



Course details

Course title

Literature: German Literature Post 1945

Course code

Q00017914

Course date

Start: 14/01/25

End: 25/03/25

Number of classes

10 sessions

Timetable

Tue 14th Jan, 19:00 to 21:00

Tue 21st Jan, 19:00 to 21:00

Tue 28th Jan, 19:00 to 21:00

Tue 4th Feb, 19:00 to 21:00

Tue 11th Feb, 19:00 to 21:00

Tue 25th Feb, 19:00 to 21:00

Tue 4th Mar, 19:00 to 21:00

Tue 11th Mar, 19:00 to 21:00

Tue 18th Mar, 19:00 to 21:00

Tue 25th Mar, 19:00 to 21:00

Tutor

Stephen Smith

Fee range

Free to £74.00

How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes online in video meetings and materials will be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

Online

Venue

Online

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

This course, composed of new texts, builds on similar courses on German literature given by Stephen Smith. Four novels and one poet will be analysed and placed in context over the 10 weeks' duration of the course. The first text, *The Passenger* by Ulrich Alexander Boschwitz, was actually written in 1938, but having recently been rediscovered, it is too good not to include. We will begin with this novel and then explore: *Vertigo* - WG Sebald. *Lost* - Hans Ulrich Treichel. *Kairos* - Jenny Erpenbeck. *The Poetry of Durs Grunbein*. The course will offer great scope for discussion of excellent texts, which are intellectually, imaginatively and emotionally stimulating.

Course description

Each of the texts and authors will be studied in depth, with context, textual analysis, and an investigation of the text's style and unique themes to the fore. In Boschwitz's work, we will recognise a terrible prescience, and this will create the stage for our later assessments of the themes of memory, guilt, and German suffering itself in the post-war years. Each of these themes will provoke us to consider moral, ethical and philosophical responses to the trauma of mid-century Germany and Europe, a legacy with which we are still contending.

Our second text, *Vertigo* by the late, and were it but for his untimely death, a Nobel Prize winner in waiting, is a genre-defying tale of pursuit and the pursuit of memory across Europe. Our third text, *Lost*, will illustrate the persistence of memory but in the context of a family's loss through displacement.

Our fourth and last novel is *Kairos* by Jenny Erpenbeck, which has enjoyed widespread praise since its publication. It is a beautiful and profound work.

Our final author is the poet Durs Grunbein, among Germany's leading post-war poets, and we will evaluate a selection of his poems, discovering in these works a sensitivity of perspective and humanity.

The course offers much to discover and discuss and illustrates why German writers have been at the forefront of postwar European literature.

What financial support is available?

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

What other support is available?

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

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