

**KAFKA IN TRANSLATION
SYLLABUS**

I - Kafka's World

“A Little Fable”
“Departure”
Film: “Der Golem”

II - A Son of Saturn: Birth of the Kafkaesque

“The Judgement”
“Letter to his Father”
Diary entry
Gunter Anders: Theory of the Kafkaesque

III - The Metamorphosis

(“Poseidon”, Diary entry)
Ovid etc - Metamorphoses
Freud: Theory of the Subconscious/ Hegel/Marx: Alienation and Identity

IV The Trial

(“On the Question of the Laws”; “Leopards in the Temple”; “Give it Up”)
Elias Canetti: *The Other Trial*;
“Rejection”; “Silence of the Sirens”; “A Married Couple”
Spiegel - Sacrifice and Akedah
Interpreting the Trial (Dostoyevsky)
Alterity on Trial: Dreyfus, Oscar Wilde
Film “The Trial” (Orson Welles, Kanopy)

V - Benjamin on Kafka

“Franz Kafka”: “Idea for a Mystery”;
“Josephine the Singer, or the Mouse-Folk”

VI In the Penal Colony/Report to an Academy

(“In the Gallery”; “The Bucket Rider”)
Fanon/Memmi/Cesaire - Theories of Colonialism (and of the Colonized)
Jewish Messianism and Eschatology
Dreyfus, Uncle Lowy, Congo/ etc.

VII Amerika (excerpts)

The Nature Theater of Oklahoma
“The Wish to become a Red Indian”

VIII - “The Hunger Artist”

Rilke: “Der Panther”; “An old Manuscript”

IX - Parables and Paradoxes - Kafka's shorter prose: "The Imperial Message"; "The Next Village"; "On Parables"

TEXTS (English): Franz Kafka, *The Complete Stories*. Franz Kafka, *The Trial*. Elias Canetti, *The Other Trial*.

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

Two papers (ca 6-8 pages each)	50%
takehome final exam	40%
participation	10%

CONTACT

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POLITIQUE DE LANGUE/SPRACHPOLITIK

The language of instruction this course is English. Written work may be submitted in English, French, or German.

Tous les travaux écrits pour ce cours peuvent aussi être rédigés en français.

Sie dürfen alle schriftlichen Arbeiten in diesem Kurs auch in deutscher Sprache verfassen.

LEGAL STUFF (but important)

Language of Submission:

"Students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded."

"Chaque étudiant(e) a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté ».

Academic Integrity:

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures" (see [McGill's guide to academic honesty](#) for more information).