Through coursework, experience abroad, and other cultural encounters, the Modern Languages Program cultivates communicative skills and cultural awareness that prepare students at Western Kentucky University to be more knowledgeable and sensitive citizens of the global community.

I. Course content and goals:

This course fulfills the B.1. (Humanities/Literature) general education requirement. It will help you attain these general education goals and objectives:

- proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking
- an informed acquaintance with major achievement in the arts and humanities

We will study representative, significant literary works in German dating from the Middle Ages through the 20th century. Students will become familiar with basic literary, intellectual, and cultural concepts and with the broad development of German literature over time. Our written and oral discussions will be important in helping you develop your ability to apply these concepts to specific works of literature, both orally and in writing. All course assignments are intended to help you improve skills in reading carefully and thinking analytically about literature as an investigation of both timeless and time-bound aspects of the human condition.

II. Required texts:

None foreseen. All texts will be available online (http://gutenberg.spiegel.de/) or on Reserve in the library.

III. Course requirements:

Participation and discussion: Students are expected to have read the assigned texts before coming to class and to be ready to discuss them. The instructor may give short unannounced quizzes on content if it appears that the students are not preparing the material before class. Students will also be given assignments on the readings or related material that will help prepare them to participate actively in the in-class discussion. We will also contribute regularly to an online Blackboard discussion board. During our class meetings, we will speak
German as much as possible. The on-line discussion comments should be written in German, but English is also permissible.

**Written assignments:** Students will write five two-page papers in German (typed and double-spaced) and will have an opportunity to revise these to improve content and the written language after the instructor marks them. These writing assignments will also help students prepare for the final course examination.

**Examinations:** The examinations will consist of short identifications and narrative responses to questions on the course texts. Students may write the exams in German or English.

**Oral report:** Each student will give a brief (5 minute) oral report on one of the works read. Preferably, this report will be given in German

**IV. Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation (discussion and attendance)</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion board</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short papers (5 x 25 points)</td>
<td>125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral report</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm examination</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final examination (Monday, May 2, 8:00 a.m.)</td>
<td>35</td>
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</tbody>
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Total possible points 335 points*

**Grading scale**:  
98-100% of points = A+  
92-97% of points = A  
90-91% of points = A-  
88-89% of points = B+  
82-87% of points = B  
80-81% of points = B-

79-79% of points = C+  
72-76% of points = C  
70-71% of points = C-  
60-69% of points = D  
Less than 60% of points = F

*This total may vary if unannounced quizzes add additional points or if other adjustments are made to points given for various course components.

**Please note that the plus/minus scale will not be used for the final course grade. Students will receive an A (90-100%), a B (80-89%), a C (70-79%), a D (60-69%) or an F (below 60%).

**V. Course policies and student responsibilities:**

**Make-up:** Students with a legitimate excuse may make up assigned written work or in-class quizzes and other graded in-class work after they are due. The instructor determines whether the excuse justifies late submission of work.

**Attendance:** Students should inform the instructor in advance of any unavoidable absences or contact her as soon after they occur as possible. A percentage of the participation
points in the course are based on attendance, since one has to be in class in order to participate in class activities and discussion. For each unexcused absence beyond two, 7 points will be subtracted from the participation point total. Please be aware that University policy states that faculty members are to refer students with “excessive” absences to Academic Advising.

**Honesty in the classroom:** The instructor expects all students to adhere to University policies on honesty in the classroom. (See pages 27 and 283 of the WKU 2003-2005 catalog.) The “borrowing” of text from any source and passing it off as yours is stealing another’s work and is considered plagiarism. The instructor will employ means to detect plagiarism and may fail you in an assignment or in the course if she finds you have plagiarized any part of your work.

**Changes in course:** The instructor reserves the right to make changes in course content, format, assignments, due dates, etc., due to extenuating circumstances.

**VI. Instructor’s responsibilities:**

I intend to come to class prepared to work with you on the assigned material, to begin and end class meetings in a timely fashion, to return student work promptly, and to be available to meet with students in my office hours and at other times.

**VII. German Club:** If you are not yet a member of the German Club, you should be! You can sign on to the listserv at this address: [http://lists.wku.edu/mailman/listinfo/germanclub](http://lists.wku.edu/mailman/listinfo/germanclub)

**VIII. Tentative schedule of topics and assignments:**

**January 11-February 17: Die Lyrik**
- January 11-13 – Poetry of the Middle Ages (Lyrik des Mittelalters)
- January 18-20 – Poetry of the Baroque (Lyrik des Barocks)
- January 25-February 3 – Poetry of the Goethe era (Lyrik der Goethezeit)
- February 8 – First short paper due
- February 8-17 – Poetry of the 19th and 20th centuries (Lyrik des 19. und 20. Jhs.)

**February 22-March 17: Das Drama**
- February 22 – Second short paper due
- February 22 – Drama of the Middle Ages and Baroque (Drama des Mittelalters und Barocks)
- February 24 – Drama of the Enlightenment (Drama der Aufklärung)
- March 1-8 – Drama of the 19th century (Drama des 19. Jahrhunderts)
- March 10 – Third short paper due
- March 10-17 – Drama of the 20th century (Drama des 20. Jahrhunderts)

**March 29-April 28: Die Prosa**
- March 29-31 – Prose writings of the Middle Ages (Prosa des Mittelalters)
- April 5-7 – Prose writings of the Baroque and Enlightenment (Prosa des Barocks und der Aufklärung)
April 12-15 – Prose writings of the 19th century (Prosa des 19. Jahrhunderts)
April 15 – Fourth short paper is due
April 19-29 – Prose writings of the 20th century (Prosa des 20. Jahrhunderts)
April 21 – Fifth short paper is due

Monday, May 2, 8:00 a.m. – Final Examination