

Department of German Studies

Courses - Spring 2023

GRMNO110 Intensive Beginning German

An intensive, double-credit language course that meets five days a week for 9 hours and focuses on speaking, listening, reading and writing skills and the cultures of the German-speaking countries. At the end of the semester, students will be able to communicate successfully about everyday topics relating to the university, jobs, daily life and traveling. Ideal for undergraduate students interested in learning German for study abroad or for concentration requirements and for graduate students interested in starting their foreign language requirements. The course is designed for new students of German, regardless of any previous experience with German.

Jonathan Fine *S01* *MWF 1-1:50; MWF 2-2:50*

Brehan Brady *C01* *TuTh 9-10:20*

Elsa Lehrer *C02* *TuTh 1-2:20*

GRMNO200 Beginning German

A course in the language and cultures of German-speaking countries. Four hours per week plus regular computer and listening comprehension work. At the end of the year, students will be able to communicate about everyday topics and participate in the annual film festival. This is the second half of a year-long course. Students must have taken GRMN0100 to receive credit for this course. The final grade for this course will become the final grade for GRMN0100.

Michael Paninski *S01* *MWF 9-9:50, Tu 12-12:50*

Christian Obst *S02* *MWF 12-12:50, Tu 12-12:50*

GRMNO400 Intermediate German II

An intermediate German course that stresses improvement of the four language skills. Students read short stories and a novel; screen one film; maintain a blog in German. Topics include German art, history, and literature. Frequent writing assignments. Grammar review as needed. Four hours per week. Recommended prerequisite: GRMN0300. WRIT

Jonathan Fine *S01* *MWF 10-10:50, Th 12-12:50*

Ethan Lusky *S02* *MWF 1-1:50, Th 12-12:50*

GRMNO600B Was ist Deutsch?

In this course we will examine some of the ideas and myths that became entangled with the emerging notion of a "German" identity in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Some of the terms that we will discuss include 'Kultur,' 'Bildung,' 'Freiheit' and 'Gesellschaft,' all of which have rich semantic histories. **Conducted in German.** WRIT.

Thomas Kniesche *S01* *MWF 10-10:50*

GRMN1000B Intro to German Critical Thought - Part II

This course is intended for all Brown students eager to engage in complex pleasure by familiarizing themselves with some of the greatest modern German thinkers and the abiding questions they bring into sharp relief. We will focus on issues of being in the world and the prospect of death; art and politics; language and representation; the relation of capitalism and fascism; and the ambivalent role of technology. Authors to be studied include Heidegger, Bloch, Benjamin, Adorno, Horkheimer, Marcuse, and Arendt. When appropriate, we will also ask our German thinkers to speak a little French, as it were, by discovering connections to certain developments in contemporary French thought (Derrida and others). It is not necessary to have taken "Introduction to German Critical Thought I (Kant to Freud)" to enjoy, and benefit from, this course. **In English.** Students from diverse fields welcome.

Gerhard Richter 501 TuTh 10:30-11:50

GRMN1441L German Drama (1776-1941)

In Georg Büchner's *Woyzeck*, the eponymous character at one point says: "Every human is an abyss; one feels vertiginous when looking below." In this course, we will explore the ways in which the theatrical stage gives us a wide range of outlooks and perspectives on this abyss, and how German drama has cast its characters over the centuries. To that end, we will be reading a selection of German dramatic literature (some more "canonical" plays, and others that are less so) ranging from the eighteenth through the first half of the twentieth century. There will be a focus on close reading and on exploring the language of each text, but attention will also be given to their historical context. Plays by Goethe, Schiller, Lenz, Kleist, Büchner, Else Lasker-Schüler, and Brecht. All readings, class discussions and exercises will be **in German**; GRMN0500 or the equivalent is recommended as a prerequisite.

Christian Obst 501 TuTh 2:30-3:50

GRMN1662A/COLT1610V The Promise of Being: Heidegger for

Beginners

"The most thought-provoking thing in our thought-provoking time is," Martin Heidegger writes, "that we are still not thinking." Our undergraduate seminar will study, slowly and carefully, some of Heidegger's most fascinating and challenging paths of thinking, especially as they relate to questions of Being and our being-in-the-world. We will encounter his unique engagements with art and literature, his critique of modern technology, his reflections on what it means to "dwell" somewhere, his views on finitude and death, and his notion of being "on the way" toward language. No previous familiarity with Heidegger is assumed; curious students from diverse fields welcome. **In English.** Interested students must register for COLT1610.

Gerhard Richter 501 TuTh 1-2:20

GRMN1900Q Contemporary Crime Fiction

A "Krimi" in German can refer to a crime story in a multitude of media. This course will look at contemporary German, Austrian and Swiss "Krimis" as novels, TV-series and movies. After a brief overview of crime fiction in German speaking countries, we will examine what is being written, read, and watched today. Readings will include novels by Andrea Maria Schenkel, Christine Lehmann, Uta-Maria Heim, Wolf Haas, and Simone Buchholz, among others. We will also analyze several episodes of *Tatort* and other German TV crime series. **In German.**

Thomas Kniesche 501 MWF 11-11:50

GRMN2662L *Thinking Unrest: German Idealism and the Traces of*

History

Before the turbulence of our moment, “unrest” arguably emerged as *the* major premise for Hegel, Hölderlin, and Schelling. For all the systematic tendencies that their writings may display, it is from longing that Schelling would deduce the “ages of the world”; anxiety marks Hölderlin’s more philosophical writings on “becoming in decline” as well as his poetic production; and “unrest” not only describes the initial appearance of life in Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit*, but also does not cease to affect it, even when restless transitions from emergence to perishing seem to be held in conceptual grasp. In this course, we will read Hegel, Hölderlin, and Schelling, attending to the ways in which their more pronounced aims to grasp the tensions between mind and world are persistently motivated, accompanied, and ultimately unsettled by a commitment to reading the troubling traces of history.

Kristina Mendicino 501 W 3-5:30

GRMN2662M *...Reading—Lesen...*

The meaning of *reading* oscillates between advice (*Rat*) and guess (*Raten*), as if not only every text to be read were considered a *riddle*, but the question of reading as well. This seminar will deal with the *riddle of reading* in more than one language. It unfolds around seven scenes: an episode in St. Augustine’s *Confessions*; the *Praying Mantis* in Fabre, Blanchot, and Celan; a conflict of interpretation between Staiger and Heidegger (around a poem by Mörike); reading in Rousseau’s *Essay On the Origin of Languages* (interpreted by Derrida, de Man, and Frey); two versions of reading in La Fontaine and Hebel; the encapsulation of Poe’s *Man of the Crowd* into a poem by Baudelaire; and reading as rumination in Nietzsche and Rosenfeld.

Thomas Schestag 501 Tu 4-6:20

COURSES IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS THAT MAY COUNT TOWARDS CONCENTRATION

COLT 1610V/GRMN1662A The Promise of Being: Heidegger for Beginners

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Gerhard Richter

COLT 1813Q Literature and Judgement

There exists a close but complex relationship between the acts of making literature and making judgments. This course will explore some of these relationships and ask, for instance: how does judgment weigh upon the literary act? how do literary considerations bear on our making judgments? what criteria are called forth in both of these moments? Texts treated will be literary, critical-analytical, legal, and cinematic, and include such authors as Arendt, Benjamin, Derrida, Freud, Henry James, Kafka, Kant, Primo Levi, Nietzsche, Tolstoy and Verga.

Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg

JUDS 1614 Heidegger, the Jews, and the Crisis of Liberalism

This class explores the enduring legacy of Heidegger’s critique of Western philosophy in political, theological, and social thought. Focusing primarily upon Heidegger’s reception in 20th-century Jewish philosophy, we will explore the allure of Heideggerian thought and its implication in both left and right political critiques of liberalism. Topics include onto-theology, phenomenology, and radical historicism; science, hermeneutics, and methodology in the humanities; liberalism and the secular; ethics, politics, action; de-structuration and deconstruction; time and the Other. Authors include Adorno, Arendt, Butler, Derrida, Levinas, Löwith, Marcuse, Rosenzweig, Schmitt, Strauss.

Paul E Nahme

PHIL 1220 17th Century Continental Rationalism

The course will focus on the principle of sufficient reason and involve a close reading of Spinoza's Ethics, along with other texts from Leibniz, Schopenhauer, Heidegger, and some contemporary writers.

Charles Larmore

HIAA 0085 German Architecture after World War Two

This course examines the relationship between architecture and politics in postwar Germany. During the years that immediately followed WW2, we will investigate debates over urban reconstruction and mass-produced housing. After Germany was divided into East and West, we will examine how two opposing ideological settings impacted the approach to architecture in each Germany. Towards the end of the 20th century, we will study various approaches to the design of memorials to historic crimes. Throughout the course, special attention will be given to themes such as searching for a new identity, preventing sprawl, and coming to terms with the Nazi past.

Sara Hayat