



SPRING 2015

German 3200

Topics in German Literature, Art, and Film

3 credits

Professor Fehervary

Bertolt Brecht's epic theater revolutionized the modern stage and influenced playwrights and theater practitioners in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas. As the South African writer and Nobel laureate Nadine Gordimer said at his centenary in 1998, "Brecht is alive and well in places he never visited or even imagined."

We will visit some of these places in four of Brecht's best-known plays:

Der gute Mensch von Sezuan (China)

Der kaukasische Kreidekreis (Caucasian Mountains)

Mutter Courage (Central and Northern Europe in the Thirty Years War)

Leben des Galilei (17th-century Italy)

This course is primarily focused on improving German reading, speaking, and writing skills. Short response papers by students provide the basis for in-class grammar review and class work on vocabulary and syntax.

As to the readings, Brecht's plays have a clear plot-line, and the language is straightforward and fairly simple, certainly appropriate to the 3000-level. We will devote three weeks to each play and also watch some films of Brecht theater productions.

Grading is based on weekly short response papers. No midterm or final exam.

The Suhrkamp paperback editions of the plays are relatively inexpensive and will be available at SBX.

germanic.osu.edu