Mermaids, nymphs, undines and gorgons penetrate the history of mythology, folklore, literature, music and art. These figures represent the tensions between sexes, between the longing for and loss of transcendence, between fantasy and reality, nature and culture. Our discussions will focus on poetic texts and intertexts from the 16th to the 20th centuries, including texts by Paracelsus, Goethe, Eichendorff, Heine, Fouque, Keller, Kafka, Schwitters, Bachmann, Sachs.

Class will be conducted in German.