

NEW COURSE OFFERING
School of Humanities, MFL
Spring Semester 2007



Crime and the Criminal
German 350 – Professor Hammond (hammond@utm.edu)

Prevailing views of what constitutes criminal behavior in the eyes of a given society are derived from any number of sources, including (but not limited to) economic conditions, class, race, gender, age and the immediate political aims of the ruling class. These considerations, in turn, often reveal complex tensions within human groups that exist just beneath the surface. It is perhaps for this reason that criminal figures loom large in world literature, and German literature is no exception. In this course, students will examine fictional works by such writers as Friedrich Schiller, Heinrich von Kleist, Gerhart Hauptmann and Patrick Süskind. Consider Schiller's protagonist: a Robin Hood who steals from the rich and gives to the poor, but whose band kills and rapes as well; or Hauptmann's Thiel, who kills his second wife after catching her abusing his young son; Süskind's criminal is a young man with an extraordinary sense of smell who turns to serial murder in order to assemble the ingredients for the perfect perfume. Students will examine these and other works of both fiction and theory in order to better understand the role of crime from both a literary as well as sociological perspective.

This course will be taught **in English**, and the literary works will be **in English translation** (Prerequisite: ENGL 111-112). Advanced students of German will examine excerpts of the works in the original German. Class will meet Tuesday and Thursday from 2 – 3:15.