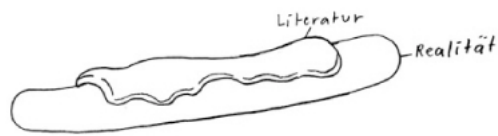


German 4200, AU 2012

Senior Seminar in German: Literature, Art and Film

The Languages of Poetry: Contemporary Lyric and its Theory



Instructor: Prof. May Mergenthaler
Time: WeFr 12:45pm - 2:05pm
Location: Derby Hall 0048
Class no.: 6974 (3 units)

Office: 334 Hagerty Hall
Phone: (614) 247 5017
Email: mergenthaler.4@osu.edu
Office hours: W 2:30-4:30 pm & by appt.

Why does anyone write lyric poetry today? And why should we read it? What is poetry? When did it emerge? What is so special about poetic language? Those are the main questions that we will explore by analyzing examples of contemporary German poetry, from Rap songs, commercials, and Slam Poetry to experimental avant-garde poetry. The focus of the class, however, will lie on avant-garde poetry composed by authors who openly reflect on the character and the potential of poetic language, both practically, in their poetic work and theoretically, in speeches, essays, and scholarly articles.

After a 2-week introduction to the history and concepts of poetry, as well as to popular forms of the genre, we will examine the practice and theory of contemporary, experimental lyric poetry, focusing on specific contexts, reflected in these works: German history, migration, politics, nature, natural sciences (computer science, neuroscience), mathematics, philosophy, new media (the internet), and language itself. The course will be conducted entirely in German and combine lecture, discussions, student presentations, and academic as well as creative writing assignments. The course will also integrate targeted grammar reviews and exercises in order to further improve students' German speaking, listening, and writing skills.

Learning goals include:

- an introduction to contemporary German lyric poetry and its questions and purposes
- to acquire specific knowledge of poetic language and a heightened awareness of language in general
- to become more familiar with contemporary poetic and aesthetic theory
- to further increase German language skills (speaking, listening, writing)

Course requirements:

Participation: 10%

Presentation: 20%

Final assignment: 30%

Weekly homework assignments: 20%

Midterm assignment: 20%