

Refractions: German „Indianthusiasm“ – Canadian Aboriginal Responses
GERMAN 469/627; Tuesdays, Thursdays, Tue & Thu, 2:00-3:15, Craigie Hall D419
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY, Fall 2012
Department of Germanic, Slavic and East Asian Studies
Instructor: Hartmut Lutz, Dr. phil. habil.

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The German fascination with all things “Indian” (German Indianthusiasm) is an ideologically highly problematic phenomenon. Stereotypes ranging from “savage” to “superhuman” were utilized to propagate colonialist fantasies, Nazi ideology, ecological dreams, consumerism, and erotic desires. While the stereotypes say next to nothing about First Nations, Métis or Inuit realities, they say everything about those who carry them. This course will examine this European fascination with American Indians, and it will then look at artistic reactions to this phenomenon by Aboriginal writers and visual artists in Canada.

In the beginning we shall study early visual and textual representations of American Indigenous peoples in Europe, and we shall then focus on (translated) German texts about Indians, so-called *Indianerbücher*, and dis-/un-cover the ideological messages and distortions conveyed by such books and films. We shall sample Karl May’s *Winnetou* novels, and explore how *Indianerbücher* were functionalized later in the Nazi period to propagate *Führerkult*, racism, military prowess and chauvinist nationalism. Post war texts and Western films in East and West Germany reflect parallel as well as diverging interests.

After having studied such European perceptions and constructions of “Indianer”, we shall then turn to First Nations, Inuit and Métis literature in Canada today. We shall follow the development of contemporary Native literature in Canada after 1967 in general and then specifically examine literary texts, artwork and films by Aboriginal artists whose works react to European “Indianthusiasm” in often satirical and ironic, and sometimes surprisingly conciliatory ways.

2. OBJECTIVES

In this course students will

- understand the way perceptions of “the other” are fuelled and determined by fear, hostility, and struggles for domination, or escapism, desires, and liberation;
- demonstrate awareness of otherness and alterity as theoretical concepts in (post-)colonialism, deconstruction, psychoanalysis, Marxism, or gender studies;
- explore the question whether encounters with cultural others can ever be accurately represented;
- understand the European representation of North American Aboriginals as part of a discourse of domination;
- recognize the historically and geographically specific features of German fascination with North American Indigenous peoples;

- recognize how historical and political contexts impeded and/or fostered the development of contemporary Aboriginal Literature(s) in Canada;
- understand the “therapeutic power of the pen” for those victimized by internal colonialism;
- appreciate the agency of North American Indigenous artists to refract and undermine “Indianthusiasm.”

3. TEXTBOOKS / READINGS

Most course materials will be made available in a **reader** (*Reading Assignments*). In addition, participants need to have copies of the following books:

- Thomas King. *Truth and Bright Water* (novel, 1999)
- *We Are Here Today/Heute sind wir hier: A Bilingual Collection of Aboriginal Literature(s) in Canada*, eds. /transls. Hartmut Lutz and students. Wesel, Germany: VdL-Verlag, 2009. ISBN 978-3-926308-12-2 ()
- Drew Hayden Taylor. *Motorcycles and Sweetgrass* (novel, 2010).
- Abraham Ulrikab. *The Diary of Abraham Ulrikab: Text and Context*, eds./transls. Hartmut Lutz and students. Ottawa: U of Ottawa P. 2005. ISBN 0-7766-0602-6.
- Karl May, *Winnetou* (cheapest English edition)

4. SYLLABUS (Sept. 9, 2012)

1st week:

Tuesday, Sept. 11th: Introduction: “We can only see, what we already know.”
(next read Mages, *reader* #7)

Thursday, Sept. 13th: *Graffenried*-diary (next read *Abraham* diary);

Extra: Friday, Sept. 14th, 3-4 PM: *WiP-Talk* [by Hartmut Lutz]

2nd week:

Tuesday, Sept. 18th: Inuit in Zoos: *Diary of Abraham Ulrikab*
(next listen to CBC IDEAS “Abraham’sDiary”)

Thursday, Sept. 20th: CBC IDEAS: *Abraham’s Diary* (2009) [C. Brookes]
(next read *Winnetou* novel)

3rd week:

Tuesday, Sept. 25th: Karl May’s *Winnetou* (next read Lutz, *reader* # 3)

Thursday, Sept. 27th: *Winnetou* [Florentine Strzelczyk and Isabell Woelfel;
instructor absent at conference]

4th week:

Tuesday, Oct. 2nd: Karl May's *Winnetou* (next read Lutz, *reader # 4*)

Thursday, Oct. 4th: Nazi-"Indianer": Fritz Steuben's Tecumseh [Haible; Lutz]
(next read Armstrong; *We Are Here...*,26f.)

5th week:

Tuesday, Oct. 9th: **Special Guest: Jeannette C. Armstrong**
(next read Gemünden, *reader # 2*)

Thursday, Oct. 11th: *Winnteou* films after WW II [Gemünden]
(next listen to CBC IDEAS "Playing Indian")

6th week:

Tuesday, Oct 16th: CBC IDEAS: *Playing Indian* (2005) [A. Dancer]
"Indianer" (film, 22 mins., Blackbird Productions 2001)
(next read Lutz, *reader # 5*)

Thursday, Oct 18th: Indians in Film: *A Man Called Horse* (1970)
(next read Lutz, *reader # 6*)

7th week:

Tuesday, Oct 23rd: Native Literature(s) in Canada 1967ff. [Lutz]
(next read Warrior *reader # 9*; *We Are Here...*182f.)

Extra: Thursday Oct. 25th, noon; Native Centre, brown bag lunch presentation
[by Hartmut Lutz]

Thursday, Oct 25th: "Compatriots"; "Magic" (short stories) [E. L. Warrior]
(next read King's novel)

8th week:

Tuesday, Oct 30th: *Truth and Bright Water* (novel) [T. King]

Thursday, Nov 1st: *Truth and Bright Water* (novel) [T. King]
(next read *We Are*, 126f., 134f.)

9th week:

Tuesday, Nov 6th: Two Floodstories from *Aazhoodena*;"I Got Nothin"; "JC"
[D.D. Moses;E. B. Nelson]
(next read *We Are*22f.,60f.,72f, 124f.,154f.)

Thursday, Nov 8th: "Rabbit Story", "She Carries ...", "One Tribe Canada";
"2008 tibet"; "Ghost Dance LVII" [Harjo; Dumont;
Gottfriedson; Mercredi; Seesequasis]
(next read *reader*, 42)

10th week:

[Tuesday, Nov 13th: Reading Day]

Thursday, Nov 15th: **Special Guest: Warren Cariou**
(next read Taylor's novel)

11th week:

Tuesday, Nov 20th: **Special Guest: Drew Hayden Taylor**

Thursday, Nov 22th: *Motorcycles and Sweetgrass* (novel)

12th week:

Tuesday, Nov. 27th: Indians in Film: *A Man Called Horst* (McLeod,
(next read *We Are 108f.*)

Thursday, Nov. 29th: **Special Guest: Neal McLeod**
(next read Quitsualik, *reader # 8*)

13th week:

Tuesday Dec 4th: "Skraeling" (short story by R. A. Quitsualik]
(next read Erdrich, *reader # 1*)

Thursday, Dec 6th: (w)rapping it up with "Blitzkuchen" (by Louise Erdrich]

5. ASSIGNMENTS, ASSESSMENT & GRADING

(for German 469 and German 627)

Active participation and attendance (20/20): Students are expected to come to classes well prepared and take an active part in classroom discussions. If participants miss more than 2 classes, they should submit a valid excuse/explanation. If more than three classes (10 %) are missed unexcused, the student's name will be taken off the list and **recorded as F**.

Presentation with fact sheets (20/15): In preparation for our classroom discussions, participants are asked to prepare a fact sheet containing background information (e.g.: author's bio, summary, reception, further readings) and two to four questions to be discussed in class. These fact sheets (approx. 500/750 words) are due in copies for all participants **the week before the assigned text is to be discussed in class**.

Book reports (20/15): In addition to the two novels, the diary, the various poems, excerpts, short stories and secondary materials to be read by everyone, each student should submit a "book report", i.e. a 750/ 750 words) mini essay about another novel, a longer autobiography, or a play by an Aboriginal author in Canada or a German "Indianerbuch" that are not to be discussed in class. These book reports are due by 12:00 (noon), **Monday, Oct. 29th, 2012**.

Research papers (40/50): Your research paper should be based on a literary text or a larger topic pertaining to “Indianthusiasm” or First Nations, Inuit and Métis history and culture. Come and see me to discuss a topic early. I expect the (provisional) title of your paper plus your one-sentence thesis statement (“In my term paper I want to show that...”) no later than our class on November 8th. The research papers should follow MLA style, be 1500/2000 words (double space) long, and are due no later than **Friday, Dec. 7th, 2012.**

The following grading and marking system will be used:

98-100% A+	93-97% A	90-92% A-
88-89% B+	83-87% B	80-82% B-
78-79% C+	73-77% C	70-72% C-
68-69% D+	63-67% D	60-62% D-
0-59% F		