



AHS COURSE CAPSTONE IN GERMAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Allison Weis

CONCENTRATION AND CAPSTONE

- 200 level German at Wellesley College
 - Grammar instruction
 - Speaking practice
 - Reading: *Pünktchen und Anton*
- Seminar Course: Goethe
 - Goethe's Life
 - *Die Leiden des Jungen Werthers*
 - *Iphigenie Auf Tauris*
 - *Die Wahlverwandtschaften*
 - *Faust*
 - Goethe's Poetry



GOETHE: GERMANY'S SHAKESPEARE

1749-1832

Originally trained in law at the behest of his middle class father, delayed the traditional educational trip to Italy and accepted a position with Prince Carl August in Weimar.

Over the course of his life he wrote some of the most studied and quoted works of German literature.

“Das also war des Pudels Kern”

“Wie hältst du’s mit der Religion?”

A NEW AGE OF POETRY

Cover your heavens
with clouds and vapors, Zeus
and, like the boy who lops off
heads of thistles,
try your hand on oaks
and mountaintops.

But you can't touch my earth,
my cabin that you did not build,
my hearth whose glow you watch
with envy.

There's none more pitiful than you, Gods!
The breath of our prayers
is your paltry nourishment,
our meager altar gifts sustain
your dreams of majesty.
You'd starve
but for the foolish hopes
of children and beggars.

When I was a child and didn't know
which way to turn,
I raised my eyes bewildered to the sky
as though beyond it were an ear
to listen to my sorrows,
a heart like mine
to pity my distress.

Who stood with me against the Titans'
wantonness,
who rescued me from death,
from slavery?
Was it not you, my own, my glowing heart
that did all this?

And, cheated, in your youthful goodness
gave glowing thanks to him
who nods up there?

And I should worship thee? What for?
Have you ever
lightened my pain when I was anguished?
Ever
stilled the tears
when I was frightened?
Was it not almighty time
and eternal fate,
my masters as well as yours,
who forged me into manhood?

Did you, by chance, suppose
that I should hate life,
flee into deserts,
just because
not all my fancy dreams
had come to pass?

I sit here, shaping men and women
in my image,
a race destined, like I,
to suffer and to cry,
to savor joy, to laugh,
and disregard you
as I did.

Prometheus

THE SORROWS OF YOUNG WERTHER

- ◉ *Sturm und Drang* “Storm and Stress”
- ◉ New *Natur Begriff*
- ◉ New style: Personal letters
- ◉ Popularity and Trend



KLASSISCHE EPOCHE



Goethe in *Iphigenie auf Tauris*

- ◉ Goethe's *Italienische Reise* - 1786-1788
- ◉ *Iphigenie auf Tauris*
- ◉ *Romanische Elegien*:

*Saget, Steine, mir an, o sprecht, ihr hohen
Paläst Straßen redet ein Wort! Genius, regst du dich nicht?
Ja es ist alles beseelt in deinen heiligen Mauern,
Ewige Roma; nur mir schweiget noch alles so still.*

Tell me you stones, O speak, you towering palaces!
Streets, say a word! Spirit of this place, are you dumb?
All things are alive in your sacred walls
Eternal Rome, it's only for me all is still.

FAUST

- ◉ *Ein Mischmasch* of styles
- ◉ Traditional German Story with a post-enlightenment twist

