum posts hosted on CANVAS, worksheets, short written reflections, or small artistic works (e.g. modeling different character moods) and are graded on a pass/fail scale. All homework is to be completed individually, unless otherwise noted. No late assignments will be accepted.

## Quizzes - 10%

There will be one short quiz on the vocabulary of comics and on the comic form. There will also be 4 short comprehension quizzes about the various graphic novels read over the course of the semester. These comprehension quizzes will be comprised of 3 questions, and are graded on a pass/fail scale. Students will need to correctly answer a minimum of 2 of these questions to earn a passing grade for the comprehension quizzes.

## Student Presentations - 20%

Students will be required to present one German-language article about comics and/or graphic novels over the course of the semester. These presentations should be in German and should take between 10 and 15 minutes. Articles will be assigned during the first week of the semester in class (see schedule for topics).

## Written Reflections - 20%

Students will be required to write five short (approx. 400 words) reflections answering one of three different questions about the graphic novels discussed during the semester. These reflections should be written in German.

## Final Paper / Final Project - 30%

Students will be able to freely choose between either completing a final paper or a final project. Both the final papers and the final projects must be in German. Final papers should be 4500-6500 words in length and may cover any topic discussed in this course, with the caveat that it must relate to German-language graphic novels/comics. Final paper topics must be submitted to the instructor for approval **no later than November 14**. Final papers should utilize a variety of primary and secondary sources. Final projects consist of 2 major parts. The first part is the creation of an original, German-language comic (of at least 55 panels) that implements the graphic forms discussed throughout the course to achieve its meaning. The second part of the final project is to write a 1500-word summary/analysis of how the original comic achieves its meaning (e.g. its use of form, color, temporal perspective, etc.).

# Schedule

Week	Day	Topic	Reading	Assignment due
1	M	Introduction, Getting to know each other, Syllabus		
	W	What is a comic?	N/A	
	F	Comics abroad	<i>The comics debate internationally</i> – John A. Lent	
2	M	Labor Day – no class – go BBQ'ing and have fun!		
	W	History of comics	Ch. 1 “Klarstellung” in <i>Comics richtig lesen</i> (Crl)	<b>Presentation 1:</b> <i>KLONK; BOING, WUSCH!!! – Eine kurze Kulturgeschichte des Comics</i> – Andreas Knigge
	F	Talking about comics	Ch. 2 “Die Sprache des Comics” in Crl	
3	M	Comic/Graphic form	Ch. 3 “Blut im Rinnstein” in Crl	<b>Presentation 2:</b> <i>Die Welt hinter der Welt: Was Hintergründe in Comics erzählen</i> – Daniel Wüllner
	W	Time	Ch. 4 “Zeitrahmen” in Crl	
	F	Emotions	Ch. 5 “Auf der ganzen Linie” in Crl	
4	M	Achieving meaning	Ch. 6 “Zeigen und erklären” in Crl	<b>Presentation 3:</b> <i>Zwischen Literatur und Kunst – Erzählen im Comic</i> – Thierry Groensteen
	W	Achieving meaning (cont.)	Ch. 7 “Die sechs Schritte” in Crl	
	F	Achieving meaning (cont.)	Ch. 8 “Ein paar Worte zum Thema Farbe” in Crl	<b>Presentation 4:</b> <i>Die vielen Farben der Comics: Farbditionen im Vergleich</i> – Christian Muschweck
5	M	Summary of comic theory	Ch. 9 “Zusammenfassung” in Crl	
	W	Form & <i>Luther</i>	<i>Luther</i> , pp. 5-44	<b>Quiz on Comic Form (Quiz #1)</b>
	F	Form & <i>Luther</i>	<i>Luther</i> , pp. 47-76	<b>Presentation 5:</b> <i>Sachcomics</i> – Urs Hansgartner
6	M	Form & <i>Luther</i>	<i>Luther</i> , pp. 78-110	
	W	Form & <i>Luther</i>	<i>Luther</i> , pp. 113-159	
	F	Form, <i>Luther</i> , Sachcomics	N/A	<i>Luther reflection paper</i>
7	M	Time, Emotions & <i>Die Verwandlung</i>	<i>Die Verwandlung</i> , pt. 1	<b>Presentation 6:</b> <i>Literaturcomics</i> – Monika Schmitz-Emans; <b>Quiz #2</b>
	W	Time, Emotions & <i>Die Verwandlung</i>	<i>Die Verwandlung</i> , pt. 2; <i>Beyond the Visual</i> – Ian Hague	
	F	Time, Emotions & <i>Die Verwandlung</i>	<i>Die Verwandlung</i> , pt. 3	

8	M	Meaning & <i>Insekt</i>	<i>Insekt</i> , pp. 6-33	<b>Presentation 7: Phantastische Comics</b> – Science-Fiction, Fantasy, Horror – Ralph Trommer
	W	Meaning & <i>Insekt</i>	<i>Insekt</i> , pp. 36-71	<b>Quiz #3</b>
	F	Meaning & <i>Insekt</i>	<i>Insekt</i> , pp. 74-105	
9	M	Meaning & <i>Insekt</i>	<i>Insekt</i> , pp. 108-125	<b>Presentation 8: Rassismus im Comic</b> – Björn Wederhake
	W	Minority experiences in comics	<i>Graphic Journeys: Graphic Novels' Representations of Immigrant Experiences</i> – Michael Boatright	<b>Presentation 9: Wie Flüchtlinge ihre Geschichten in Comics verarbeiten</b> – Madeleine Hofmann
	F	Minority experiences in comics & <i>Im Land der Frühaufsteher</i>	<i>Im Land der Frühaufsteher</i> , pt. 1	<i>Insekt reflection paper</i>
10	M	Minority experiences in comics & <i>Im Land der Frühaufsteher</i>	<i>Im Land der Frühaufsteher</i> , pt. 2	
	W	Minority experiences in comics & <i>Im Land der Frühaufsteher</i>	<i>Im Land der Frühaufsteher</i> , pt. 3	
	F	Women in comics	<i>Heute ist der...</i> , pp. 5-47; <i>Women in Comics: A Space for Recognizing Other Voices</i> – Ana Merino	<b>Presentation 10: Abenteuer- und Kriminalcomics</b> – C. Klein & C. Endres <b>Quiz # 4</b>
11	M	Women in comics	<i>Heute ist der...</i> , pp. 48-92	<i>Im Land der Frühaufsteher reflection paper</i>
	W	Women in comics	<i>Heute ist der...</i> , pp. 93-133	
	F	Women in comics	<i>Heute ist der...</i> , pp. 134-179	
12	M	Violence in comics	<i>Heute ist der...</i> , pp. 180-214; <i>For All the Girls When They Have Grown</i> – Hillary Chute	
	W	Violence in comics	<i>Heute ist der...</i> , pp. 215-258	
	F	Violence in comics	<i>Heute ist der...</i> , pp. 259-317	
13	M	Violence in comics	<i>Heute ist der...</i> , pp. 318-348	
	W	Violence in comics	<i>Heute ist der...</i> , pp. 349-412	<b>Quiz #5</b>
	F	Violence in comics	<i>Heute ist der...</i> , pp. 413-463	
<b>Thanksgiving Break – Enjoy some delicious food with your friends and family ☺</b>				
14	M	History in comics & <i>drüben!</i>	<i>drüben!</i> , pt. 1	<b>Presentation 11: Graphic Memoirs – autobiografische Comics</b> – Marie Schröer
	W	History in comics & <i>drüben!</i>	<i>drüben!</i> , pt. 2	<i>Heute ist der...</i> reflection paper

	F	History in comics & <i>drüben!</i>	<i>drüben!</i> , pt. 3; <i>Autobiography as Authenticity</i> – Bart Beaty	
<b>15</b>	M	Analyzing comics	<i>Style, Expressivity and Impressionistic Evaluation</i> – Hannah Miodrag; <i>The Art of Tensions</i> – Charles Hatfield	
	W	Analyzing comics	<i>Language in Text: The Spatiality of Text in Comics</i> – Hannah Miodrag	<i>drüben!</i> reflection paper
	F	Analyzing comics	<i>Exploring the intentionality of design in the graphic narrative of one middle-years student</i> – Sylvia Pantaleo	
<b>Finals Week</b>	<b>Final Paper/Project due no later than Friday, December 14, 11:55pm via upload to CANVAS.</b>			