

Department of German Studies

Courses - Fall 2019

GRMN0100 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 successfully about everyday topics. This is the first half of a year-long course whose first semester grade is normally a temporary one. Neither semester may be elected independently without special written permission. The final grade submitted at the end of the course work in GRMN 0200 covers the entire year and is recorded as the final grade for both semesters. Students who have a conflict with the Tuesday hour should contact the instructor.

<i>Jonathan Fine</i>	<i>501</i>	<i>MWF 9-9:50, T 12-12:50*</i>	<i>190 Hope 102, Barus & Haolley 161</i>
<i>Mirjam Paninski</i>	<i>502</i>	<i>MWF 11-11:50, T 12-12:50</i>	<i>190 Hope 203, Page Robinson 502</i>
<i>Pasqual Solass</i>	<i>503</i>	<i>MWF 12-12:50, T 12-12:50</i>	<i>190 Hope 203, 190 Hope 203</i>
<i>Jonathan Fine</i>	<i>504</i>	<i>MWF 1-1:50, T 12-12:50*</i>	<i>Barus & Holley 161 - all classes</i>

**Taught together*

GRMN0300 Intermediate German I

Focuses on deepening students' understanding of modern German culture by reading texts and viewing films pertinent to Germany today. Intended to provide a thorough review of German grammar and help students develop their writing, reading, listening, and speaking skills. Frequent writing assignments. Four hours per week. Recommended prerequisite: GRMN 0200. Students who have a conflict with the Thursday hour should contact the instructor.

<i>Jane Sokolosky</i>	<i>501</i>	<i>MWF 10-10:50, Th 12-12:50</i>	<i>190 Hope 203; Friedman Hall 003</i>
<i>Geoffrey Wildanger</i>	<i>502</i>	<i>MWF 1-1:50, Th 12-12:50</i>	<i>190 Hope 203 - all classes</i>

GRMN0500F 20th Century German Culture

A broad exploration of twentieth-century German culture using many kinds of written and visual texts (e.g. literature, journalism, film, art). While continuing to work on all four language skills (speaking, listening, reading, writing) students will gain more intensive knowledge about German culture, society, and history. In German. Recommended prerequisite: GRMN 0400. WRIT

<i>Rebecca Haubrich</i>	<i>501</i>	<i>MWF 11-11:50am</i>	<i>Page Robinson 202</i>
<i>Daniel Lange</i>	<i>502</i>	<i>MWF 9-9:50am</i>	<i>190 Hope 203</i>

GRMN0750F Historical Crime Fiction

There is almost no time period that has not been covered by historical crime fiction. From ancient Egypt and Rome to 18th century China, historical crime fiction has complemented and contested our knowledge of history. In this seminar, we will do some extensive time travel and explore how crime fiction explores the past and challenges our understanding of bygone times. Readings of texts by Ellis Peters, Umberto Eco, Peter Tremayne, Lindsey Davis, Alan Gordon, Robert van Gulik, Laura Rowland, among others. In English.

<i>Thomas Kniesche</i>	<i>501</i>	<i>MWF 10-10:50am</i>	<i>Barus & Holley 163</i>
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GRMN12001 Show Trials: The Aesthetics of Law in Literature and Film

J'accuse! Zola's public denunciation of the French President, accusing him of anti-Semitism and unlawful imprisonment, has become emblematic for theatrical politics and dramatized trials. Even though their outcomes were decided in advance, the performance of show trials – from the Dreyfus affair to the Auschwitz trials and the prosecution of Saddam Hussein – have been indispensable for the political formation of society. In this course, we will analyze the literary, cinematic, and philosophical reception of such performative trials, ranging from Kafka's *Trial* and Arendt's *Eichmann in Jerusalem* to Dreyer's *The Passion of Joan of Arc* and Kramer's *Judgment at Nuremberg*. In English.

Rebecca Haubrich SO1 MWF 2-2:50pm

190 Hope 102

GRMN1440S Grimms' Fairy Tales

"One doesn't know the sorts of things one has in one's house," says the servant girl in Kafka's "A Country Doctor," as a stranger, who will soon act violently towards her, emerges on all fours from an unused sty. The precarious moment of finding more than one seeks in one's midst is among the key motifs of Grimms' "Household Tales" that we will trace, following the way they move writers of literature, psychoanalysis, and critical theory. Reading the Grimms among others, we will find: what was "once upon a time" is not finished, nor can these uncanny tales be domesticated. In English.

Kristina Mendicino SO1 MWF 1-1:50pm

Barus & Holley 159

GRMN1441G Städtebilder

Cities mark sites of humans gathering and dwelling as political animals, bound to language. But while cities confirm this Aristotelian definition of human beings, they also expose its vulnerability. Cities have to be founded and surrounded by walls. They are in need of protection and driven by the desire to expand. What's in a city? The seminar follows this question through the evocation of various cities and sites in texts by Hölderlin, Hebel, Heine, Stifter, Brecht and Benjamin; in photographs (of Paris) by Eugène Atget; in films by Walter Ruttmann (on Berlin), and Wim Wenders (Paris, Texas). Taught in German.

Thomas Schestag SO1 TuTh 10:30-11:50am

190 Hope 203

GRMN1661K Gesellschaftskritik im deutschen Gegenwartskrimi

Contemporary crime fiction in Germany in many cases (!) turns to and on certain kinds of crime that very much occur in the real world: From terrorism to crimes against the environment and from corruption in government and big business to the plight of migrants, crime fiction negotiates and re-writes problems that haunt our late-capitalist societies. Globalization and digitization often play a major role in these stories and a critique of these historical developments is part and parcel of the novels we will read. Taught in German.

Thomas Kniesche SO1 MWF 12-12:50pm

Barus & Holley 161

GRMN2661R Poetry and Politics

Poets have been accused, persecuted, exiled from the *Polis*. They have been killed. Their poems have been burned and their ashes dispersed. Why does poetry provoke these lethal affects? What is at stake in a poem for the proclaimed integrity of the political sphere? Texts read and discussed in this seminar include Sophocles (in Hölderlin's translations), Cicero's public defense of the poet Archias; Thoreau and Arendt (on *Civil Disobedience*); Roman Jakobson (*The Generation That Squandered Its Poets*); poems by Velimir Chlebnikov and Osip Mandelstam (in Celan's translations); and Georges Bataille (*La haine de la poésie / L'Impossible*). Taught in English.

Thomas Schestag SO1 T 1-3:30pm

190 Hope 103 (Library)

Courses Offered Beyond German Studies that May Count Towards the Concentration

COLT 1210 Introduction to the Theory of Literature

An historical introduction to problems of literary theory from the classical to the postmodern. Issues to be examined include mimesis, rhetoric, hermeneutics, history, psychoanalysis, formalisms and ideological criticism (questions of race, gender, sexuality, postcolonialism). Primarily for advanced undergraduates. Lectures, discussions; several short papers.

S03, CRN 16520

M. Redfield / P. Szendy

HMAN 2400P The Idea of the University

What is the future of the university? Its very idea has undergone drastic changes, from the formulation of “academic freedom” in 1155 to what, under neoliberal capitalism, has been called the “uberfication of the university.” Our seminar is dedicated to key texts—from Kant to Derrida and Butler—in this history, focusing on topics such as the corporatization of universities, political protest, and the unconditional. Students will pursue collaborative inquiries into the idea of a university or jointly translate significant historical and theoretical documents; their research will be the foundation of a critical lexicon hosted on a dedicated webpage.

Section S01, CRN 15358

G. Richter / P. Szendy

MUSC 1660A Mahler's Century

This seminar will explore key works of Gustav Mahler in multiple contexts, including critical/interpretive traditions, conducting and performance practices, and the contexts of political, cultural, intellectual, and aesthetic history. Readings will include work of Sigmund Freud, Theodor Adorno, Carl Schorske, Julia Kristeva, Judith Butler, and others; we will think about problems such modernism, orientalism, Jewishness, montage, noise, shock, and melancholy.

S01, CRN 16702

M.Steinberg

PHIL 0080 Existentialism

An introduction to philosophical thinking through the study of existentialist themes, including being oneself, loving others, the limits of morality, and the meaning of life in the face of suffering and death. Readings are drawn primarily from Schopenhauer, Dostoyevsky, Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, Heidegger, Sartre, de Beauvoir, and Camus.

S01, CRN 16730

B. Reginster

PHIL 1710 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.

S01, CRN 16749

C. Larmore

PHIL 1720 Kant: The Critique of Pure Reason

We will cover the main topics of Kant's masterpiece, including his third way between rationalism and empiricism, his approach to skepticism and idealism, his foundational approach to science and everyday experience, and his limitation of knowledge to leave room for practical faith. Prerequisites: [PHIL 0360](#), [1700](#), [1710](#) or instructor permission.

S01, CRN 16744

P. Guyer

PHIL 1910F Schopenhauer's Ethical Thought

The course offers a detailed survey of Schopenhauer's ethical thought, including his views about the character of moral agency (e.g., free will), about practical reason and deliberation, about philosophical psychology (e.g., the nature of egoism, the nature of pleasure), and about substantive ethics (e.g., compassion, resignation, and the ethical significance of artistic contemplation). It is recommended that students have at least one other course in ethics.

S01, CRN 16986

B. Reginster