FAN FICTION

A LITERARY HISTORY

GERMAN 8200 AUTUMN 2017 || WED. 3:00-5:30PM HAGERTY HALL 488

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 literature. Along the way, we'll study great works of literature and philosophy, including texts by Goethe and Kant, whose ideas still shape thinking about fan fiction. Do characters belong to authors or readers? How can we define character? Why are so many women in China writing "slash"? Why do people write fan fiction?

ALL WORKS IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION; TAUGHT IN ENGLISH.

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