

German

Module descriptors for Inbound Students.

Name	Langweile
Code	GRU33092
Semester	1
ECTS credits	5
Pre-requisite	Minimum level: German B2
Module Coordinator	Prof Mary Cosgrove (cosgroma@tcd.ie)

Module Content

The term 'Langweile' (and its English and French equivalents: 'boredom' and 'ennui') can be viewed from many different angles: on the one hand, as a social emotion that arises and passes off in particular situations; on the other as a timeless, universal predisposition of the human psyche. Against the idea of boredom as an anthropological constant in human history, it is nowadays viewed by many Humanities scholars as a distinctive feature of the discourse and rhetoric of modern subjectivity which changed demonstrably with the advent of modernity. In the nineteenth century, for example, theories and texts on boredom exploded, as medics, philosophers, sociologists and artists grappled with the challenges of a rapidly modernising world, its organisation of the citizen's working life and the new, disorientating experience of time this introduced.

This module explores different manifestations of boredom across a select number of texts from the twentieth and early twenty-first century. Themes we will encounter include: time and temporality, boredom and creativity, sloth, gender, boredom and work.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module, students should be able to:

1. read and understand selected complex primary texts in the original German
2. demonstrate a detailed critical knowledge of the primary texts studied on the course and of the relevant secondary literature
3. display a deeper understanding of the specific literary or linguistic topic and its cultural, historical, theoretical and/or linguistic contexts



4. conduct in-depth textual analysis of excerpts from the primary works; present a critical analysis of the primary material in a well-structured correctly referenced essay in coherent English (or German, where required).

Assessment

One essay – 2500 words (80%) - Due Wednesday of Revision Week.

Presentation (20%)