

The Florida State University  
Dr. Birgit Maier-Katkin  
(3 credits)

**Exile Literature and Nazi Germany**  
**GEW 5597**  
**and**  
**GEW 4592.**

Office: 357A DIF  
E-mail: bmkatkin@mailers.fsu.edu  
Phone: 644-8300

Required Texts:

Seghers, Anna. *Das siebte Kreuz* (*The Seventh Cross*, David R. Godine Publ, 2004).  
Brecht, Bertolt. *Der aufhaltsame Aufstieg des Arturo Ui* (*The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, Arcade Publ. 2001).  
Seghers, Anna. *Transit*  
Werfel, Franz. *Jacobowsky und der Oberst* (*Jacobowsky and the Colonel*, Random House, 1944).  
Zweig, Stefan. *Schachnovelle* (*The Royal Game and Other Stories*, Harmony Books, 1981).  
Winkler, Michael, ed. *Deutsche Literatur im Exil 1933-1945*  
Gibaldi, Joseph, *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition.

Optional Texts:

Brecht, Bertolt. *Furcht und Elend des Dritten Reiches*  
Zweig, Stefan. *Die Welt von gestern* (*World of Yesterday*, U of Nebraska P, 1964)

Films:

The Exiles  
The Seventh Cross

**Course Objectives**

This course focuses on selected literature by German writers who were forced to leave their country in the wake of Adolf Hitler's appointment as Chancellor. During the Third Reich (1933-1945) these authors fled their home country and lived in exile in order to escape persecution by Hitler and the Nazi state. Many of these writers saw the abrupt

ending of their careers and struggled to create a new life (or rather lives) in various exile countries. The course explores the historical events which led to the exodus of so many famous German authors and offers insight into a dark period of German history, when human rights were not guaranteed for every German citizen.

Examining selected works of prose, poetry, drama and theoretical writings, the course addresses the following questions: How do these authors cope with the disastrous events taking place in their homeland? How do they deal with their feelings of loss and increasing disconnection from a once intimately familiar German culture? To what extent do the conditions of exile influence literary production and notions of artistic identity? What is the impact of Nazi agitation and infiltration of the German language on exile literature? How did these writers handle their disconnection from publishing houses within Germany and from their former German audience? As their literature is written in a time of aggressive war and grievous human rights abuses, the course will explore how these exile works reflect and respond to the personal, social and political crises of their authors' time. Through lectures and class discussions a close examination of the authors' literary production (representing diverse literary genres) will be undertaken with particular attention to historical, literary, cultural, political, and economic considerations reflected in the structure, style, and themes of the work.

### **Course Requirements**

1. Close reading of all assigned texts and careful preparation of all assignments.
2. Weekly e-mail reports on assigned texts.
3. Active class participation and regular attendance. All students are expected to make significant contributions to enrich class discussions.
4. Preparation and delivery of oral reports in class.
5. The undergraduate students in this course will write reports on three of the book-length reading assignments for this course. The topic of your paper should reflect the period and the respective work we have discussed.

6. The graduate students will write a major term paper to be submitted in three installments: The first installment will consist of a bibliography (MLA style) concerning the primary text (author's work) and secondary literature that the student has selected for the term paper. The second installment will consist of a preliminary outline of the themes and secondary literature to be discussed in the paper. The final paper (third installment) should incorporate the first two installments with a clear statement of your topic, detailed discussion of the primary text, and careful incorporation of relevant secondary sources. Papers should be typed in MLA Style. The students will be asked to give an oral presentation on their term paper.

### **Evaluation of Course Work**

Grades are based on:

- Regular attendance, active in class participation, careful reading and preparation of all assigned materials, punctual and regular submission of e-mail reports: 40%
- oral report: 20%
- written reports (Undergraduates), term paper (Graduate Students): 40 %

### **Classwork**

Work in class involves discussion focused on the course texts, in-class conversation, group work and written assignments. Students should read all assigned texts and prepare according to the course schedule. The instructor will provide lectures to establish the context within which these texts and the concerns they represent can be understood. There might be additional texts (poetry, articles, etc.) assigned during the semester. This and any change in the outline will be announced. Students are expected to participate actively in all class discussions and oral assignments. Oral work will be evaluated on quality and quantity of participation and improvement in the course of the semester.

### **Make-up policy**

Students must consult with the professor immediately to make arrangements for make-up work. As a general rule work must be turned in within three class days of an excused absence. Unless arrangements are made with the professor prior to the due date, all assignments must be ready by the assigned date, the grade will be lowered on late papers.

### **Honor Code**

Students are expected to abide by the university's honor code and standards of behavior

### **Persons with disabilities**

FSU adheres to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, dealing with non-discrimination with reference to a qualified person with a disability. Individuals are encouraged to voluntarily contact the Disabled Students Office and to speak with the instructor to identify needed special assistance.

The Florida State University  
 Fall 2005  
 Dr. Maier-Katkin

**Exile Literature and Nazi Germany**  
 (3 credits)

Meeting time: Tuesdays: 2 – 5 p.m. (102 DIF)  
 Office: 357A DIF e-mail: bmkatkin@mailers.fsu.edu  
 Hours: Tuesdays: 11 am – 12:00 pm, Phone: 644-8300  
 Thursdays: 11:00 am – 1 pm and by appointment

**Basic Course Schedule** [subject to revision]

- 
30. August - Introduction to the Course  
 6. September Historical and Political Background / Exile Experience  
 Literature in the Third Reich / Exile Literature (1933 – 1945)  
 Poem: Bertolt Brecht, *Bücherverbrennung* (Book Burning)
- 
13. 9. Film: The Exiles  
 Article: Schuler, “Neues von der Front: Bertelsmann läßt seine Rolle in der Nazizeit erklären” (News from the Front: Bertelsmann explains its role during the Nazi period)
13. 9. First Installment of term paper due for graduate students
- 
20. 9. Nazi Politics and Propaganda  
 Film: Western Tradition (Rise of Fascism, WW II) and Triumph of the Will by Leni Riefenstahl  
 Article: Anna Seghers, “Vaterlandsliebe” (Love for one’s Homeland)
20. 9. First Report due for undergraduate students
- 
27. 9. – Exile Perspective and Exile Reflections on Nazi Germany  
 11. October Novel: Anna Seghers, *Siebte Kreuz* (Seventh Cross)  
 Article: Anna Seghers, “Aufgaben der Kunst” (The Tasks of Art)  
 Correspondence between Seghers and Lukács  
 Film: Seventh Cross (Fred Zinnemann 1944)
- 
18. – 25. 10. Drama: Bertolt Brecht, *Der aufhaltsame Aufstieg des Arturo Uri* (The Resistible Rise of Arturo Uri)

Brecht "Arbeitsjournal" (Working Journal)  
 Article: Kalem "Heil Heel"  
 Briefwechsel (Correspondence): Bertolt Brecht und Thomas Mann

25. 10. Second Installment of term paper due for graduate students

---

1. November Exile Experience: Uncertainties and Dangers

Novel: Anna Seghers, *Transit*  
 Article: Thomaneck "Tenochtitlan, Time, *Transit*: Anna Seghers's Novel of Exile"

---

8. 11. Anna Seghers, *Transit*  
 Article: Swaffar and Wilkinson "Aesthetics and Gender: Anna Seghers as a Case Study"  
 Texts by Arnold Zweig, Elias Canetti, Bertold Viertel  
 Lyrik of the Inner Emigration: Albrecht Haushofer, Hans Carossa  
 Article: Hans Sahl, "Über das Schreiben von Gedichten im Exil (About Writing Poems in Exile)"  
 Poetry: Bertolt Brecht, Theodor Kramer

8. 11. Second Report due for undergraduate students

---

15. 11. Poetry: Hans Sahl, Franz Werfel, Johannes Becher, Rudolf Leonard, Erich Weinert, Ivan Goll

---

22. 11. Despair, Desolation in Exile  
 Novel: Stefan Zweig *Schachnovelle* (Royal Game)

---

24. 11. **Thanksgiving Holiday**

---

29. 11. The Foreseeable End of Nazi Terror, Hope for Return from Exile  
 Drama: Franz Werfel, *Jacobowsky und der Oberst* (Jacobowsky and the Colonel)  
 Article: Schreiben als Erinnern, Sehen als Schau (Writing for Memory)  
 Brecht, "Rückkehr" (Return)  
 Peter Schneider, *The Good Germans*

29. 11. Term Paper due for graduate students (installments 1-3)  
 Third Report due for undergraduates

---

6. Dezember Student Reports

---

\*this schedule is subject to revision, when in doubt check with me and/or announcements on the board