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Fall 1999

Liebestod (Fall 1999) (Whitman College)

Robert D. Tobin

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WHITMAN COLLEGE

German 343: Liebestod

Herbst 1999

2:30, Di, Do
Olin 314
Sprechstunden: M-Do, 1:15-2:15

Professor Tobin
Olin 310
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Love and death, sexuality and sickness, desire and disease ... these are constantly recurring themes in the German tradition. In this course, we can analyze why and how the "Liebestod" theme has such a powerful hold in German literature. We will begin with the *locus classicus* of the love-death, which is the Tristan myth, pursuing it from its medieval origins, through its apex in Wagner's opera, to Thomas Mann's spoof of it. We will then look at a cluster of classical German texts that feature tragic intertwinings of love and death.

Class requirements:

- | | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 1) | one paper in German on the Liebestod tradition (5 pages) | 20% |
| 2) | a preliminary version of the research paper (4-5 pages) | 10% |
| 3) | a research paper (10 pages) | 20% |
| 4) | report on secondary literature | 10% |
| 5) | leading a class discussion | 10% |
| 6) | class participation | 30% |
-
- 1) Write one paper of about 5 pages in German on the Liebestod tradition.
 - 2) By Thanksgiving break, give me a preliminary version of the research paper, with some kind of thesis, some arguments. Be sure to include secondary literature, as I want to be able to check your citation format. This paper can be in English or German. What counts is literary analysis! I will give you feedback on this version of the paper, which you can then use to rework your final paper.
 - 3) The final paper should be about 10 pages long, have an original thesis, and also deal extensively with secondary literature. You should be able to locate at least five pieces of secondary literature.
 - 4) Sign up to give a report on some of the secondary literature on a specific author. Include a written bibliography for your colleagues.
 - 5) Lead a class discussion on one of the works.
 - 6) Participate in the class discussions!

s y l l a b u s

- Do., den 2. Sept. Einführung, Platens "Tristan"
- Di., den 7. Sept. Gottfried von Straßburg, Tristan, Band 1, Books 1-III
- Do., den 9. Sept. Gottfried, Tristan, Bd. 1, Books XI-XIII
Report on courtly love
- Di., den 14. Sept. Gottfried, Tristan, Bd. 2, Books XIV, XVI-XVIII
- Do., den 16. Sept. Gottfried, Tristan, Bd. 2, Books XXXVI-XXX
Report on secondary literature on Gottfried
- Di., den 21. Sept. Wagner, Tristan und Isolde, Act 1-2
- Do., den 23. Sept. Wagner, Tristan und Isolde, Act 3
Report on secondary literature on Wagner
- Di., den 28. Sept. Tobin in Deutschland
- Do., den 30. Sept. Tobin in Deutschland
- Di., den 5. Okt. Weiner, "Das Judentum in der Musik"
Richard Wagner and the Anti-Semitic Imagination
- Do., den 7. Okt. Mann, "Tristan", 99-115
- Screening of Tristan und Isolde
- Di., den 12. Okt. Mann, "Tristan", 116-132
Report on secondary literature on Mann's Tristan
- Do., den 14. Okt. Mann, "Tristan", 133-151
- Mo., den 18. Okt. Mittagessen mit Herrn Doktor Gottfried Wagner
8:00 Vortrag: "Beyond Richard Wagner and Hitler:
Confrontations with German Nazi Past and Family
Present." Attendance required.
- Di., den 19. Okt. Short paper in German due on the Tristan theme.
Lessing, Emilia Galotti, Act 1

- Do., den 21. Okt Lessing, Emilia Galotti, Act 2 — *Rachel*
- Di., den 26. Okt. Lessing, Emilia Galotti, Acts 3-4 — *So*
Report on secondary literature on Emilia
- Do., den 28. Okt Lessing, Emilia Galotti, Act. 5
- Di., den 2. Nov. Goethe, Werther, Book 1, up to letter of July 1
- Do., den 4. Nov. Goethe, Werther, conclusion of book 1
- Di., den 9. Nov. Goethe, Werther, Book 2, up to "Der Herausgeber an den Leser"
Report on secondary literature on Werther
- Do., den 11. Nov. Goethe, Werther, conclusion of Book 2
- Di., den 16. Nov. Novalis, "Hymnen an die Nacht" 1-3
- Do., den 18. Nov. Novalis, "Hymnen an die Nacht" 4-6
4-5 page version of final research paper due.
- Erntedankfest!
- Di., den 30. Nov. Letzte zwei Wochen: entweder Schiller, Kabale und Liebe,
Oder Thomas Mann, "Tod in Venedig"
- Do., den 2. Dez.
- Di., den 7. Dez
Report on secondary literature
- Do., den 9. Dez
- Do., den 16 Dez Final research paper due.