

# UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

*University of London*

## EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

*For the following qualifications :-*

*B.A.*

### **German C341: German Fiction and German History**

COURSE CODE : **GERMC341**

UNIT VALUE : **0.50**

DATE : **30-APR-02**

TIME : **14.30**

TIME ALLOWED : **2 hours**

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**TURN OVER**

GERMC341

GERMAN FICTION AND GERMAN HISTORY  
(The novels of Grimmelshausen)

Time allowed: TWO hours.

Answer TWO questions.

All questions carry equal marks.

Do not use the same material as the basis for more than one answer.

Do not answer on substantially the same topic as that of your assessed essay for this course.

1. EITHER (a) 'Although Grimmelshausen's novels are fictions, they address themselves to the reader as deeply felt meditations on the German history of their time.' Discuss with reference to AT LEAST TWO of Grimmelshausen's novels.
- OR (b) 'Grimmelshausen's first-person narrators present their life stories not as sequences of isolated events, but as exemplary histories.' Discuss with reference to AT LEAST TWO of Grimmelshausen's novels.
- OR (c) 'The Thirty Years War figures in Grimmelshausen's novels as an instance of collective human folly.' Discuss with reference to AT LEAST TWO of Grimmelshausen's novels.
2. EITHER (a) The title page of Grimmelshausen's *Simplicissimus* makes the claim that the novel is 'überaus lustig und männiglich nutzlich zu lesen'. To what extent is this claim justified?
- OR (b) 'The narrating self in Grimmelshausen's *Simplicissimus* satirizes the narrated self relentlessly.' Discuss.
- OR (c) 'It is because they use spiritual language to describe the secular world that the hermit figures in Grimmelshausen's *Simplicissimus* can claim to offer an authoritative account of it.' Discuss.

TURN OVER

3. EITHER (a) 'Grimmelshausen's *Courasche* becomes a hardened sinner not because she has any particular propensity to evil, but because she lives in a society brutalized by war.' Discuss.
- OR (b) 'The comedy in Grimmelshausen's *Courasche* derives from the fact that the heroine is constantly placed in situations which oblige her to transgress the norms of behaviour thought proper to women in her time.' Discuss.
- OR (c) 'Grimmelshausen's *Courasche* dramatically reverses the narrative perspective of his *Simplicissimus* by presenting the reader with an unashamedly worldly and unchristian confession.' Discuss.
4. EITHER (a) 'Simplicissimus hopes that, by persuading Springinsfeld to tell his life story, he will induce him to repent, but he is brutally disappointed.' Discuss.
- OR (b) 'The fact that *Courasche* and Springinsfeld are not simply characters in *Simplicissimus*, but narrators and interpreters of their own lives, means that *Simplicissimus*'s view of them is challenged and relativized.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER