GER 625
Borne Beyond: Tradition and the Translation into the Modern

The English word translate comes from Latin trāns "across, beyond" + lātus, "carried, borne," etymologically meaning "to be borne across or beyond." Whereas the German word übersetzen comes from proto-Germanic 'to settle over.' This seminar will focus on how ancient and medieval narrative traditions are carried across the rim of the modern and how they settle over different cultural and linguistic boundaries often becoming misappropriated or ab-used by contemporary authors. We will particularly look at how primeval history, mythology, and oral legend are reimagined in a secular, ossified, literary manifestation. Authors to be read and discussed include Goethe, Shiller, Leopold Kompert, August Frankl, Franz Kafka, and Sigmund Freud. All of these writers change the trajectory of narrative in their wake, but all have a deep and intimate relationship with past traditions.

CRN 3611    MONDAYS 5:00PM - 7:50PM    SPRING 2015    361 PLC    GANTT GURLEY