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Syllabi

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Fall 2007

## **Germany and Its Others (Fall 2007) (Whitman College)**

Robert D. Tobin

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# WHITMAN COLLEGE

## German 370: Germany and its Others

Fall 2007

In this course, we will be investigating how German culture has defined itself against its others: If Germany has defined itself in opposition to the East, is it Western? If Germany has defined itself in opposition to the South, has it escaped the legacy of Rome? Or is it a developed country? How did Germany's relationship to its colonies structure its self-image? When Germany defines itself in opposition to the United States, is it attempting to break down the idea of "the West"? When oppositions are created between Germans and Jews, does this mean that Germans are Christian Aryans? When oppositions are created between Germans and Turks, does the distinction imply that Germans, in contrast to Turks, are European? Obviously, these questions are loaded, but they help explain German self-image both now and in the past.

To answer these questions, we will use a variety of texts, including classical literary writings, historical documents, essays, as well as film and television.

### Grading

6 two-page papers in German (drop lowest grade)	25%
1 ten-page research paper in English	20%
project presentation	10%
blog management	10%
blog participation	10%
leading discussion	5%
class participation / little assignments	20%

## Syllabus

Aug. 29 Introduction

### GERMANY AND THE EAST

Sept. 3 Hesse, Siddhartha

Sept. 5 Hesse, Siddhartha

Sept. 10 Hesse, Siddhartha

Sept. 12 Hesse, Siddhartha

*short paper due*

### GERMANY AND THE SOUTH

Sept. 17 Mann, Mario und der Zauberer

Sept. 19 Mann, Mario und der Zauberer

Sept. 24 Germany and the Roman heritage

Sept. 26 Germany and the undeveloped world

*short paper due*

### AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN COMPLICATIONS

Oct. 1 Stifter, Brigitta

Oct. 3 Stifter, Brigitta

Oct. 10 Balkan identities (read Tobin chapter)

*short paper due*

## COLONIALISM

- Oct. 15                May, Am stillen Ozean
- Oct. 17                May, Am stillen Ozean (Tobin chapter)
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- Oct. 22                Kolonialzeitung, other documents of colonialism
- Oct. 24                Germany and its colonies today
- 
- Oct. 29                Kafka, "Die Strafkolonie"
- Oct. 31                literature on Kafka
- short paper due*

## THE UNITED STATES

- Nov. 5                Wenders, Paris, Texas ?
- Nov. 7                Journalistic reports: how does Germany define itself in relationship to the United States today?

## JEWS

- Nov. 12                Färberböck, Aimee und Jaguar
- Nov. 14                Biller,
- short paper due*

## ISLAM

Nov. 26 Pope's statement on Islam

Nov. 28 journalistic reportage: how do German discourses use Islam to define Europe today?

*short paper due*

## GERMAN IDENTITY

Dec. 3 Concluding Projects

Dec. 5