

Department of German Studies

Courses - Fall 2025

GRMN0100 Beginning German

A course to learn the German language and about the culture of German-speaking countries. For students interested in gaining a deeper understanding of German history, philosophy, literature, art, music and business through knowledge of the German language. Helps prepare for internships and study abroad, may introduce you to the language of your heritage or to a totally new language, positions you well for further language study, research or other opportunities. 4 hours per week. No previous knowledge of German required

Jonathan Fine 501 MWF 9-9:50, Tu 12-12:50

Henrique Carvalho Pereira 502 MWF 11-11:50, Tu 12-12:50

Melanie Unger 503 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. Recommended prerequisite: GRMN 0200.

Jonathan Fine 501 MWF 10-10:50, Th 12-12:50

Serena Luckhoff 502 MWF 1-1:50, 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

Kylee Bolinger, Soenke Parpart 501 MWF 9-9:50

GRMN1000A Intro to German Critical Thought I

One of the great intellectual pleasures in our short lives is to engage with the tradition of modern German critical thought. This course introduces all Brown students who do not wish to deprive themselves of this complex pleasure to some of the giants who have prompted us to reconceptualize the way we think about the world and our tenuous place within it, from questions of what we can know to a critique of political economy and the dark side of our sexuality. Authors to be studied include Kant, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud. Undergraduates from diverse fields welcome. Students may also count this course toward the new certificate program in "European Critical Thought" (ECT). **In English.**

Gerhard Richter TuTh 10:30-11:50

GRMN1200D Repetition: Kierkegaard, Nietzsche and Freud

A study of the concept and the textual practices of repetition. We will consider the relation between repetition and transcendence, history, memory and art. The course will focus on how the category and the event of repetition problematize identity, interpretation and expression. Issues include religion and aesthetics of repetition (Kierkegaard); history and the eternal return (Nietzsche); repetition compulsion and the death drive (Freud). We will especially be interested in how the theme of repetition informs the way these thinkers write and what problems this poses to interpretation and understanding. **In English.**

Susan Bernstein 501 TuTh 1-2:20

GRMN1321D Dancing on the Volcano: Die Kultur der Weimar Republik

Immerse yourself in the dynamic and transformative period of the Weimar Republic, a time marked by extraordinary cultural and artistic innovation. This course explores the years 1918 to 1933, focusing on how the aftermath of World War I and the political turbulence of the era fueled a cultural renaissance in Germany. By studying the interplay of art, literature, theater, film, music, and social movements, students will uncover the profound impact of this period on modern culture. **In German.**

Thomas Kniesche MWF 11-11:50

GRMN1702 Artificial Images

What is an image in the age of generative AI? What is its relation to truth or artifice? To better understand the paradigmatic shift heralded by DeepDream hallucinations and algorithmic vision, this seminar explores past and current ontologies of the image. We will move from early film theory and art history to today's debates on synthetic media and algorithmic aesthetics, tracing how thinkers and artists have challenged common understandings of the visual. Along the way, we will read Walter Benjamin and Wendy Chun, watch films by Rainer Werner Fassbinder and Hito Steyerl, engage with experimental works by Harun Farocki and Ja'Tovia Gary, and reflect on the politics of seeing in a world saturated by images. Through close readings and screenings, we will explore such key concepts as operational images (Farocki), poor images (Steyerl), and dis-correlated images (Denson), to develop the analytical tools necessary to think *with*, rather than about, images across media. **In English.** Students may also count this course toward the new certificate program in "European Critical Thought" (ECT).

Lou Silhol-Macher 501 Tu 4-6:30

GRMN2663A Identification On the Mark(s)

How does identification occur? What structures its occurrence? What difference(s) does it make whether identity is conceived as an ontological fundament (Schelling), elaborated as a synthetic function (Benjamin), or traced back to a singular, 'unary' trait (Lacan)? While these questions would not even be legible if it were not for the ideal identity of the letters, lexemes, and syntactic forms that compose them, they also suggest that nothing about the formation or effect of such ideality is self-evident. In this course, we will engage with literary, philosophical, and psychoanalytic negotiations of identity, with readings by writers such as Nicolas Abraham, Theodor W. Adorno, Walter Benjamin, Sigmund Freud, Martin Heidegger, E.T.A. Hoffmann, Friedrich Hölderlin, Edmund Husserl, Heinrich von Kleist, Jacques Lacan, and F.W.J. Schelling.

Kristina Mendicino 501 W 3-5:30

COURSES IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS THAT MAY COUNT TOWARDS CONCENTRATION

COLT 1611A/GRMN1701 The Uncanniness of Being: Freud, Heidegger, Derrida

It is one of the defining features of modernity that the human being has become wholly problematic to itself. We can no longer take for granted what it means to be human, and our being-in-the-world poses itself as an abiding question mark. To be human and to live in time has become inextricable from a certain uncanniness. We will study key texts by three of the most insightful thinkers of this uncanniness: Freud, Heidegger, and one of their best readers, Derrida. Whether engaging with the dark vagaries of our sexuality, posing the question of "Being" in relation to the horizon of our death, or elucidating the work of mourning: Freud, Heidegger, and Derrida help us to come to terms with the mysterious adventure of dwelling in the world as radically finite human beings. Students from diverse fields welcome. Students may also count this course toward the new certificate program in "European Critical Thought" (ECT).

Gerhard Richter TTh 1pm-2:20pm

COLT 1710A Introduction to Literary Translation

This is a workshop course introducing the history and theory of literary translation, with demonstrations and exercises translating poetry and prose. All languages welcome, but students must be proficient to the level of reading literature in the original language. Foreign language through 0600 or permission of the instructor.

Instructor: TBD W 3pm-5:30pm

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.

Abboud Askar/Steinberg W 3pm-5:30pm

PHIL 1320 Schopenhauer's Ethical Thought

The course offers a comprehensive introduction to Schopenhauer's ethical thought. It covers the following areas: relevant epistemological and metaphysical views; philosophical psychology—pleasure and pain, character, and freedom of the will; the nature and possibility of well-being—subjectivism, pessimism, the ethical significance of aesthetic contemplation, and the concept of complete resignation; metaethical views: practical reason, deliberation, and the critique of unconditional obligation and intrinsic value; the nature of morality—critique of Kant, egoism, the theory of compassion, and the relation between morality and well-being.

Bernard Reginster TTh 2:30pm-3:50pm

RUSS 1848 Central Europe: An Idea and its Literature

Today's Central Europe has been defined by historical events from the collapse of the Habsburg Monarchy (1918) to the fall of the Berlin Wall (1989), to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the crisis of European identity. Focusing on literary works from this multicultural and multilingual world—not neglecting their artistic qualities—we will address the question: How does the Central European experience help us to understand the current European cultural, social and political tensions, as well as its aspirations and the perennial question of its unity? Authors include: J.Roth, Musil, Schulz, Canetti, Gombrowicz, Cioran, Hrabal, Kiš, Kundera, H.Müller. This course is a great way to learn more about Austrian, Czech, Polish, Romanian, Serbian, and Ukrainian literature and culture in their historical contexts.

Michal Oklot W 3pm-5:30pm