COURSE DETAIL

LITERATURE AND INSANITY
Country Germany
Host Institution Free University of Berlin
Program(s) Free University Berlin
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) German
UCEAP Course Number 124
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title LITERATURE AND INSANITY
UCEAP Transcript Title LITERATURE&INSANITY
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.50
UCEAP Semester Units 3.00

Course Description
In the history of the modern subject and its literary modeling, the observation of psychopathologies plays an important role. The development of an enlightened soul-learning in the late eighteenth century was accompanied by the emergence of independent forms of narration of insanity in magazines such as Karl Philipp Moritz's MAGAZINE TO THE EXPERIENCE OF SOUL KNOWLEDGE: (1783-1793) or collections such as Christian Heinrich Spieß' BIOGRAPHIES OF THE INSANE (1796), an archive of case histories which affected many medical and literary discourses of the time. There is a systematic spread of doubts about the stability of human reason to the poetic level in Romanticism. Authors such as Ludwig Tieck or E.T.A. Hoffman experiment with poetics of uncertainty in their stories by means of which the readers' knowledge about the course of the boundary between madness and reason, fantasy and reality, is called into question. As a literary motif, anthropological fascination and poetic challenge, madness remains virulent in the further nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Whether in Georg Büchner (for example in his narrative LENZ) or in naturalism, whether in the Viennese Modern (Hofmannsthal, Schnitzler) or in the Berlin Expressionism (Döblin, Heym, Benn), in modern narration madness is always about experimenting with new forms of poetic representation, in which the different aesthetic programs of the authors and their handling of the changing medical-psychiatric knowledge are reflected in many ways. This seminar introduces students to the outlined constellations of madness and literature from the period around 1800 to about 1910, but also exemplifies later texts and films such as Ken Kensey's ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST (1962) or Rainald Goetz ' IRRE (1986).

Language(s) of Instruction
German

Host Institution Course Number
16669

Host Institution Course Title
LITERATUR UND WAHNSINN

Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus PHILOSOPHIE UND GEISTESWISSENSCHAFTEN
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department Deutsche Philologie
Course Last Reviewed

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