

German Science Fiction

German 2251: German Literature & Popular Culture • Spring Semester 2019

GE Literature • Taught in English

In this course, you will encounter many of the lesser known yet singularly outstanding works of speculative and critical fiction from the German-speaking world. From Kepler to Kafka, Lasswitz to Lang, Hofmann to Herzog, prepare yourself for a journey through the cavalcade of theories, ideas, and technologies that have left an unmistakable impact on our world.

We will read the post-war prediction of a corporate disneyocracy of clones, drones, spies and nanotechnology in *The Glass Bees* (1957),

Examine the evolution of today's German security policy through the allegorical Intergalactic Empire of *The Carpet Makers* (1995),

Gasp in horror at the monolithic Kaiju – a towering amalgam of beasts, humans and plants - as it hulks its sentient mass menacingly towards Europe in *Mountains, Seas and Giants* (1924),

And we'll follow a family struggling to survive in the nuclear wasteland that was once Germany in *The Last Children of Schewenborn* (1983).

Through film, novels and an anthology of some of the best German Science Fiction, students will explore the theoretical and hypothetical underpinnings of our technologies while simultaneously tracking the history of their social impact in Industrial Europe.

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