

FAN FICTION

FROM HOMER TO HARRY POTTER



GERMAN 2256

SPRING 2018 // W/F 2:20-3:40PM

Gateway Film Center
House 3

Professor Matthew Birkhold

Enthusiastic readers of *Harry Potter* write sequels, prequels, and spinoffs and post them online every day. But writing fan fiction is far from new. Beginning in classical antiquity and ending with J.K. Rowling, we'll investigate the surprising history of this literary form, asking how ideas of originality, authorship, and intellectual property influence art and literature. Along the way, we'll study great works of German literature and philosophy, including texts by Goethe and Kant, whose ideas still shape thinking about fan fiction. Do characters belong to the authors who create them or to the readers who love (or hate) them? Why do people write fan fiction?

ALL WORKS IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION; TAUGHT IN ENGLISH. GE LIT COURSE.

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