

Preparation for GE1, academic year 2024-25

There are six topics on GE1. Students attend lectures on all six and have supervisions (that is, write essays and receive feedback) on four. You should aim to develop a working knowledge of the material for all six, and a more detailed understanding of your chosen four.

Michaelmas Term (October – December)

In Michaelmas Term, there will be lectures on the following topics: History, Literature C (*Die Verwandlung* and *Auf der anderen Seite*), Literature B (*Faust. Erster Teil*), Thought (*Das Kommunistische Manifest* and *Jenseits von Gut und Böse*) and Literature A (Gryphius and Greiffenberg).

Some preparation before you come to Cambridge will help you to manage your time in the first term. We recommend that, before you arrive, you make yourself familiar with as many as possible of the literary and philosophical texts that will be covered in Michaelmas Term. Look up words that you don't know, and jot down any thoughts that you have while reading. You will then be in a good position to make the most of the lectures and supervisions, which are designed to fill in the background and to support you in developing your interpretations.

There are no prescribed editions of the various texts, but we recommend the following resources:

- *Die Verwandlung* can be purchased cheaply in the Reclam edition.
- *Auf der anderen Seite* can be purchased in DVD format, or viewed via streaming sites such as Amazon Prime and Mubi.
- *Faust. Erster Teil* is available cheaply in the Reclam edition (Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Faust. Erster Teil. Textausgabe mit Kommentar und Materialien*, ed. by Wolf Dieter Hellberg (Reclam XL – Text und Kontext: Reclam 2021).
- You can find *Das Kommunistische Manifest* here:

<https://www.marxists.org/deutsch/archiv/marx-engels/1848/manifest/index.htm>

and *Jenseits von Gut und Böse* here:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/7204/pg7204.html>

We recommend that, if you choose Thought as one of your topics for further study and supervision, you obtain a physical copy of the texts (either by buying a cheap edition of each or by borrowing them from the library), but you don't necessarily need to have decided this before you arrive.

- The poems by Gryphius and Greiffenberg are on our website:

https://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/sites/www.mml.cam.ac.uk/files/appendix_a_-_poems_by_greiffenberg_and_gryphius.pdf

- Once you have your password for Raven (an online system internal to Cambridge), you will have access to the resources for the History topic, so you can expect to read those when you are here. There is no need to buy these books unless you wish to: the relevant material is available to you electronically, and you can use the libraries to top up your learning.

Lent Term (January – March)

In Lent Term, there will be lectures on Literature B (*Die Judenbuche*), Linguistics, and Literature A (*Herzog Ernst*). You are strongly advised to do your preparatory reading over the Christmas vacation.

- We recommend that you buy a copy of *Die Judenbuche*, which is available cheaply in the Reclam edition.
- There is no need to make any additional purchases for Linguistics: all the relevant material will be available to you online.
- *Herzog Ernst* is available cheaply in Reclam (*Herzog Ernst, Mittelhochdeutsch/Neuhochdeutsch*, ed. Mathias Herweg (Reclam, 2019) [you do not need to read the part titled 'Herzog Adelger' on pp. 454-485.]

The following translation is available online: Murdoch, Brian, trans. *Three political tales from medieval Germany: Duke Ernst, Henry of Kempten, Reynard the fox* (Camden House, 2024), "Duke Ernst", pp. 1-94 <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/three-political-tales-from-medieval-germany/32BD35F0A50A4C033EF69142948FCA66>