

# Department of German Studies

## Courses - Fall 2022

### *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.

*TBD*    *S01*    *MWF 9-9:50; Tu 12-12:50*

*TBD*    *S02*    *MWF 11-11:50, Tu 12-12:50*

*Jane Sokolosky*      *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*

*Ethan Lussky*      *S02*    *MWF 1-1:50; Th 12-12:50*

### *GRMN0500F*      *20<sup>th</sup> 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*      *S01*    *MWF 11-11:50*

*TBD*                      *S02*    *MWF 9-9:50*

### *GRMN0750H*      *Classics of Crime Fiction*

This course will provide an overview of crime fiction from its beginnings in the 19th century to more recent postmodern manifestations of the genre. We will read classic examples of the detective story, golden age and hard-boiled crime fiction, the police procedural, the psychological thriller, the spy novel, and metaphysical crime fiction. In addition to the history of the genre, students will also be introduced to relevant theoretical concepts of reading crime fiction. Reading and Discussions of texts by Edgar Allan Poe, Arthur Conan Doyle, Agatha Christie, Raymond Chandler, Patricia Highsmith, Eric Ambler, among others. Taught in English.

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

## GRMN1200H *Writing In Exile*

Having fled Nazi Germany, Ernst Bloch wrote of fascism: “The masks of the Ku Klux Klan were thus the first fascist uniform.” He was among many diverse writers in exile to be reminded of the political and social formations s/he was seeking to escape, from Bertolt Brecht to Thomas Mann, the erstwhile White House guest and bourgeois advocate of American democracy, who eventually aroused the suspicions of the FBI and came to view in Cold War politics tendencies towards a “fascist dictatorship.” In this course, we will closely read texts that emerged from German exiles with a view to their implications regarding fascism and America. In English.

*Kristina Mendicino* 501 Tu/Th 10:30-11:50

## GRMN1200L *Geräuschkulissen/Background Noises*

The distinction between noise and voice and speech is porous. This porosity challenges the very definition of human beings who alone, as political beings, according to Aristotle, dispose of articulated speech—lógos-, although sharing voice—phonè—with other animals. The Latin writer Varro holds that children uttering first words do not yet speak; they resemble crows and ravens more than human beings. Their speech borders on sheer noise. Texts to be read include a section from Aristotle’s History of animals; Echo and Narcissus in Ovid’s Metamorphoses; Poe’s poem *The Raven*; a chapter from Melville’s *Moby Dick*; short stories by Kleist, Hebel and Kafka; *The Mathematical Theory of Communication* by Shannon/Weaver. The seminar opens with two sentences from Clarice Lispector’s novel *A hora da estrela*: “She was quiet (not having anything to say) but she liked noises. They were life”. Taught in English.

*Thomas Schestag* 501 Tu 4-6:30

## GRMN 1320U *Swiss Literature*

Many of Switzerland’s most well-known authors (Gottfried Keller, Robert Walser, Annemarie Schwarzenbach, Friedrich Dürrenmatt, etc.) have challenged its dominant political narratives: Switzerland’s neutrality, liberal tradition, natural beauty, and economic prosperity. What makes German-Swiss literature particularly fascinating is its status as a “minor literature,” its linguistic singularity and frequent use of words in dialect and other languages. Swiss literature in German will be the focus of the seminar, but Switzerland’s multilingualism always has been—and continues to be—reflected in its literature. In our seminar discussions we will follow a trajectory from Albrecht von Haller through Keller, Spyri, Zurich Dada, and Walser to postwar and post-millennial authors. Topics include realism, the avant-garde, pedagogy, economy, the politics of dystopia, climate change, and migration. No prior knowledge of Swiss literature is required. Readings and discussions will be in German. Recommended: GRMN0600 or equivalent.

*Felix Christen* 501 Tu 1-2:20

## GRMN1441J *Zwerge und Riesen*

According to a famous saying by the Greek sophist Protagoras “Man is the measure of all things”. The so called Man-Measure-Fragment, passed on in Plato’s dialogue Theaetetus, has been the source of countless controversies ever since about the meaning of measure, man, all things, and language. The seminar follows aspects of this controversy in literary and philosophical texts where the perception of “man-as-measure” is taken to the extreme: in the encounter with others as giants or dwarfs. Texts to be read include The Aesop Romance; Jonathan Swift’s Gulliver’s Travels; a chapter from Rousseau’s Essai sur l’origine des langues; Goethe’s novella Die neue Melusine; fairy-tales by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm; a chapter from Nietzsche’s Also sprach Zarathustra; Pär Lagerkvist’s novel Der Zwerg; and a poem by Stefan George: Das Lied des Zwergen. — Taught in German.

*Thomas Schesag* 501 Tu/Th 9-10:20

*GRMN1441K Sovereignty in Secret: The Poetry and Politics of the George Circle  
(Kristina Mendicino) - POSTPONED TO SPRING SEMESTER*

*GRMN2662K Theories of Survival*

Sometimes one unexpectedly lives on. Lyotard once wrote that “survival implies that an entity that is or should be dead is still alive.” The idea of survival emerges with special force after traumatic events: global pandemics, genocidal wars, the death of a loved one, personal crises. Yet what if survival were not something added on to life but rather constituted it? Our seminar will test the hypothesis that surviving is the most intense and powerful form of living possible. Readings will be drawn from literature, philosophy, psychoanalysis, and critical theory, including Kafka, Benjamin, Freud, Canetti, Derrida, Lyotard, and Agamben. We will also examine Lear’s philosophical case study of radical vulnerability as it emerges in the aftermath of the Crow Nation facing eradication of their way of life, *Radical Hope: Ethics in the Face of Cultural Devastation*. Diverse graduate fields welcome.

*Gerhard Richter 501 M 3-5:30*

*SWED0100A Beginning Swedish*

Swedish 0100 is an introduction to both Sweden and Swedish, covering various aspects of Swedish history, art and society, as well as screening at least three Swedish films per semester. The course packet contains the text/workbook, Mål 1, with additional materials. We will cover one chapter of Mål per week, with quizzes every three weeks. There will be a midterm and a final exam, along with a short take-home project. This is a small class, so your presence is absolutely required. Emphasis will be placed on speaking and understanding Swedish. Good will and good humor are required.

*Ann Weinstein 501 Tu/Th 4-5:30*