GERMAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO WORLD LITERATURE: KAFKA’S UNCANNY ANIMALS

All kinds of strange creatures populate Kafka’s narratives: not just humans, and not just recognizable animals, but beings that are difficult to categorize: animate, inanimate, natural, artificial, and hybrids of all sorts. To complicate things further, all of these beings are in constant movement, often revealing themselves to be different from what they initially were taken to be. But what they all have in common is a very special and difficult-to-define relationship to the narrative in and through which they appear. This course seeks to focus specifically on the relation between the narrative and the “animals” and quasi-animals that are often its subject. Ultimately it seeks to pose the question of the role of the reader and of reading in relating to what seems both irreducibly strange and yet uncannily familiar - what we call “animals”.

Professor Weber
MW 11:00-12:20pm
Distro Area VI

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