UNI KASSEL
VERSITÄT

Hessen: ISU Course Outline

The German Fairy Tale:
Looking-glass of society

CLASS HOURS

20 contact hours

PROFESSOR

Academic Director: Professor Holger Ehrhardt, Endowed Chair for the Work and Impact of the Brothers Grimm at the Department for Language and Literature, University of Kassel

- *Office: room 5001*   - *Office hours: Thu, 4pm*

- *Email: holger.ehrhardt@uni-kassel.de*   - *Phone: +49561 804 7455*

Lecturers:

- Holger Ehrhardt, Dr. phil., Prof., Director, "Work and Impact of the Brothers Grimm" at the University of Kassel
- Neville Williamson, M.A., Adjunct at the University of Kassel
- Susanne Völker, M.A., Exhibition Director at the new museum Grimmworld Kassel
- Claudia Roßkopf, M.A., Grimmworld Kassel

1) INFORMATION ON THE COURSE CONTENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar is an introduction to the foundations of critical theory in Fairy Tale Studies (in the historical and social context of the early 19th century), as well as an investigation of the Brothers Grimm and their impact on the development of the

genre. Students will discover the international aspect of these regionally collected fairy tales with an in-depth look at the contribution of Kassel's Dorothea Viehmann. Kassel offers students a unique opportunity to follow the traces of the brothers Grimm in the place where they collected the fairy tales. In addition to attending lectures, students will explore Kassel's museums, libraries, parks and historical sights. Finally, students will experience how Kassel's brand new Grimm museum developed and continues to develop its exhibition concept.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- The students will be acquainted with recent theories of Fairy Tale Studies.

- They will apply different methods of text analysis.

- They will find out regional and international aspects of the works of the Brothers Grimm.

COURSE MATERIALS

The following titels will be provided during the course (in excerpts):

- Brüder Grimm: Kinder- und Hausmärchen. Ed. by Heinz Rölleke. Berlin 1980ff.

- Kathrin Pöge-Alder: Märchenforschung. Theorien, Methoden, Interpretationen. Tübingen 2007.

- Hans-Jörg Uther: Handbuch zu den "Kinder- und Hausmärchen" der Brüder Grimm. Entstehung – Wirkung – Interpretation. Berlin, New York 2008.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Day	Topic	Assignment given	Assignment due
1	o Fairy tales: Intro o Fairy tale research o Characteristics of fairy tales	Presentation, group: working out characteristics	Reading: textual witnesses
2	o Comparing textual witnesses o Working principles of the Brothers Grimm o Elements of the fairy-tale aesthetics	Group: comparing texts, working out aesthetic elements	Reading/knowing the fairy tales
3	o Literary Traditions and Storytelling in Fairy Tales o Biblical and mythological motifs	Seminar discussion: Recognizing highly artificial narrative style vs. popular tradition	Written account of popular traditions in German fairy tales
4	o Kings in Children's and Household Tales o Women as Contributors to Fairy Tales	Presentations of homework Seminar discussing different facets of selected motifs Finding traces of myths in fairy tales	
5	o „Once upon a time …" all over the world – international and intercultural implications of the Brother Grimm's fairy	Presentation and discussion	Starting to write an article: How to present the textual changes in the fairy tales

		tales		
6	o	The GRIMMWELT Kassel – Concepts of the new museum (SV)	Presentation and discussion	Working on the article
	o	From A (Aschenputtel) to Z (Zettel) –Exhibition concepts in the GRIMMWELT Kassel		
7	o	Gathering and showing – Insight into the cooperation between museum and university	Presentation of the articles	Reading/knowing Viehmann's fairy tales
8	o	The most significant fairy tale contributor Dorothea Viehmann	New research on Dorothea Viehmann, exploring the aesthetic characteristics of the Viehmann fairy tales	Reading/knowing Viehmann's fairy tales
	o	Viehmann's fairy tales		
9	o	Excursion to the birthplace of Dorothea Viehmann	off-campus learning	Preparation exam
10	o	Written exam		

2)INFORMATION ON CLASS PARTICIPATION, ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS

ASSIGNMENTS

presentation, paper, homework

EXAMS

100% – written exam

PRACTICE MATERIALS

primary sources of the Grimm fairy tales

PROFESSIONALISM & CLASS PARTICIPATION

attendance lists, contribution to discussions and a presentation is expected

MISSED CLASSES

No more than 10% of the contact hours can be missed for successful completion of the class.

3)INFORMATION ON GRADING AND ECTS

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Upon successful completion, 3 ECTS will be awarded for the class.

According to the rules of ECTS, one credit is equivalent to 25-30 hours student workload.

GRADING SCALE:

Description of the grading scale

Percentage	Grade		Description
90-100%	15 points	1.0	very good: an outstanding achievement
	14 points		
	13 points	1.3	
80-90%	12 points	1.7	good: an achievement substantially above average requirements
	11 points	2.0	
	10 points	2.3	
70-80%	9 points	2.7	satisfactory: an achievement which corresponds to average requirements
	8 points	3.0	
	7 points	3.3	
60-70%	6 points	3.7	sufficient: an achievement which barely meets the requirements
	5 points	4.0	
0-60%	4 points	5.0	not sufficient / failed: an achievement which does not meet the requirements
	3 points		
	2 points		
	1 point		
	0 points		

This course description was issued on: December 18, 2015. Program is subject to change.