How many Nobel Prize writers do you know?

Find out: Take GERM 4900  German Nobel Prize Stories

Nobel Prize German writers include: Hermann Hesse, Thomas Mann, Nelly Sachs, Heinrich Böll, Günter Grass, Elfriede Jelinek, Herta Müller

Why read Nobel Prize winners?
What contributions did they make to world literature and culture? These writers offer a critical, moral and humanistic perspective on contemporary Germany and its role in the international arena and at the same time they demonstrate what it means to be human in a global community. Some maintain, these writers will be remembered around the world with respect and gratitude.

This course is intended for students with intermediate to advanced German skills. We read representative short stories or portions of novels that reveal the artistry, topics and cultural perspectives presented by German language writers. We also view some of the films based on their representative novels. Our readings will acquaint us with the lives and experiences of the writers and with their short stories and novels. These writers portray the deep humanity of characters as they cope with cultural and social problems in Europe. We will also examine the films in order to delve deeper into the world and characters the stories describe. As a class we will develop theories not only about celebrated writers but also our own aesthetics of how we choose authors and stories to read and films to watch. The learning goal is to develop our analytical abilities while coming to know these important literary figures and their works.