

German

Module descriptors for Inbound Students.

Name	Politics of Walking
Code	GRU22221
Semester	Semester 1
ECTS credits	5
Pre-requisite	Minimum level: German B2
Module Co-ordinator	Peter Arnds (arndsp@tcd.ie)

Module Content

The module is taught in German and the reading is entirely in German. Students will thus improve their German language skills and learn about travel literature, the various facets of walking, walking politics, motivations, cultural aspects, and philosophies of walking and how such things are represented in German literature.

The module covers a range of literary texts in which walking is central. The texts read in this module are largely limited to German speaking literature from the nineteenth century until today, with authors such as Heinrich Heine, Friedrich Gerstäcker, Theodor Fontane, Wolfgang Büscher, Werner Herzog, and W.G. Sebald. We will discuss these authors and their texts in view of pertinent theories about slow travel, eco-travel, and especially walking, its rhetorics, politics, and comparative and philosophical aspects.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Improve their German language skills
2. Improve their presentation and writing skills
3. Obtain an overview of travel literature in German culture
4. Learn to apply critical cultural theory to literature
5. Advance their skills in developing research questions
6. Think about the pleasures of walking, urban, rural, and otherwise
7. Learn to compare texts, also through theory

Assessment

- One 15-minute presentation
- One essay of 2,500 words