

German 2251

Spring 2015

3 Credit Hours; GE Literature Course
German Literature and Popular Culture

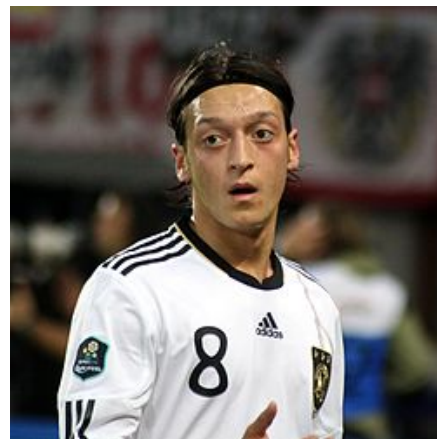


Germany and the Middle East



Prof.
Berman

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We Fr 12:45-2:05pm

This course explores the dynamic between German and Middle Eastern states and empires from the time of the Crusades to the end of the Cold War.

Focusing on German-language writings and other cultural material about the Middle East (including literary writings, maps, historical documents, religious literature, travel writing, and scholarship), we will evaluate the multiple layers of meaning contained in these works by considering culture contact; a wide web of political, economic, and social developments and practices; and material dimensions. The survey illuminates the complex relationships among cultural material on the one hand, and economic, social, and political processes and material dimensions on the other.

Grading: participation (10%); PowerPoint presentation and oral delivery (20%); midterm and final in-class exams (10%, 10%) and take-home papers (20%; 30%).

Texts (on Carmen): Walther von der Vogelweide, poems; Wolfram von Eschenbach, *Willehalm* (selections); Martin Luther, "On War Against the Turk"; Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, select. poems from *The Parliament of West and East*; Novalis, selections from *Heinrich von Ofterdingen*; Karl May, *In the Desert*; Theodor Herzl, *The Jewish State*; Else Lasker-Schüler, poems; Martin Buber, "The Spirit of the Orient"; Hugo von Hofmannsthal, "Journey in Northern Africa - Fez"; Carl Raswan, *Black Tents of Arabia*; Günter Wallraff, selections from *Lowest of the Low*; Aras Ören, *Please No Police*; Zafer Senocak, Bülent Tulay, "Germany – Home for Turks?"

Books (at SBX): Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, *Nathan the Wise*; Nina Berman, *German Literature on the Middle East: Discourses and Practices, 1000-1989*

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