

GE214-15 The Strange World of Franz Kafka's Short Stories

26/27

Department

School of Modern Languages and Cultures

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

James Hodgkinson

Credit value

15

Module duration

9 weeks

Assessment

30% coursework, 70% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

N/A

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

The module will analyse Kafka's short stories and short prose with reference to German modernism.

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.

Week 1: Introduction to the module and the author

Week 2: Kafka's 'Auf der Galerie' and Walser's 'Ovation'

Week 3: Patriarchal Power in 'Das Urteil'

Week 4: Performance Art or Art as Sham? 'Ein Hungerkünstler'

Week 5: Kafka's Animals: The Ape and his Audience in 'Ein Bericht für eine Akademie'

Week 6: READING WEEK

Week 7: Kafka's Animals: 'Kleine Fabel' and Aesop's 'Der Löwe und die Maus'

Week 8: Kafka's Animals: Narrative Perspective and Gender in 'Josefine, die Sängerin oder das Volk der Mäuse'

Week 9: Mysterious Messages: 'Eine kaiserliche Botschaft' and 'Vor dem Gesetz'

Week 10: Module Summary: The Strange World of Kafka's Short Stories

Learning outcomes

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

- critically assess the formal aspects of Kafka's short pros
- place Kafka's stories in their socio-historical context
- critically assess Kafka's contribution to modern German literature through engagement with secondary sources

Indicative reading list

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

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

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 exchange 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 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 Franz Kafka's short stories will be enhanced through lectures and seminars which engage in scholarship in the field.

Transferable skills

All SMLC culture 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 their target language(s), intercultural understanding and the ability to mediate between

languages and cultures, ICT literacy in both English and the target language(s), personal responsibility and the exercise of initiative.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Online learning (independent)	10 sessions of 2 hours (13%)
Private study	110 hours (73%)
Assessment	2 hours (1%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Assessment preparation and independent study.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group D2

Assessment component	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Critical review of a secondary source or statement (in German)	20%		Yes (extension)

Students will engage with a secondary source related to class material and write a critical review. The review is to be written in German. Language and grammar will not be graded as long as the content is explicit and can be clearly understood.

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Class Participation	10%		No
Students will be encouraged and are expected to actively participate in class discussions by asking questions, volunteering an answer and responding to other students' contributions or questions. The aim of assessing class participation is to encourage students to share their ideas and knowledge with the group, and to motivate students to engage with background reading and preparation for each learning session. In addition to assessing students' disciplinary knowledge and understanding, assessing class participation will also be used to encourage and reward development of communication skills and group skills such as interacting and cooperating. There is a clear difference between attendance and participation.			
Reassessment component			
Reflective piece of writing			Yes (waive)
Students will be encouraged and are expected to actively participate in class discussions by asking questions, volunteering an answer and responding to other students' contributions or questions. The aim of assessing class participation is to encourage students to share their ideas and knowledge with the group, and to motivate students to engage with background reading and preparation for each learning session. In addition to assessing students' disciplinary knowledge and understanding, assessing class participation will also be used to encourage and reward development of communication skills and group skills such as interacting and cooperating. There is a clear difference between attendance and participation. Contributions may be submitted in written form.			
Assessment component			
Examination	70%	2 hours	No
Answerbook Pink (12 page)			
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 in 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 this feedback process. Feedback will always demonstrate areas of success and areas for future development, which can be applied to future assessment. Feedback will be both discipline-specific and focused on key transferrable 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.

[Past exam papers for GE214](#)

Availability

Pre-requisites

N/A

Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 2 of ULAA-MR01 Undergraduate Law with German

This module is Core option list B for:

- Year 2 of UGEA-R2V1 Undergraduate German and History
- Year 2 of UGEA-RW24 Undergraduate German and Theatre Studies

This module is Core option list C for:

- Year 3 of ULNA-R4RG Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and German
- Year 3 of UFRA-R900 Undergraduate Modern Languages

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 3 of ULNA-R9Q2 Undergraduate Modern Languages with Linguistics
- UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
 - Year 2 of M164 Politics, International Studies and German
 - Year 3 of M164 Politics, International Studies and German