

CENS 404 / Section 101 / 2023 Winter Term 1

Gender and Nation in Literatures of Central, Eastern, and Northern Europe

Instructor: Dr. Gaby Pailer, Professor of German Literature

Time and Place: Tuesday + Thursday 9:30 to 11:00 am, MATH 203



Rome – Palatine ©Gaby Pailer

Course Description

This course is focused on concepts of “nation-building” in central, eastern and northern Europe in relation to discourses of political Emancipation, Enlightenment, as well as Orientalism. It falls into three modules:

1. **Gender and Nation in Canada and Europe**, comparing stories of adolescence and belonging in Canada and Europe, and studying revolutionary poetry.
2. **Gender – Race – Religion: Enlightenment / Orientalism**, focusing on historical plots of crusades, colonialism, slavery and gender, in dramatic renderings.
3. **Gender – Nation – Education: Naturalism / Avant-Garde**, focusing on two dramas on military definitions of “nation-states” and the role of officers’ daughters.

This course has no prerequisites. It is taught in English and all relevant material studied will be provided in English translation. This class is taught in-person. Some assignments and exams may be online.

Syllabus and Course Modules

Week 1: Welcome, Introduction, Land acknowledgement (Sept 5+7)

Weeks 2-4 – Module 1: Gender and Nation in Canada and Europe

(Sept 12+14 – 19)

Nadine Neema, *Journal of a Traveling Girl*

(Sept 21+23)

Gabriele Reuter, *From a Good Family* (selected chapters)

(Sept 26+28)

Poetry: Heine, “The Weavers”; Aston, “Song of a Silesian Weaver”, Otto, “Emancipation for All”,

Hofmann von Fallersleben, “Germany”-hymn

Weeks 5-8 - Module 2: Gender – Race – Religion: Enlightenment/Orientalism

(Oct 3+5 – 10 – Oct 12 *no class*)

Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, *Nathan the Wise* (1779)

Theory: I. Kant – T.W. Adorno – J. Butler – E. Said

Oct 17: Midterm Exam (on Canvas / in-class)

(Oct 19 – 24+26)

Comparison with: Voltaire’s *Zaïre* and Shakespeare, *Othello* (selected scenes)

Oct 26: Midterm Essay (submit on Canvas / remotely)

Weeks 9-12 - Module 3: Gender – Nation – Education: Naturalism/Avant-Garde

(Oct 31+Nov 2 – Nov 7+9)

Hendrik Ibsen, *Hedda Gabler*

(Nov 14 no class – Nov 16 – 21+23)

Christa Winsloe, *Yesterday and Today (Girls in Uniform)* (drama and film adaptations)

Weeks 13-14 – Review and Student Presentations

(Nov 28+30)

Comparative discussion of all course materials.

(Dec 5+7)

Student presentations.

Assignments and Grading Scheme

Please note that all grading will be relational between students to warrant fairness to all.

Participation, Preparation, In-Class Group Work: 15%

70% Quantity (i.e. all classes attended, unless formally excused; not more than two classes missed unexcused).

30% Quality of contributions to class-work, demonstrated preparedness.

Midterm Exam (75 minutes): 20%

On Canvas / In class. Quiz: Short essay questions referring to content of Modules 1-2.

Midterm Essay (75 minutes): 20%

To be submitted on Canvas / remotely. Essay: 1000 words, referring to a choice of essay questions to content of Modules 1-2. Additional assignment information will be provided.

Final Exam (during formal exam period, 150 minutes): 30%

On Canvas / remotely; date to be assigned by exam services during the formal exam period, Dec. 11-20.

Quiz questions referring to entire course content. 15%.

Essay: Choice of long essay question (400 words) referring to Modules 2-3. 15%.

Oral Presentation: 15%

Students will choose from the list of topics provided by the instructor, and will prepare a presentation supported by a slide presentation. On Zoom, 10 minutes.

All exams and essays will include a declaration by students that this is their original work and wording, and all sources used have been indicated and referenced.

Contact

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