LIS/WGST 402: Gender and Sexuality in German and Austrian Culture

Course Information, Fall 2017:
Course times: TTH 10:50-12:05
Location: TBA
Faculty: Dr. Gary Schmidt
Office: Brittain 330
Email: gschmidt@coastal.edu
Telephone: 2741
Office hours: MTWRF 9-10:30

Course Description and Objectives
LIS/WGST 402 Gender and Sexuality in German and Austrian Culture. (3) (Pre-requisite ENGL 101) German and Austrian artists, intellectuals, and scientists have exercised enormous influence on attitudes about gender and sexuality over the course of the twentieth century and up to the present day. This class traces the development of discourses of gender and sexuality by analyzing works of fiction, non-fiction, and film in the cultural, social, and political context in which they were created. Topics to be addressed include psychoanalysis, sexology, homosexual emancipation, the women’s movement and feminism, the sexual politics of Nazi Germany, and contemporary debates surrounding multiculturalism. The course is taught in English and open to students without prior knowledge of German. To receive credit for the German minor or towards the major in Languages and Intercultural Studies, students must co-enroll in GERM 301L: German Culture Lab.

Student Learning Outcomes
Students will be able to:
• Describe and compare the most important discourses that have been employed to regulate sexuality in Germany and Austria from 1871 to the present.
• Analyze the representation of sexuality in German and Austrian literary and cinematic texts in relation to the cultural, social, and political context in which they were created.
• Compare the function and content of sex-gender regulatory practices employed in twentieth- and twenty-first century Germany and Austria with other identity regimes, including those surrounding nationality, race, ethnicity, and class.
• Critically compare products, processes, and practices of German and Austrian culture related to gender and sexuality with their counterparts in the United States.
Course Requirements and Grading
  o Class Participation and Response Journals- 20%
  o 2 Critical Essays– 20%
  o Research Paper - 20%
  o Research Presentation – 10%
  o Exams – 30%

Grading Scale

A =90-100%
B+ =87-89%
B =80-86%
C+ =77-79%
C =70-76%
D+ =67-69%
D =60-66%
F =0-59%

Tentative Schedule:

Week 1-2– The Starting Point: Late 19th Century

Drama: Frank Wedekind, Spring Awakening [Frühlingserwachen].

American adaptation: excerpts from Broadway musical Spring Awakening.

Hedwig Dohm, selected excerpts.

Week 3-4 Sexology[Sexualwissenschaft] / Homosexuality

Non-fiction excerpt: Karl Heinrich Ulrichs, The Riddle of Man-Manly Love. [Forschungen über das Rätsel der mannmännlichen Liebe]

Non-fiction excerpt: Magnus Hirschfeld, The Homosexuality of Men and Women [Die Homosexualität des Mannes und des Weibes].

Film: Richard Oswald, Different from the Others [Anders als du und ich].
Week 5-6 – Psychoanalysis [Psychoanalyse]

Non-fiction excerpt: Sigmund Freud, „The Wolf Man” (from Three Case Histories) [‘Aus der Geschichte einer infantilen Neurose [‘Der Wolfsmann’]’ in Zwei Kinderneurosen].

Literary Text: Schnitzler, Dream Story. [Traumnovelle.]

American adaptation: film excerpts from Stanley Kubrick, Eyes Wide Shut.

Week 7-8 – Weimar Berlin: The New Woman

Film: Joseph von Sternberg, The Blue Angel.

Film: Leontin Sagan, Girls in Uniform.

Novel Excerpt: Irmtraud Morgner, The Artificial Silk Girl [Das Kunstseidene Mädchen].

Week 9-10 – Fascism and Sexuality: Homophobia, Anti-Semitism, Misogyny

Theory excerpt: Klaus Theweleit: Male Fantasies [Männerphantasien].


Film: Max Färberbock, Aimee and Jaguar.

Week 11-12- Divided Germany: Sexuality and the Cold War

Memoir: Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, I Am My Own Wife [Ich bin meine eigene Frau].

Excerpts from American adaptation: Doug Wright, I am My own Wife.

Film: Heiner Carow, Coming Out.

Essays: Selections from Monika Maron, Nach Maßgabe meiner Begreifungskraft.

Week 13-15 - Contemporary Germany and Austria: Feminism and Multiculturalism

Film: Fatih Akin, Auf der anderen Seite.

Attendance Policy: As stated in the CCU attendance policy (STUD-SENA-332, which can be found online at https://www.coastal.edu/policies/pdf/acad-sena%202019%20class%20attendance%202016.pdf, “Students are obligated to attend class regularly. Absences, excused or not, do not absolve students from the responsibility of completing all assigned work promptly.” As allowed in the university policy, students who miss more than 25% of all class sessions will be given a grade of F unless the instructor determines that certain absences are excused based on the submission of appropriate documentation of illness or family emergency.

Students are responsible for determining what work they have missed and for following due dates noted in the syllabus.

Exam make-up policy: Unless there is a documented emergency, students must arrange make-up exams in advance with the instructor if they know they will be unable to attend class on the date of the exam. The instructor reserves the right not to allow a make-up exam if there is not a reasonable justification for the request.

Late work: Unless in the case of documented emergency, late work will not be accepted without penalty. For each 24-period an assignment is turned in after the deadline the grade will be reduced by one letter grade. Late work more than 5 –days late will be given a grade of zero.

Students with a documented or documentable disability should contact the Office of Accessibility and Disability Services at the beginning of the semester. Go to http://www.coastal.edu/disabilityservices/rightsandresponsibilities/ for details on student rights and responsibilities.