

DEPARTMENT OF GERMANIC STUDIES

GRC 301: The Biology of “Difference” in 19th Century Germanic Cultures (Unique #TBA) (Freshman course conducted in English)

Instructor: Ann M. Keller-Lally

Semester: Spring, 2004

Class Meetings: TBA

Cross Listings: TBA

****This course contains a substantial writing component which fulfills part of the Basic Education Requirement in writing.****

DESCRIPTION:

During the 19th Century, many changes occurred in science that affected society. Perhaps the most famous are Darwin’s theories, which planted seeds for the development of physical anthropology, Social Darwinism and scientific experimentation to determine biological traits characterizing specific groups. As a result, biological typing became a means for establishing physical “difference” within human populations -- the precursor to today’s racial profiling.

This course is designed to meet three objectives: to introduce students to biological typing in the 19th century with particular attention given to Germanic societies; to develop critical literacy by analyzing how these developments influenced other domains; such as criminology (Lombroso), film (“M”), mental illness (Nordau), and gender and racial repression; and to encourage students to consider the legacy of biological typing and its implications in contemporary society.

Students will have the opportunity to explore a specific topic of interest related to the course content by developing a long paper and will be guided through the research process with systematic instructor and peer feedback.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Course Packet available from ...TBA

ASSIGNMENTS:

Homework Assignments

4 one-page précis (Objective: how to analyze a literary text for approach and content)

Homework exercises to accompany assigned readings and prepare for class discussion

Peer feedback assignments

Paper Proposal outlining topic treatment in the short and long papers (Objective: Ensuring logical progression in a paper topic). Topics must be approved by the instructor prior to submitting the paper proposal. Due in week 5 of the course.

Bibliographic Search (Objective: how to research the plausibility of a topic and correctly cite sources). Due in week 7 of the course.

Short Paper (5-7pp) – First version of the final paper. Due in week 10 of the course.

Long Paper (7-10pp) – Rewritten and expanded version of the short paper. Due at the final class meeting of the semester.

GRADING:

Unit Quizzes (check up on initial readings).....	10%
Class Participation and Homework Assignments.....	20
Short Paper.....	30
Includes Paper Proposal (5%)	
and Bibliographic Search (5%)	
Long Paper.....	40