COURSE DETAIL

ZERO HOUR: GERMAN LITERATURE 1945-1950
Country Germany
Host Institution Free University of Berlin
Program(s) Free University Berlin
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) German European Studies
UCEAP Course Number 151
UCEAP Course Suffix G
UCEAP Official Title ZERO HOUR: GERMAN LITERATURE 1945-1950
UCEAP Transcript Title ZERO HOUR GER LIT
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.50
UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

Where do we pick up after the complete moral, physical, and psychological devastation brought on by World War II? How do we compose poetry in the shadow of the Holocaust, a genocide beyond imagination? How do we write poetry in a language that was used by the Nazis to justify an unjust war and the murder of millions? What forms can suffering and trauma take in literary texts? Young German writers asked themselves these questions starting in 1945 and proposed a number of solutions – or produced a number of attempts – that today are known as "Kahlschlagliteratur" (the literature of clear-cutting) or Zero Hour Literature. This course reviews texts of various genres in translation, considers them in their historical and literary contexts, and identifies common properties and tendencies. The course also questions the validity of the label "Zero Hour," along with its implicit assumption of a complete reset. The focus is on better-known writers (whose texts are available in English), such as Wolfgang Borchert and the Nobel-prize winning Heinrich Böll.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
16907

Host Institution Course Title
ZERO HOUR: GERMAN LITERATURE 1945-1950

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.fu-berlin.de/vv/en/lv/715295?query=Zero+Hour&sm=682080

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty
PHILOSOPHIE UND GEISTESWISSENSCHAFTEN

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Deutsche und Niederländische Philologie

Course Last Reviewed
2021-2022

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