

Department of German Studies
Courses - Fall 2021

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.

Jane Sokolosky **S01** **MWF 9-9:50; Tu 12-12:50**
Ethan Lussky **S02** **MWF 11-11:50, Tu 12-12:50**
Simon Horn **S03** **MWF 12-12:50; Tu 12-12:50**

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.

Jonathan Fine **S01** **MWF 10-10:50; Th 12-12:50**
Justin Harris **S02** **MWF 1-1:50; Th 12-12:50**

GRMN0400 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

Daniel Lange **S01** **MWF 9-9:50; Th 12-12:50**

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

Jonathan Fine **S02** **MWF 11-11:50**

GRMN1330C Intro to German Romanticism

An Introduction to the period of literary, artistic, and philosophical production known as German Romanticism. We will read some major texts of German Romanticism, but also discuss artistic, cultural, and political developments in the period. The goal is to understand why this particular moment in literary history has become such a pivotal one and why contemporary writers continue to draw on it. All texts read in translations. No German required.

Zachary Sng **S01** **MWF 2-2:50**

GRMN1341D Philosophierende Hunde–Philosophizing Dogs - ONLINE

In Plato's *Republic* the guardians, situated at its border, responsible for protecting its inside, and defending the *Polis* against threats from outside, are not only compared to *dogs*, embodying peacefulness and aggression, but also have to love to learn, in other words to be *philosophers*. This seminar will follow traces in both philosophical and literary texts, of the figure of *philosophizing dogs* (and their relation to language). Texts to be discussed include Homer, *Odysee* (on Ulysses' dog Argos); Sextus Empiricus, Cervantes, E.T.A. Hoffmann, Franz Kafka, and Francis Ponge. Texts in English and German, class taught in German.

Thomas Schestag **S01** **M/Th 1-2:20**

GRMN1341E Prague Circles

During the early twentieth century, Prague marked one of the most diverse places for scientific, philosophical, and literary production, where both tensions and exchanges spanned disciplines, as well as linguistic and cultural traditions. This course will address the implications of this heterogeneous environment for modern thought through readings in literary writers (Kafka), female intellectuals (Fanta), philosophers, Zionists, and scientists (Einstein). Emphasis will be placed upon German-Jewish thinkers, so as to approach "the possibilit[ies] of intervention" that arose from the specific "situation of the German language in Czechoslovakia" that Deleuze and Guattari had explored as the situation of a "minor literature." In English.

Kristina Mendicino S01 Tu/Th 10:30-11:50

GRMN1441H Goethe Amongst Others

In the first book of Goethe's epistolary novel *The Sorrows of Young Werther*, the protagonist describes his state of mind as follows: "All my heart was swelling at that moment; the memories of many a past thing came rushing to my soul [*drängte sich an meine Seele*], and tears came to my eyes." In this class, we will keep one eye on categories of German literary history: *Sturm und Drang*, *Weimarer Klassik* and *Romantik*, but ultimately let both our eyes be closely guided by the language of these texts. Students will deepen their knowledge of the German language and gain familiarity with key texts and authors of the so-called "Age of Goethe" (1770-1830). Texts by Goethe, Schiller, Lenz, Wieland, Tieck, Karoline von Günderode, Bettina von Arnim and others. Taught in German; GRMN0500 or equivalent recommended as pre-requisite.

Zachary Sng/Christian Obst S01 Tu/Th 2:30-3:50pm

GRMN2662F Police, Strike, Justice: Revisiting Walter Benjamin's "Critique of Violence" - ONLINE

"Toward a Critique of Violence" (1921) is one of the young Benjamin's most enigmatic, provocative, and enduring achievements. On the occasion of its 100th anniversary, this seminar will revisit the text, paying particular attention to its intricate arguments concerning the relations among violence, law, the police, justice, religion, the death penalty, critique, and the philosophy of history. Inquiring into the conceptual and political work that Benjamin's text performs in its own historical time as well as in ours, we will examine interpretations of it by Marcuse, Derrida, Agamben, Hamacher, Gasché, and others. In English. Graduate students from diverse fields welcome.

Gerhard Richter S01 M 3-5:30

GRMN2662G S01 On Interpretation

"Understanding is in want of understanding." This opening premise of Werner Hamacher's *Premises* will be probed, initially, through readings in Aristotle's *De interpretatione*, as well as selections from his medieval interpreters. These readings will prepare for an approach to the emergence of "secular" hermeneutics from Biblical exegesis in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century (Schleiermacher). Further critical readings will follow the turns that interpretation would take in twentieth-century philosophical thought (Martin Heidegger, Hans-Georg Gadamer), psychoanalysis (Sigmund Freud), as well as philological studies which expose the limits of the hermeneutic enterprise (Paul de Man, Jacques Derrida, Werner Hamacher).

Kristina Mendicino S01 W 3-5:30

X-LIST COURSES

GRMN1910A/HIST1957J From Freud to QAnon: History, Politics, Psychoanalysis

Sigmund Freud's discovery of psychoanalysis around 1900 transformed the understanding of the human mind and human history. Historical knowledge generally focuses on civilizations, societies, systems, and events as they move, evolve, and transform through time. Psychoanalytic knowledge added the inner, mental (psychic) lives of people and cultures. Psychoanalysis redefined the humanities, the social sciences, and their relationships, paving the way as well for new approaches such as gender and sexuality studies. Our seminar will focus on key primary and secondary texts, from Sigmund Freud to QAnon: from Freud's pathbreaking *Interpretation of Dreams* and some its predecessors in 19th-century philosophy, political theory, and the arts to recent work in European and global history and theory. Topics will include History and Memory; Origins and Structures of Violence; Trauma and the Event; Subjectivity and identity; Mass Psychosis and Conspiracy Theory.

Michael Steinberg S01 Tu/Th 4-6:30

GRMN2662H/HIST2970S Intellectual History of Exile

Exile, displacement, and migration have formed a key element of human experience, culminating in the current estimate of some sixty-five million displaced persons in the world today. This seminar will consider key historical and theoretical work on these issues and their sub themes such as nationality and cosmopolitanism, multilinguality, religion, borders, citizenship, climate change, and cultural identities. We will read widely across European and global literature in genres including literature, music, and philosophy, themes on nation, religion, mobility, language, migration, place, borders, and identity. The seminar will involve dialogues with transcontinental scholars and initiatives, including the Exile Museum in Berlin, currently in planning stages.

Michael Steinberg S01 Tu 9-11:30

COURSES IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS THAT MAY COUNT TOWARDS CONCENTRATION

COLT1210-S01 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.

Susan Bernstein/Marc Redfield MWF 9am-9:50am

COLT1440U-S01 The Listener (Literature, Theory, Film)

Listening is not only the supposedly peaceful, welcoming activity that verges on mere receptive passivity. Listening or not listening also has to do with the exercise of power and this is the reason why we have a responsibility as listeners. In order to explore what could be described as the politics of listening, we will follow multiple paths that will lead us from the strategies of listening in concert venues to the medical practice of auscultation and the generalization of surveillance techniques. Our seminar will interweave readings in literature or theory (Kafka, Nietzsche, Calvino, Foucault, Chekhov, Freud, Deleuze. . .) and screenings of selected filmic scenes.

Peter Szendy Th 4pm-6:30pm

HIST0523P-S01 The First World War

On the eve of the First World War, many Europeans cheered for a "war to end all wars." It achieved nothing of the like, instead inaugurating a century of war and unthinkable destruction. This seminar explores the history of the first truly global conflict, examining its origins, its course, its aftermath, and how it might help us better understand our own world today. A broad set of primary sources, from soldiers' diaries to rationing cards, artwork, and diplomatic cables, forms the basis for discussion. Designed as an introduction to historical inquiry and writing.

Benjamin Hein W 3pm-5:30pm

JUDS0902-S01 History of the Holocaust

Explores questions raised by the Holocaust regarding how such barbarism erupted in our so-called civilized and enlightened age. Attempts to analyze the meaning of the Holocaust from three vantage points: that of European, and more particularly, German history; that of Jewish history; and that of those states and religious institutions which shared responsibility. Enrollment limited to 40. If unable to enroll because of closed registration please contact the professor and a wait list will be created.

Adam Teller TTh 1pm-2:20pm

PHIL1240-S01 Kant's Moral Philosophy

An introduction to the central themes of Kant's moral philosophy, including autonomy, freedom, happiness, obligation, and virtue. Kant's position in the history of moral philosophy will also be considered. Readings to include all of Kant's major writings in this field, thus Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals, Critique of Practical Reason, Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason, and Metaphysics of Morals, as well as several essays and lectures. Work will include two short papers and one term paper.

Paul Guyer TTh 1pm-2:20pm

URBN1871B-S01 Berlin: Global Metropolis, 1945-2020

This seminar explores the physical and human landscapes of post-war Berlin: its steadily expanding urban fabric and how it engages with the rapidly changing population make-up. The focus will be on the tension between past and present histories, new German identities, the recent massive migrations, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, and how these social and geopolitical phenomena interact with the city's urban spaces and monuments. As case studies, we will explore the relationship among Germans and three other significant communities: Turks, Israelis, and Palestinians.

Katharina Galor Th 4pm-6:30pm