German literature: in-depth study of a literary movement

5.0 credits  30.0 h  Ce cours bisannuel est dispensé en 2011-2012, 2013-2014, ...

Teacher(s) : Büssgen Antje ;

Language : Allemand

Place of the course Louvain-la-Neuve

Main themes : In-depth analysis of a literary movement that has marked German literature, from a historical (e.g. the movement Junges Deutschland and the revolutionary movements in the 19th century) or from a contemporary (e.g. the Gruppe 47 and literature after World War II) perspective. In-depth reading of the theoretical texts written by the authors themselves (for instance: essays, manifestos) and secondary literature concerning the studied movement. Detailed analysis of the literary texts belonging to the studied movement.

Aims : The aim of the course is to acquire a deeper insight into a literary movement that has marked German literature. The students will find out how this movement is situated in a historical, sociological and cultural context and how it is related to other European literatures and civilisations.

This approach is a continuation of the courses on history of literature and civilisation of the bachelor programme, and makes use of previously acquired insights into literary theory. It aims to increase the students' literary knowledge and to develop a critical attitude towards the interpretation of literary texts in their adequate context. This approach also aims to teach the students how to write a critical essay in the studied field.

The contribution of this Teaching Unit to the development and command of the skills and learning outcomes of the programme(s) can be accessed at the end of this sheet, in the section entitled “Programmes/courses offering this Teaching Unit”.

Content : When the heart guides the mind. - Read and discuss essential German romantic prose and poetry, come to understand its nature and how important it was, realize that it was indeed the critical time of artistic creation and philosophical thought which marked the beginning of modern art. This is the artistic stream which influenced all streams of German literature that followed. Over the course of this seminar, we will investigate the concepts of genius, imagination, and wonder and how they impact the esthetic of the romantic era. We will then explore to which extent romanticism can be seen as a critical response to the preceding periods of enlightenment and classicism. Later, the study of Sandeman will guide us to discussions of the limitations and dangers of what we call the philosophical and anthropological program and to a critical evaluation of what is called romantic spirit. In the end, we will explore the transnational and comparative dimensions of romanticism as a current of European culture which has marked our notions of art and creativity up to now.

Other infos : Prerequisites: an introductory knowledge of German literature and a good proficiency in German (advanced level, B2 + in terms of the Common European reference framework).

Evaluation : Active participation in the course or seminar (oral presentation, discussions, written essay) is taken into account. Final evaluation based on written examination (or possibly a personal essay) and oral examination, based on the student's personal reading.

Course supervision: Preparation of the analysis in small groups with the teacher.

Cycle and year of study :
- Master [80] in Modern Languages and Literatures : German, Dutch and English
- Certificat universitaire en littérature
- Master [120] in Modern Languages and Literatures : German, Dutch and English
- Master [120] in Modern Languages and Literatures : General

Faculty or entity in charge: LMOD