

German 2251:
German Literature and Popular Culture
German Science Fiction

What is German Science Fiction? It

is a genre of imagination and speculation that predicts the future, critiques society, constructs and deconstructs colonial fantasies, poses questions of identity and existence, explores alternate realities and journeys through time, all while attempting to unravel the enigma of alienation and estrangement of modern life.

What will you do in the course? You will read world famous authors such as **Franz Kafka**, **ETA Hoffmann**, **Hermann Hesse** and **Alfred Döblin**, as well as the best authors the genre has to offer like **Kurd Lasswitz**, **Herbert Franke**, **Marlen Haushofer**, **Gudrun Pausewang**, **Frank Schätzing** and **Christoph Ransmeyer**. You will view critically acclaimed films by **Fritz Lang**, **R.W. Fassbinder** and **Werner Herzog** and analyze a host of other popular contemporary film, music, and art. Lectures provide context and insight from secondary material and theory drawn from cognitive narratology, discourse theory, feminist studies, postcolonial studies, and eco-criticism.

How will you be evaluated? Students write weekly blog posts in response to reading questions, take a midterm and final exam, and produce either an analytic (research) or creative product that they present during the final weeks of class. Students will be expected to attend regularly and participate in group work, discussions, debates, thought experiments and creative work.

What should you bring with you? An open and inquisitive mind, notebook or laptop, pencil/pen, and the following texts:

Rottensteiner, Franz. Ed. *The Black Mirror*.

Eschbach, Andreas. *The Carpet Makers*.

Ransmayr, Christoph. *The Dog King*.

Haushofer, Marlen. *The Wall*.

GE Literature Course

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