

GE341-15 Self, Sex and Society in Wilhelmine Germany

24/25

Department

School of Modern Languages and Cultures

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Dan Hall

Credit value

15

Module duration

9 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module examines the major themes in German literary culture during a key period of its development, from the formation of Germany as a nation in 1871 to the downfall of the Empire following World War I. During this era of accelerated modernisation in a patriarchal and militaristic state, authors reflected in new and often radical ways the complexity of the relationship between self and society. Gender roles, class positions, sexuality, the impact of new technologies and competing notions of identity were the subject of intense inquiry in the social sciences and the arts, and it is on those aspects on which this module focuses.

We also explore the relationship between literary form and identity by exploring complexities in narrative and form from Naturalism (Hauptmann) through Expressionism (poetry) to the honed style of Thomas Mann to the 'New Objectivity' of Irmgard Keun.

Module aims

This module aims to provide students with a thorough understanding of key themes in modernity in Germany, so that they understand literary movements and authors in their social contexts, and explore the relationship between modernity and developments in literary form. It cultivates skills of literary analysis through close textual readings. It also aims to (1) enhance students' analytical

abilities through the study of primary literature and selected theoretical texts, (2) develop students' presentation skills through class presentations, and develop students' research and essay writing skills, (3) further students' understanding of the relationship between literature and society, in particular the location of cultural products within a social and political context, (4) extend students' understanding of the development of German society.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Gerhart Hauptmann, *Bahnwaerter Thiel* (novella, Naturalism/Impressionism/Expressionism[?]): technology, individual's milieu and psychology, narrative complexity)

Frank Wedekind, *Fruehlings Erwachen* (play: sexuality, education, formal complexity)

Expressionist poetry selection (themes: love and loss; identity; the modern city; war)

Thomas Mann, *Der Tod in Venedig* (novella: encapsulates almost all concerns of modernism from the role of the artist to sexuality to the importance of place/space)

Irmgard Keun, *Gilgi: eine von uns* (novel: the 'new woman', gender and identity, the 'modern world' of work)

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- gain: (1) intercultural awareness, understanding and competence;
- (2) knowledge of German-speaking cultures, communities and societies of the German language
- (3) ability to access, read and critically analyse primary and secondary source materials in German
- (4) knowledge and understanding of one or more aspects of German-speaking literatures, cultures, linguistic contexts, history, politics, social and economic structures
- (5) familiarity with the methodologies and approaches appropriate to the discipline
- (6) an appreciation of internal diversity and transcultural connectedness in relation to German-language cultures

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

International

All modules delivered in SMLC are necessarily international. Students engage with themes and ideas from a culture other than that of the UK and employ their linguistic skills in the analysis of primary materials from a non-Anglophone context. Students will also be encouraged to draw on the experiences of visiting (native speaker) students in the classroom and will frequently engage with theoretical and critical frameworks from across the world.

Subject specific skills

This module will develop students' linguistic skills through engaging with primary and secondary materials in the target language. It will build students' capacity to engage with aspects of German culture through analysis of this primary material and through seminar discussion aimed at deeper critical thinking. In particular, students' awareness of Imperial Germany will be enhanced through seminars which engage with scholarship in the field.

Transferable skills

All SMLC modules demand critical and analytical engagement with artefacts from target-language cultures. In the course of independent study, class work and assessment, students will develop the following skills: written and oral communication; creative and critical thinking; problem solving and analysis; time management and organisation; independent research in both English and the target language; intercultural understanding and the ability to mediate between cultures and languages; ICT literacy in both English and the target language; personal responsibility and the exercise of initiative.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	9 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
Private study	132 hours (88%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Students will be expected to read primary materials and engage with secondary material in order to research key topics and ideas and facilitate analysis.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Essay	100%		Yes (extension)
This module is assessed by one 3250-3500 word essay.			

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in the course of the module in a number of ways. Feedback should be understood to be both formal and informal and is not restricted to feedback on formal written work. Oral feedback will be provided by the module tutor(s) during the course of seminar discussion. This may include feedback on points raised in small group work or in the course of individual presentations or larger group discussion. Written feedback will be provided on formal assessment using the standard SMLC Assessed Work feedback form appropriate to the assessment. Feedback is intended to enable continuous improvement throughout the module and written feedback is generally the final stage of the feedback process. Feedback will always demonstrate areas of success and areas for future development that can be applied to future assessment. Feedback will be both discipline-specific and focussed on key transferable skills, enabling students to apply this feedback to their future professional lives. Feedback will be fair and reasonable and will be linked to the SMLC marking scheme appropriate to the module.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 4 of ULNA-QR37 Undergraduate English and German
- Year 4 of UGEA-R200 Undergraduate German Studies
- Year 4 of ULNA-R2Q2 Undergraduate German Studies with Linguistics
- Year 4 of UGEA-RN21 Undergraduate German and Business Studies
- Year 4 of ULNA-R2L4 Undergraduate German and Economics (4-year)
- Year 4 of UGEA-R2V1 Undergraduate German and History
- Year 4 of UGEA-RW24 Undergraduate German and Theatre Studies
- Year 3 of UGEA-RW25 Undergraduate German and Theatre Studies (3-year)
- Year 4 of ULNA-R2A0 Undergraduate German with Chinese
- Year 4 of UGEA-RP33 Undergraduate German with Film Studies

- Year 4 of ULNA-R2R4 Undergraduate German with Spanish
- Year 4 of ULNA-R4RG Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and German
- UFRA-R900 Undergraduate Modern Languages
 - Year 4 of R91G French and German with Arabic
 - Year 4 of R91D French and German with Chinese
 - Year 4 of R91J French and German with Italian
 - Year 4 of R91C French and German with Japanese
 - Year 4 of R91E French and German with Portuguese
 - Year 4 of R91F French and German with Russian
 - Year 4 of R91H French and German with Spanish
 - Year 4 of R90M French and Italian with Arabic
 - Year 4 of R90J French and Italian with Chinese
 - Year 4 of R90N French and Italian with German
 - Year 4 of R90H French and Italian with Japanese
 - Year 4 of R90K French and Italian with Portuguese
 - Year 4 of R90L French and Italian with Russian
 - Year 4 of R90P French and Italian with Spanish
 - Year 4 of R90E French and Spanish with Arabic
 - Year 4 of R90B French and Spanish with Chinese
 - Year 4 of R90G French and Spanish with German
 - Year 4 of R90F French and Spanish with Italian
 - Year 4 of R90A French and Spanish with Japanese
 - Year 4 of R90C French and Spanish with Portuguese
 - Year 4 of R90D French and Spanish with Russian
 - Year 4 of R90Z German and Italian with Arabic
 - Year 4 of R90W German and Italian with Chinese
 - Year 4 of R91A German and Italian with French
 - Year 4 of R90V German and Italian with Japanese
 - Year 4 of R90X German and Italian with Portuguese
 - Year 4 of R90Y German and Italian with Russian
 - Year 4 of R91B German and Italian with Spanish
 - Year 4 of R90U German and Spanish with Arabic
 - Year 4 of R90R German and Spanish with Chinese
 - Year 4 of R90Q German and Spanish with Japanese
 - Year 4 of R90S German and Spanish with Portuguese
 - Year 4 of R90T German and Spanish with Russian
 - Year 4 of R900 Modern Languages
- Year 4 of ULNA-R9Q1 Undergraduate Modern Languages and Linguistics
- Year 4 of ULNA-R9Q2 Undergraduate Modern Languages with Linguistics
- ULNA-R9QB Undergraduate Modern Languages with Linguistics (3 year)
 - Year 3 of R9QB Modern Languages with Linguistics (3 year)
 - Year 3 of R9QB Modern Languages with Linguistics (3 year)
- UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
 - Year 4 of M100 Politics
 - Year 4 of M164 Politics, International Studies and German