GER 356, Spring 2012
04 Credits, CRN 36615
T/R 12-13:20, 117 Fenton Hall
Professor Dorothee Ostmeier

The German Fairy Tale: Tensions Between Fantasy and Reality

Crossing cultural and genre boundaries, fairy tales have always been vibrant sources for exploration of controversial issues: for example, questions of class and gender struggles, child abuse, civil rights, issues of identity, and utopias. We will study the cross-cultural connections between various versions of popular and literary fantasy tales, their structures, and revisions in contemporary texts and media. These might include: The Grimms’ fairy tales, Stephen Sondheim’s Into the Woods, Disney’s Enchanted and Ever After, and tales by Ludwig Tieck, ETA Hoffmann, Franz Kafka, Michael Ende, and Francesca Lea Block.

Students will complete analytical and creative assignments.