

Final Paper Prompt – C Lit/GRMN 35 – Winter 2018

DUE DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 20th, 2018, 11:59pm, via Gauchospace (.doc/.docx or .pdf format only!)

Please select one of the following four prompts and write an essay of about **1,800 words** on the topic. Submit completed essays to the appropriate TA's Gauchospace folder. When writing, use the selected prompt as the title of your essay, and be sure to use some kind of thesis argument to set up your essay. For all of the prompts, please make sure that you are **referring to at least two (better more) literary texts** from our reading list. When using direct quotes from the texts, please indicate the page number where your quote is taken from – and be sure that you are reproducing the quotes correctly; be strictly reliable also in the spelling of names, locations, terms etc. Finally: you should subdivide your paper in about three or four different sections, in order to establish progress of argumentation and logical consistency.

PROMPTS

Prompt 1. *The role of nature and the natural*

How, and by which means is *nature* described in the village chronicles we have discussed in the lecture class? Give examples of specific natural phenomena in several texts, and explain how these contribute to the related plot and its semantic structure.

Prompt 2. *Gender relations in the village chronicle*

How are female and male protagonists described in the texts? And how are they (inter)-related to each other? Are there significant gender-specific differences concerning the characters, attitudes and actions of the figures introduced in the village chronicles, and what might be their significance?

Prompt 3. *Narrative frame and embedded story*

As most of our village chronicles are novellas, they show a genre-specific structure of frame and embedded story. Explain for at least two different cases, *how frame and embedded story are related to each other* (in terms of the chronology of time, reference of space, levels of narrators, etc.) and how this relates to the stories as a whole.

Prompt 4. *Tradition and modernity*

Keller's *Seldwyla*, Auerbach's *Nordstetten*, Stifter's *Oberplan* and Hardy's *Vale of Blackmoor* are places determined mostly by regional limits, traditional customs and morals. Give some examples of this traditional orientation of the village populations shown in our texts. And look, on the other hand, for signals referring to the impact of modernity, concerning infrastructure, trade and economy, social mobility and migration, and also on the level of how the protagonists deal with the options and challenges for their own lives.