

# Queer Literature



Hannah Höch: Grotesque, 1963

## German 8200

German thinkers have long engaged concepts of queerness. A German coined the word “homosexual” in 1869. And in 2017, Germany legally recognized the existence of a third gender. The word “queer” even comes from the German. How queer is German literature? In this course, we’ll examine how German literature took (and takes) part in social, legal, medical and philosophical questions about sex and gender. Beginning in 1800 with the biologization of gender, we’ll read canonical and overlooked novels, foundational texts from the 1930s and 1970s gay movements, and classic works of queer theory. Authors include: Dorothea Schlegel, Wilhelm von Humboldt, Thomas Mann, Robert Musil, Christa Winsloe, Rosa von Praunheim, and contemporary works by Zora del Buono and Fabian Hirschmann. Plus: Butler, Foucault, Sedwick, Bersani.

**Mondays 4:00-6:30pm**  
**Hagerty 488**  
**Profesor Birkhold**