

Department of German Studies

Courses - Fall 2023

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; Tu 12-12:50</i>
<i>Soenke Parpart</i>	<i>502</i>	<i>MWF 11-11:50, Tu 12-12:50</i>
<i>Kylee Bolinger</i>	<i>503</i>	<i>MWF 12-12:50; Tu 12-12:50</i>

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.

<i>Jonathan Fine</i>	<i>501</i>	<i>MWF 10-10:50; Th 12-12:50</i>
<i>Christian Obst</i>	<i>502</i>	<i>MWF 1-1:50; Th 12-12:50</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>Christian Obst</i>	<i>501</i>	<i>MWF 11-11:50</i>
-----------------------	------------	---------------------

GRMN1320W Reisen und Entdecken: Reiseliteratur vom 18. Jahrhundert bis zur Gegenwart

Globalization is a phenomenon that changes basic structures of our lives. The political, social, economic, and cultural spheres are connected worldwide and influence each other like never before. One of the modes in which literature renegotiates space, time, and identities, are travel accounts, in which encounters with the other are shown to be cultural constructions that are always influenced by preconceived ideas and ideologies. Readings of texts by Johann Wolfgang Goethe, Johann Reinhold Forster, Alexander von Humboldt, Christian Kracht, Felicitas Hoppe, Raoul Schrott, Judith Schalansky, and others. Prerequisite: GRMN 600 or equivalent. In German.

<i>Thomas Kniesche</i>	<i>501</i>	<i>TuTh 10:30-11:50</i>
------------------------	------------	-------------------------

GRMN1320X

Weimer Culture: German Modernity and its

Discontents

The years of the Weimar Republic were the hothouse of German cultural modernity. In a situation of crisis, the time between the end of World War I and the rise to power of National Socialism sees the emergence of new media as radio and film, an ever-accelerating urban life, changing social & gender roles, political radicalisms, as well as different artistic avantgarde movements. Weimar literature breaks from tradition, developing innovative forms to represent this new culture. At the same time, a flourishing journalistic landscape brings about new modes of cultural critique, essayistic theories of modernity, and figures such as the flaneur who reads the modern cityscape. Following a brief introduction to the historical background, we will read two novels of the period, two plays, & a series of selected poems, accompanied by journalistic pieces & representative examples of contemporary literary criticism. In German.

Daniel Weider, Max Kade Distinguished Visiting Professor of German Studies

501 Tu/Th 1-2:20

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.

Kristina Mendicino

501 MWF 2-2:50

GRMN1441B

The Awful German Language

German (not unlike others) is a foreign language. As such, it embodies oddities and barbarisms, provoking both interest and fascination, trembling and fear, from "native" speakers of other (foreign) languages. Yet, even for "native" speakers of German the language is not simply a given, but (at times) a threat (and under threat), an infinite (historical) task, a political-linguistic phantasm, a projection screen, a love affair, a traumatic experience. The seminar will explore complaints and concerns, from inside as well as from outside the German language, by Tacitus, Kleist, Mark Twain, Hölderlin, Hebel, Kafka, Benjamin, Kurt M. Stein, Adorno, Jandl, Pastior, Uljana Wolf. Taught in English (some knowledge of German is highly appreciated).

Thomas Schestag

501 TuTh 9-10:20

GRMN2662P

Postcatastrophic Narratives: Memory and

Postmemory in German Literature After 1945

German culture after 1945 is determined by a changing relation toward its past: the horrors of National Socialism. This past was repressed, then gradually recognized, until it emerged as an essential part of German identity & politics in the 1980s. Literature played a role as a counter-memory of what had been officially forgotten, adopting a radically modern aesthetics to engage with Adorno's dictum that writing poetry after Auschwitz is barbaric. Literature attempts to represent the unrepresentable, developing a different poetics of memory and postmemory, in part with a political dimension that finds echoes in today's postcolonial debates. After an introduction to the historical context & clarification of key concepts such as trauma, postmemory, & the politics of memory, we will discuss seminal texts by Paul Celan, W. G. Sebald, Alexander Kluge, Wolfgang Koeppen, Peter Weiss, Heiner Müller, Uwe Johnson & others.

Daniel Weider, Max Kade Distinguished Visiting Professor of German Studies

501 Tu 4-6:30

GRMN2662P Literature and Philosophy: Case Studies of a Vexed Relationship

Literature and philosophy, as formations of rhetoric and logic, have an ancient and enduring relationship that is vexed by the conceptual interpretability of literary language. Without conceptual interpretation, no literary text could ever be said to possess any meaning. But if the philosophical interpretation of a text were to succeed fully in its translation of aesthetic form into conceptual content, the act of philosophical interpretation would render the literary artwork superfluous, its supposed contents having been shown not to need its singular aesthetic form. This seminar will investigate how transformative practices of reading might engage with this irreducible tension by turning to a constellation of exemplary theoretical readings of literature: Heidegger on Hölderlin and Rilke; Benjamin on Brecht and Proust; Adorno on Goethe and Beckett; Blanchot on Kafka; Derrida on Shakespeare and Celan. Diverse graduate fields welcome. In English.

Gerhard Richter 501 M 3-5:30

COURSES IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS THAT MAY COUNT TOWARDS CONCENTRATION

COLT 0810M Uncanny Tales: Narratives of Repetition and Interruption

What makes stories creepy? Close readings of short narratives with special attention to how formal and thematic elements interact to produce the effects of uncertainty, anxiety and incoherence peculiar to "the uncanny." Topics include: the representation of the self in images of the arts; the representation of speech; instabilities of identity and spatial and temporal boundaries; doubles, monsters, automata and hybrids. Texts selected from: Walpole, Shelley, Hoffmann, Kleist, Poe, Dostoyevsky, Freud, Wilde, Cortazar, Kafka, Lovecraft.

Susan Bernstein