ATS2093 German Intermediate 1
Library Research & Essay Writing Workshop

Semester 1, May 2018
Anna Rubinowski, Subject Librarian - German Studies
Roslyn Halliday, Learning Skills Adviser - Arts
Contact

Anna Rubinowski
Subject Librarian for German Studies
Anna.Rubinowski@monash.edu

Roslyn Halliday
Learning Skills Adviser for Arts
Roslyn.Halliday@monash.edu
Workshop Overview

- What do you want to work on?
- Getting started
- Develop and refine your essay question
- Research
- Develop and refine your argumentation
- Writing introductions and conclusions
- Essay structure
- Citing and referencing
What do you want to work on?

Online self-assessment

1. Visit [http://mars.mu](http://mars.mu) on your phone, tablet or laptop
2. Log in using your Authcate details
3. Touch the + symbol
4. Enter this code for your unit: L4OZ4C
5. Answer questions when they pop up
Your assignment

Due date: Friday, 18 May, 17:00 – Week 11

Details of task: Written essay on seminar topic

Marking criteria: coherence and sophistication of argument (80%), style (10%), and referencing (10%).

Word limit: 1,000 (English)

Value: 40% of culture component
Typical criteria for marking

High Distinction (80-89%)
A well-written answer demonstrating an excellent understanding of the text and the critical and interpretive issues and debates raised by the question, together with clear evidence of critical analysis and reflection on the texts, some grasp of methodology, a demonstrated capacity for independent thought, and strong and well organised argument supported by evidence from the text. Presentation is of a very good standard (e.g. argumentative coherence, spelling, referencing, and grammar).

Pass (50-59%)
A solid answer which shows a satisfactory grasp of the main issues, some faults in expression, minor errors and omissions of essential material. Overall, the essay is focused on description with scant evidence of critical analysis or reflection. Critical sources are cited with little attempt at independent judgement. Guidelines for presentation (e.g. argumentative coherence, spelling, referencing, and grammar) have been met at a basic level.
Develop and refine your essay topic and question
The process of developing an essay question

What interests you?

Preliminary research

Refine topic/question

Further research

Refine topic/question
Developing your essay question

- Choose a text and topic that is **interesting** to you.
- Make sure your topic is **manageable** in size.
- Your essay topic should preferably be phrased as a clearly defined **question**, rather than a statement.
Finding a topic

Choose one of the works you’ve studied in class.

Then, think about what you want to explore in relation to that work.

- Consider class discussions - themes, issues, debates that came up in relation to the text
- Can also reflect on presentation topics - might give you ideas as a starting point
Finding a topic

What techniques can you use to help you narrow your topic?

- Mindmaps
- Bullet points
- Record yourself
- Free-writing
- Other ideas??
Finding a topic

Research the secondary literature

➢ What are the key issues, debates, concerns?

NB You’re aiming for a topic that will help you engage with:
• Critical and interpretive issues and debates
• Critical analysis and reflection on the texts
• Methodology

So your topic has to come out of some preliminary research – you need to know what these are!
Finding a topic

Ask yourself: What sort of question do I want to answer?

- Do you want to do a comparison?
- Do you prefer a close reading of the text?
- Are you interested in the genre of writing?
- Do you want a contentious statement that you can explore?
- Do you like responding to a quote?
Research
German Studies: ATS2093 - The First World War in German Literature

Research

German Literature and Culture in the early 20th century

A concise History of Germany by Mary Fulbrook
Call Number: Clayton - Matheson Call no 943 F69C 2014
ISBN: 978051194631
Publication Date: 2014
also available as eBook

Deutsche Literaturgeschichte: Von den Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart by Wolfgang Baer
ISBN: 9783476065138
Publication Date: 2013
available as eBook

Avantgarde und Moderne 1890-1953 by Walter Fabinters
Call Number: Clayton - Matheson Call no 839.050912 F167a 2010
ISBN: 9783476062312
Publication Date: 2010

Ordnungen in der Kriege: zur politischen Kulturgeschichte Deutschlands 1919-1953 by Wolfgang Hardt
Call Number: Clayton - Matheson Call no 943.085 H266 D 2007
ISBN: 9783466501775

Resources

Search

Advanced search | Sign In | A-Z ejournals | Databases

- Google Scholar
Google Scholar uses the familiar Google search engine to search peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, abstracts and articles, from academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories, universities and other scholarly organizations.

- MLA international bibliography
Indexes current materials on literature, languages, linguistics, and folklore. Provides access to citations from worldwide publications, including periodicals, books, essay collections, working papers, proceedings, dissertations and bibliographies.

- JSTOR: the scholarly journal archive.
Intended as a comprehensive archive of important scholarly journal literature, built by over 1,700 worldwide participants, including major Australian universities. Coverage includes: the arts, sciences, business, ecology and botany, language and literature, and music, extending from 17th-century to some cases.

- Arts & Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI)
Arts & Humanities Citation Index is a multidisciplinary index to the journal literature of the arts and humanities. It fully covers 1,160 of the world's leading arts and humanities journals. It also indexes individually selected, relevant items from over 6,800 major social and science journals.

http://guides.lib.monash.edu/german-studies/ATS2093
Search tips

TRUNCATION
Use the asterisk at the end of part of a word to find word variations
*relig* finds religion, religious, etc...

AND
Join words using AND to find resources with BOTH search terms
Schwitters AND relig*

PHRASE SEARCH
Use double quotation marks to find phrases
"World War"
"religiöse Motive"

OR
Join words using OR to find resources with EITHER OR BOTH search terms
writer OR poet
Identify search terms

**keywords**
- war (Krieg)
- religion (Religion)
- expressionism (Expressionismus)
- metaphor (Metapher)
- dadaism (Dadaismus)
- poems (Gedichte)

**context**
- early 20th century
- German literature
- World War I

**literature**
- Remarque
- Brecht

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Find secondary sources

Combine search terms with:

AND
[both concepts together]
expressionism AND war

OR
[either of the concepts]
soldier OR warrior

NOT
[excludes concept]
poetry NOT prose
### Find secondary sources

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Find secondary sources

- Use the primary literary texts you have chosen (author name, title)

- Use the keywords from the question and your brainstorming (try to find synonyms or related terms)

- Use reference lists from your readings, recommendations, encyclopaedias, and other suitable articles you find
Refine your Essay Topic

Make sure your topic is manageable in size.

- 1000 word limit

- Narrow the focus of your topic so that you can say something meaningful in 1000 words

- How has our sample topic been narrowed?

  **Text:** *Der Tod in Venedig*

  **Essay Question:** *Der Tod in Venedig* includes a lot of imagery and reference to Greek mythology. What were the Greek understandings of the concept of love and how are these alluded to in the novella?
Refine your Essay Topic

Your essay topic should preferably be phrased as a clearly defined question, rather than a statement.

- Descriptive vs Analytical Questions

- Direction words:
  - What, where, who, when vs. How and Why

**Essay Question:** Religious motives and complex metaphor can be found in all poems on the subject of war. What is their function?
Your essay questions
Essay structure:
Structure and argumentation
Essay structure

For a 1,000 word essay, you should aim for (approximately):

- **Introductory paragraph**
  - 10% 
  - 100 words

- **Body**
  - 80% 
  - 800 words
  - Note: There is no set number of paragraphs per essay!

- **Concluding paragraph**
  - 10% 
  - 100 words
Argumentation

Criteria: “strong and well organised argument supported by evidence from the text”

An argument:

- States a position
- Gives reasons backed with evidence as support
- Considers the opposing arguments

- Answers your question!
Questions to ask yourself

- What is the question actually asking you?
- What are the key reasons for your position?
- What evidence do you have to support your argument?
- Does any specific scholarship help you articulate your point? Why or why not?
- What theoretical ideas inform your argument? Explain.
- What are the objections to your argument?
Essay structure – planning out your argument

First draft – often descriptive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Religious motives and complex metaphor can be found in all poems on the subject of war. What is their function?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Complex metaphors and religious motivations are common to all German war poetry, but the function differs depending on the context of the author and their relationship to different artistic movements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Point 1 Georg Trakl – metaphor and religion</td>
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<td>Point 2 August Stramm – metaphor and religion</td>
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<td>Point 3 Kurt Schwitters – metaphor and religion</td>
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<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>The German poetry of WWI was largely shaped by the development of expressionism pre war. One of the main stylistic components of this was the use of complex and absolute metaphors, stripping away the existing structures and leaving the word as art, rather than poet based. Thus the authors could put into words the immediacy and violence of their experience while not glorifying it. Religious motives in this case, were often used to emphasise suffering and death, and its inevitability.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Question | Religious motives and complex metaphor can be found in all poems on the subject of war. What is their function?
---|---
Introduction | Complex metaphors in the German poetry of World War I are intricately tied to the way in which we understand the war’s impact on the development of Expressionism. The function of complex metaphor is dependent on whether we interpret the this style was representing the Expressionists rejection of existing social and political structures, or whether it was developed through the poets’ experience of war and trauma. In this essay I argue that the violence of the war, combined with the nationalistic tendencies of Futurism, accentuated a pre-existing tendency towards using complex metaphor as a means to express the individual violence of war, but inherent in this is a critique the futility and chaos of society. In this way it was possible to incorporate, but also reinvent religious motives to fit both the anarchy of war and the rejection of established faith.
Point 1 | Expressionism pre-war and the main characteristics of style, as well as the aims of the movement: Trakl and Stramm. The role of metaphor in here.
Point 2 | Reading the poetry in the context of war and individual – Stramm and the loss of poet’s perspective. The extreme neologism of ‘battlefield.’ What this means for changes to Expressionism.
Point 3 | Fusion with the cosmos and the rejection of Order, two strands that come out – Stramm, Trakl both show the fusion with cosmos, but also from Stramm and co, Schwitters ‘imitations/parodies’ of Stramm.
Conclusion | Religious metaphor in the poetry of Trakl and Stramm was far from the bucolic recollection of a halcyon past found in English war poetry. Instead it was a tool to take the memory of social and cultural structures of earlier German society and provide an unnerving, exposed exploration of trauma. I have argued that despite the fact the literature argues that these two things were separate, the mixing of personal war trauma and the criticism of comfortable, bourgeois society through expressionism allowed for a new form of both poetry and approach to society to develop. Religious motives were there to affectively move the reader, but towards profound despair and futility. This enabled the violence inherent in the materiality and grammatical fracturing of Schwitters’ Anna Bloom to develop in a physical break down of society, whilst retaining the depth of emotion represented in religious metaphysics from the Romantic tradition. The dynamic tension provided by both being present in the poetry drove the fluidity and compelling nature of Expressionism in the early twentieth century.
Introduction

The problem you are addressing

*broad question or issue with some context*

Your main contention

*your answer to the problem*

How are you going to do it

*case study*
Essay writing

Examples
Essay writing

Conclusion

Restate
Rearticulate
Ruminate
Essay writing

Examples
Common issues in essay writing

- Paragraphs that are too long/short.
- ‘Upside down’ paragraphs: the topic sentence is at the end.
- No evidence to support points; no specific examples.
- Avoiding the topic.
- No logical sequence.
Editing and proofreading
Citing and referencing
Citing and referencing

Citing and referencing: MLA 8th

Modern Language Association (MLA) Style Guide

The MLA system uses in-text citations rather than footnotes or endnotes. The citations in-text are very brief, usually just the author’s family name and a relevant page number. These citations correspond to the full references in the list of works cited at the end of the document.

Instructions and examples in this MLA guide are based on more detailed information in:
Also refer to the MLA Style Center.

In-text citations - general points

- If the author’s name is mentioned in the sentence, only cite the page number.
- If the author’s name is not mentioned in the sentence, cite both the name and the page number.
- Font and capitalisation must match that in the reference list.
- Long quotations (more than four lines) should be indented.
- If you are citing more than one reference at the same point in a document, separate the references with a semicolon e.g. (Smith 150; Jackson 41).
- If the work has no author, use the title.
- If you are citing two works by the same author, put a comma after the author’s name and add title words e.g. (Smyth, “Memories of Motherhood” 77) to distinguish between them in the in-text citation. Do this when citing each of the sources throughout the piece of writing.
- If two authors have the same surname, use their first initial e.g. (G. Brown 26).
Editing and proofreading your work

Editing involves **improving the 'big picture'** of your assignment: whether it addresses the task requirements fully, how the paragraphs are structured and flow and so on.

Proofreading **focuses on specific details** like spelling, sentence structure, referencing etc.
Need more help?
Visit Research and Learning Online

**Essay and Assignment Writing:**
http://www.monash.edu/rlo/research-writing-assignments

**Editing and Proofreading:**
https://www.monash.edu/rlo/research-writing-assignments/writing/editing-and-proofreading/editing-and-proofreading
Need more help?

Research & Learning Point @ Matheson Library
10-15 minute consultation with a learning skills adviser and/or librarian, open to all students

Weeks 3-11
Monday to Thursday 12pm-6pm
Friday 12pm-4pm

Week 12 & Swot Vac
Monday to Friday 12pm-4pm
German Studies
Library Drop-in sessions
Matheson Library T1

(ask at the Information Point if you don't know how to find the room).

Drop by if you have any questions or issues with your assignment for German Studies. We can help with research, finding and expressing your argument, essay structure, writing introduction and conclusion, citing and referencing, and anything else in regards to your assignment - with the exception of proofreading ;)

**Week 11** Wednesday, 16 May: 11.30am-12.30pm
**Week 12** Tuesday, 22 May: 2-3pm
Before we finish

Post-class survey
Contact

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Subject Librarian for German Studies
Anna.Rubinowski@monash.edu

Roslyn Halliday
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