

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**
<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2018-2019 GERM 353 A1: Myths, tales, and legends
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Dr. Claudia Kost
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Time: T, Th 11:00-12:20
Place: HC 2-41
Office Hours: T, Th 10-11am
and by appointment

Course Prerequisite: Co-requisite GERM 303 or consent of department
It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

- Exam registry – Students' Union
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
 - See explanations below
 - Document distributed in class
 - Other (please specify)
- NA

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

Yes No

Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

This course introduces you to the world of German fairy tales, myths, and legends. We will practice reading, analyzing and interpreting short literary texts in German. By virtually travelling down the *Deutsche Märchenstraße*, we will explore famous and less well-known stories and their heroes, fictional characters, and places steeped in legend.

We will discuss questions such as: What are the literary elements of fairy tales, myths, and legends? What do these stories mean? What is the function of these stories for society? How have stories been adapted in film or other media? What role do fairy tales and other stories still play today?

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students will be:

- familiar with a variety of German tales
- able to identify representative characteristics of different types of tales
- able to recognize and discuss functions of these literary tales for society
- able to analyze and interpret a tale

Texts:

All texts and materials will be made available on e-class, on Reserve in the Rutherford Library, or distributed in class. You must print out the texts or bring a laptop or tablet to class; reading the texts off your phone will not be allowed.

Useful sites:

Projekt Gutenberg-DE: <http://gutenberg.spiegel.de/>

Grimms Märchen: https://www.grimmstories.com/de/grimm_maerchen/index?page=1

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Component	Weighting	Due Date
Participation	15%	ongoing
Creative Writing Assignment	15%	Sept. 25
Short Research Paper	15%	Nov. 8
Course Project:	55%	
- Oral Presentation: Summary	5%	Oct. 2-11
- Illustrations	5%	Oct. 4
- Secondary sources	10%	Oct. 23
- Tale’s adaptations	15%	Nov. 20
- Oral Presentation: Project	10%	Nov. 27 – Dec. 6
- Compile course project	10%	Dec. 10, 2018

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Attendance: You are expected to attend class regularly and punctually. If you must miss a class, contact another student (or the instructor) to get homework assignments. It is your responsibility to make up work and learn the material for classes you miss.

Absences will be excused only for emergency conditions, religious convictions, or legitimate University-related business. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days.

Participation (15%): Regular attendance and participation in class discussions and activities is an assumed pre-requisite for completing the course satisfactorily. Since class discussions focus on the assigned readings, you should prepare them carefully at home, engage in the material in a thoughtful and informed manner, and contribute to a productive class discussion. At her discretion, the instructor might administer pop quizzes throughout the semester which will count towards your participation mark.

Creative Writing Assignment 15%: With a partner, you will write a modern fairy tale. You will use an existing fairy tale and create a modern version of it. You may also write a parody.

Pay attention to certain elements that are characteristic of your source and of fairy tales in general. Ca. 800 words, double-spaced. Due Sept. 25, 2018.

Short Research Paper 15%: Write a short research paper exploring one specific aspect of your selected fairy tale, using at least two secondary sources. Come up with a strong thesis statement and use support from the text. Ca. 500-600 words, double-spaced. Due Nov. 8, 2018.

Course Project 55%: The course project consists of several parts to be completed during the term.

- 1) Within the first three weeks of class, you will select a fairy tale or a legend to focus on for the rest of the semester. Each student needs to choose a different story, to be approved by the instructor (by Sept. 20, 2018)
- 2) Oral Presentation 5%: You will give a short (3-5 minutes) oral presentation of your chosen fairy tale, focusing on the content of the story and some potential ideas for analysis. (Oct. 2-11)
- 3) Research and compile information about the following points for your Course Project 50%:
 - a. find 3-4 significant illustrations and describe them briefly (ca. 250 word) 5% (Oct. 4)
 - b. choose one aspect of your tale for analysis and find 5 reliable secondary sources; describe the topic or thesis of each article in a short paragraph (ca. 250-400 words total) 10% (use some of these sources for your Short Research Paper!) (Oct. 23)
 - c. research the tale's most significant adaptations and retellings and summarize your findings (ca. 600-700 words) 15% (Nov. 20)
 - d. present your course project to the class 10% (Nov. 27 – Dec. 6)
 - e. submit your course project to your instructor for an overall comprehensive mark 10% (Dec. 10)

Your course project can be completed in a variety of creative ways, including but not limited to creating a blog (WordPress, Tumblr, etc.), a Google Site, a (YouTube) video, PPT, Prezi, poster, etc. Please be creative and feel free to suggest other methods for submission. Due dates for the individual parts are indicated above.

Required Notes:

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

Student Responsibilities:

Academic Integrity:

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students

are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Language courses:

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of cheating that violates the Code of Student Behaviour.

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

Territorial Statement:

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

University of Alberta Sexual Violence Policy:

The Sexual Violence Policy was approved by GFC in June 2017. It plays a vital role in ensuring a safe and respectful learning and working environment. As defined in the policy, **sexual violence** is any sexual act or act of a sexual nature, or act targeting sexuality, whether physical or psychological, committed

without consent. **Sexual violence** is a complex and serious problem in society and on university campuses. Sexual violence can affect individuals of all gender identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations, as well as those from all ages, abilities, racial, cultural and economic backgrounds. Through this policy, the University of Alberta recognizes its responsibility to reduce sexual violence in the University community. The university aims to do so by fostering a culture of **consent** and support through education, training and policy. The University recognizes the possible effects of trauma on those who have experienced sexual violence and supports the efforts of individuals to seek support and recover.

To read the policy in more detail, please visit:

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Policies/Sexual-Violence-Policy.pdf>

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

In this course, GERM 353, students are expected to attend class daily, be prepared to interact in German in a variety of situations and discussions, and engage thoughtfully with the material.

Absence from Term Work:

In cases of potentially excusable absences (emergency conditions, incapacitating mental and/or physical illness, severe domestic affliction, legitimate University-related business, or for circumstances as described in the University's Discrimination, Harassment and Duty to Accommodate Policy), students may apply for an excused absence for missed term work (such as quizzes,

presentations, or exams) to receive the opportunity to make-up the missed term work. Please note:

- For an absence to be considered excused, instructors will request adequate documentation to substantiate the reason for the absence (i.e. in the form of a “Medical Declaration Form for Students” (<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/arts/-/media/arts/student-services/documents/medicaldeclarationformforstudents.pdf>)).
- Providing any kind of document(s) does not imply an automatic approval; it will be at the discretion of the instructor to accept or decline a document and/or grant the student’s request for an excused absence.
- A student must inform the instructor within two working days following the term work which was missed, or as soon as the student is able, having regard to the circumstances underlying the absence.
- For missed exams or term work, **no extension will be given after this deadline has elapsed and a grade of ZERO will be assigned.**
- For an excused absence where the cause is religious belief, a student must contact the instructor(s) within two weeks of the start of Fall or Winter classes; and within three days of the start of Spring or Summer classes.

Absence from Classes:

Regular daily attendance and active participation in class are essential for optimal performance in a foreign-language course. Attendance will be recorded on a daily basis. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to make up the missed material. Students are encouraged to communicate with other students (or with the instructor by email or in office hours) to keep up with missed classes. Do not expect your instructor to go over material in class again because you were absent.

Participation will be evaluated several times during the semester. If you are not in class, you cannot participate. Please be aware that unexcused absences will negatively impact your participation grade.

Policy for Late Assignments:

All assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Students who consult **in advance** with the instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension just one time throughout the course with no penalty. If no extension has been granted, a penalty of 10% per calendar day will be deducted from the assignment’s mark for each calendar day past the due date. No assignments will be accepted 5 days after the due date.

Any assignment not handed in on time or unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. Late excuses will **not** be accepted for any reason.

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set

by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
Failure.	F	0.0	0-59

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