

ARTS 310.001

Arts & Ideas: The Faust Legend

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Office hours: MW, 4:15-5:00; TR, 1:30-2:30

Mission

Arts and Ideas is an interdisciplinary general education course that stresses the human significance of art, its social role, its foundation in aesthetics, and its importance as a way of interpreting reality. Our objective is for you to be able to do the following by the end of the course:

1. Articulate the value of the arts studied and their impact on the self and others.
2. Recognize cultural, historical, spiritual, and/or political aspects of the arts studied.
3. Define and articulate the concepts, methods, and organizing principles of the arts studied.

This syllabus is subject to revision.

Text

Johann Wolfgang Goethe, *Faust*

Norton Critical Edition, 2nd ed. (Make sure you get this edition; it has lots of helpful features.)

Faust

The legend of Faust is an ancient one, but from the 17th through the 21st centuries this story of humanity's dealings with inhuman powers has become a metaphor for our age. The Faust story has been told in almost every artistic medium during this period: drama, music, fiction, poetry, painting, film and many others. During the semester we will explore the nature of some of these art forms using the Faust legend and its modern significance as a common thread. We will see how the story evolved from rumors about a historical character, to a children's tale and puppet show, to one of the central works in European culture of the last three hundred years. Artists of many kinds have been fascinated with the character of Faust, especially during the 19th and 20th centuries, when it seemed to many that we had made a Faustian bargain with industrialization, technology, material affluence. We will focus on five artistic elements in our exploration of these themes: structure, color, space, and time.

Research Project

Composers and musicians in the 19th and 20th have been especially attracted to the Faust story. Visit this website and you'll see what I mean:

http://www.schubertsocietyusa.org/guest_pages/faust.html

Have a close look at this list and find something that particularly interests you. If it's a well-known composition there will be a lot of scholarly writing about it. If it's relatively new or little-known you may have an opportunity for original research. Write a paper on what you find out over the course of the semester. Talk with me often about what you are doing. After you visit the website above, visit the *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* in the reference section of the library. This is the best place to start your research.

Grading Criteria:

A - Excellent - student work is of a superior quality; shows a highly developed understanding of concepts and ideas and critical linkages; demonstrates advanced skill in written expression of ideas as well as originality and insight.

B - Very Good - student work shows clear understanding of assigned material and an ability to present ideas confidently in a written style that is both concise and refined.

C - Average - student work is an adequate and generally complete treatment of the subject matter. The written style is underdeveloped but sufficient to capture the essence of the assignment.

D - Poor - student work is an incomplete or partly inaccurate explication of ideas and/or writing is encumbered by errors which detract from the presentation of ideas.

F - Unsatisfactory - student work does not fulfill the assignment due to failure to meet deadlines, inadequate explication of ideas and/or major deficiencies in writing style.

Mid-term exam	20%
Final exam	20%
Research project	30%
Participation	30%

Academic honesty: Please see the University statement on academic honesty on p. 36 of the Catalog.

Assignments

The readings below are to be done before each class meeting. Please note that Goethe's *Faust* is not breezy reading that can be done casually. It is a profound work of art that deals with questions of the very essence of our human nature. Please allow yourself plenty of time to read reflectively. If there are weather problems we will follow the snow line: 259-3050.

Monday, 17 August	Introduction
Wednesday, 19 August	Atkins, "Survey of the Faust Theme," pp. 573-585 Film: <i>Doctor Faustus</i> (in class)
Monday, 24 August	Carlyle, "First Notice of <i>Faust</i> in English," pp. 560-563 Film: <i>Doctor Faustus</i> (continued)

Wednesday, 26 August	pp. 346-351; 3-11
Monday, 31 August	pp. 351-363; 12-41
Wednesday, 2 September	pp. 363-368; 42-54
Monday, 7 September	Labor Day
Wednesday, 9 September	pp. 368-372; 55-70
Monday, 14 September	pp. 373-377; 71-89
Wednesday, 16 September	pp. 377-381; 90-109
Monday, 21 September	pp. 381-389; 110-125
Wednesday, 23 September	pp. 389-391; 126-133
Monday, 28 September	Exam on Part I
Wednesday, 30 September	Film: <i>The Soldier's Tale</i> (in class)
Monday, 5 October	pp. 391-400; 135-146
Wednesday, 7 October	pp. 400-407; 147-170
Monday, 12 October	Fall Break
Wednesday, 14 October	pp. 407-415; 171-186 Bennet, "Interrupted Tragedy as a Structural Principle in Faust," pp. 598-611
Monday, 19 October	pp. 415-420; 187-198
Wednesday, 21 October	pp. 420-440; 199-240
Monday, 26 October	pp. 440-444; 241-258
Wednesday, 28 October	pp. 444-453; 259-285
Monday, 2 November	Film: <i>Faust</i> (in class)
Wednesday, 4 November	Film: <i>Faust</i> (continued)
Monday, 9 November	pp. 453-462; 286-294
Wednesday, 11 November	pp. 462-468; 295-312
Monday, 16 November	pp. 468-476; 313-322
Wednesday, 18 November	pp. 476-482; 323-336
Monday, 23 November	pp. 482-491; 337-344
Wednesday, 25 November	Thanksgiving Break
Monday, 30 November	TBA
Wednesday, 2 December	TBA
Monday, 7 December	Final Exam