

German Studies Courses Spring 2015

German 110: Intensive Beginning German - *Michael Powers*

T R 9:00am - 10:20am **190 Hope 102**
Conference M W F 1:00pm – 1:50pm **Sayles Hall 014**
Conference M W F 2:00pm – 2:50pm **101 Thayer (VGQ) 116A**

Students who wish to complete the GRMN 0100-0200 sequence in one semester may do so by enrolling in GRMN 0110 for two semester course credits. There are six hours per week in small drill sections conducted by fluent undergraduate teaching apprentices. Another three hours of class will be conducted by the faculty instructor. Students must register for both the lecture section and one conference.

German 120: German For Reading Knowledge - *Kristina Mendicino*

W 3:00pm – 5:30pm **Salomon 202**

Intensive introduction to German grammar and syntax for students without prior knowledge of German and from all academic disciplines. Primarily for graduate students but also open to undergraduates. The student who successfully completes this course will have the necessary foundation for reading and translating German texts for students.

German 200: Beginning German - *Jane Sokolosky*

M W F 11:00am - 11:50am, T 12:00pm - 12:50pm **190 Hope 203**
M W F 12:00pm - 12:50pm, T 12:00pm - 12:50pm **190 Hope 102**
M W F 1:00pm - 1:50pm, T 12:00pm - 12:50pm **190 Hope 102, B&H 155**

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 about everyday topics and participate in the annual film festival. This is the second half of a year-long course. Students must have taken GRMN 0100 to receive credit for this course. The final grade for this course will become the final grade for GRMN 0100.

German 400: Intermediate German - Jane Sokolosky

M W F 10:00am - 10:50am, R 12:00pm - 12:50pm 190 Hope 203

M W F 1:00pm - 1:50pm, R 12:00pm - 12:50pm 190 Hope 203, 190 Hope 102

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: GRMN 0300. WRIT

German 600: Was ist Deutsch? - Thomas Kniesche

T R 10:30am - 11:50am 190 Hope 203

In this course we will examine some of the ideas and myths that became entangled with the emerging notion of a "German" identity in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Some of the terms that we will discuss include 'Kultur,' 'Bildung,' 'Freiheit' and 'Gesellschaft,' all of which have rich semantic histories. Conducted in German. Recommended prerequisite: one course in the GRMN 0500 series. WRIT

German 999 Clothes and Clothing (In Literature and Film) - Thomas Schestag

T R 9:00am - 10:20am 190 Hope 203

According to a long tradition, manuscripts and printed documents are called by the (latin) word textum. But the latin word's literal meaning points toward woven fabric, web and tissue (and clothes). Why do we call a text a text? It seems that whenever, in literature, clothes and the use of clothes are at stake, a tentative answer is given to the aforementioned question. This course will discuss such tentative answers in texts by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, Keller, Stifter, Kafka, Andersen, Freud and Rilke, as well as in a movie by Wenders on the Japanese fashion designer Yamamoto. Taught in German.

German 1320I: What is an Image? - Zachary Sng

M W F 11:00am - 11:50am 190 Hope 102

A survey of some of the most important German-language contributions to theories of art, alongside a discussion of some major art-works from the German tradition. Authors include Lessing, Kant, Schiller, Hegel, Nietzsche, Benjamin, Adorno, and Heidegger. Emphasis will be on how aesthetics intersects with literary theory and the idea of critique, and also how it contributes to discussions about knowledge, subjectivity, and power. All readings in English translation. In English.

German 1320K: Achilles Around 1800 - *Thomas Schestag*

T R 1:00pm - 2:20pm 190 Hope 102

Around 1800 the discussion of ancient Greece in Germany, prompted by the art historian and archaeologist Winckelmann, by the classical scholar Friedrich August Wolf as well as by Johann Heinrich Voß' German translations of the Iliad and Odyssee (1781/1793), is more and more focussed on the emblematic figure of the hero, condensed in Achilles. The seminar will question and discuss this renewed interest by reading Goethe's epic fragment Achilleis (1797/1808), and Kleist's mourning play Penthesilea (1808). These readings are preceded by the discussion of fragments from Homer's Iliad and Odyssee as well as from Plato's Symposion. Taught in German.

German 1660: Light-Writing: Literature-Photography-Philosophy - *Gerhard Richter*

W 3:00pm - 5:30pm 190 Hope 203

"I didn't draw any people," Kafka once wrote, "I told a story. Those are pictures, only pictures...one takes photographs of things in order to forget them. My stories are a way of closing my eyes." Kafka invites us to reflect upon the relationship between literature, photography, and philosophy—from the first heliograph in 1826 and the inception of the daguerreotype in 1839 to the digital image of today's so-called postmodern condition. Taking as our point of departure the conceptual interstices of literature and "light-writing," we will address selected texts in the historical and conceptual interaction among language, image, and critical thought. Our wager: texts and photographic images share a common relationship to time, finitude, loss, and mourning. Works by Franz Kafka, Marcel Proust, Roland Barthes, Walter Benjamin, Siegfried Kracauer, Martin Heidegger, Jacques Derrida, and others.

German 1770 / JUDS 1713: Introduction to Yiddish Culture and Language - *Rachel Rojanski*

R 4:00pm - 6:30pm Wilson Hall 204

Yiddish was the language spoken by most Jews in Eastern Europe and the countries to which they emigrated (including the U.S., England, South Africa, South American countries, and Israel) from the nineteenth century until after the Holocaust. It was the basis for a transnational Jewish culture and literature, and it played a central role in modern Jewish political life. We will explore the history of Yiddish culture and the development of the Yiddish press, literature, and cinema. The connection between Yiddish and modern Jewish politics will also be discussed. Students in this course will also have the opportunity to develop a basic knowledge of the Yiddish language. DPLL

German 1900: Soccer and Identity Formation in Post-WWII Germany - Thomas Kniesche

T R 02:30 - 03:50 pm 190 Hope 203

In Germany soccer is more than a national pastime or a way to stay fit for people. Beginning in the 1950s soccer also served as a foundation for national myth-making and a source of identity formation both for individuals and for the nation as a whole. When during the 1990s, more and more professional players w/a multicultural background also started to represent Germany internationally, multiculturalism & soccer became intricately linked. We will discuss the history and culture of soccer in Germany from early 20th century to present. A field trip to Germany over spring break is planned in connection w/this seminar. In German.

German 2660: Goethe - Susan Bernstein, Zachary Sng

M 3:00pm - 5:30pm Salomon 202

Close readings from Goethe's oeuvre, including poetry, drama, and prose. Text to be discussed will include *Die Leiden des jungen Werthers*, "Die Wahlverwandschaften," *Götz von Berlichingen*, *Faust*, and selected poetry. We will also consider some critical engagements with Goethe's works (e.g. Benjamin, Ronell, Wellbery, Kittler). Some thematic concerns that will be addressed in relation to Goethe's writings are *Bildung*, myth, *Weltliteratur*, and the Gothic. Reading knowledge of German recommended but not required.

German 2661A: "Other Worlds" - Alexander García Düttmann

T 3:00pm – 5:30pm Barus & Holley 159

The aim of this seminar is to explore the notion of "other worlds" in philosophy and art, whether this otherness is conceived in terms of necessity or contingency, creation or redemption, lapse into a technologically mediated barbarism or revolutionary transformation. The starting point for this exploration is a personal feeling. One day I realize that I exist in a world that no longer exists, although it had never crossed my mind that "my" world, as strange and inhospitable as it might have been, could come to an end. As a result, I have turned into a ghost without noticing. What shall I do? Try to adapt to the new world? Pretend nothing has happened? Resist the disintegration of the old world? Readings by Leibniz, Nietzsche, Bloch, Benjamin, Deleuze, Meillassoux. Films by Visconti and Godard. Taught in English. Students from various fields are welcome.

Swedish 0400: Intermediate Swedish II – Ann Weinstein

T R 4:00 – 6:20pm 190 Hope 203

Continuing Swedish. Recommended prerequisite: SWED 0300.

Courses Offered Beyond German Studies that May Count Towards the Concentration

COLT 710: After the War: Arendt, Duras and Anonymous from Berlin - Ariella Azoulay
T R 2:30pm - 3:50pm 135 Thayer 102

Three women, a political theorist, a novelist and an anonymous author question WWII. They record and question war's experiences and memories, its unfolding and its end, its continuation and after effects. They are interested in what was left of public life, intimacy, friendship, womanhood, survival, liberation and invent forms of promises and forgiveness. We will read Duras' memoir on the war and her screenplay for *Hiroshima mon amour*, Arendt's *Origins of Totalitarianism*, *Eichmann in Jerusalem* and her critique of zionism, and the dairy of a forsaken German woman in post war Berlin, a devastated city under Soviet occupation.

HIAA 1850 H: Berlin: Architecture, Politics and Memory - Dietrich Neumann
M 3:00pm - 5:30pm List Art 220

This course deals with the architecture and urbanism of the German capital and the way the city's traditions of commemoration in different phases of its history and under different political regimes. Students will research historic structures and sites of the 19th through 21st Centuries and engage with the intense German debate about historic preservation and commemoration. Depending on the approval of a GELT grant, one section of the course will be taught in Berlin during spring break. There we would meet with local architects, politicians and artists to discuss the city's engagement with its dramatic past. WRIT

HIST 1371: German History, 1806–1945 - Jonathan C. Gentry
MWF 2:00pm – 2:50pm Sayles Hall 002

This course examines the development of German history from the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire to the end of World War II. During that time the German states went from being a sleepy backwater to being the conquerors of Europe, finally conquered themselves by the Allied Forces. Through lecture, readings, and discussion we will examine post-Napoleonic Germany, Prussia's role in uniting Germany, the Wilhelmine Empire, the Weimar Republic, and finally National Socialism. The class will take into account politics, economics, war, and culture in painting a full picture of the development of a distinct German state and society.

HIST 1979: Fin-de-Siècle Vienna: Politics and Culture - Jonathan C. Gentry
T 4:00pm - 6:30pm Sayles Hall 005

This seminar explores the history of Vienna from 1860-1914, focusing specifically on politics, culture, and their intersection. Stefan Zweig looked back on Vienna as “The World of Yesterday” for its imperial pomp, coffee house debates, and decadent pleasures. Yet, it was also “The World of Today.” In the years around 1900 Vienna became a cauldron of change, giving birth to movements like Zionism, the new European Right, modernist architecture, psychoanalysis, avant-garde music, and philosophical indeterminism. Students will not only read historical accounts of Vienna, but also immerse themselves in its culture through literature, film, music, and philosophy.

JUDS 0080: Ethics After Auschwitz? - Paul E. Nahme
W 5:30pm - 7:50pm 163 George 206

Can we still speak of a “human condition”—a moral term—when human beings are capable of genocide? Does ethical responsibility have meaning if another’s death can be manufactured by the state? Can traditional morality and religion still find a place in a world of which it cannot make sense? In this class, we will take the Holocaust as the beginning of a tragic account of contemporary humanity and examine the possibilities for human life and morality in light of the social and political orchestration of mass killing and oppression. Authors include, Adorno, Agamben, Arendt, Fackenheim, Foucault, Levi, and Levinas. SOPH DPLL WRIT LILE

PHIL1720: Kant: The Critique of Pure Reason - Paul D. Guyer
T R 2:30pm - 3:50pm Sayles Hall 104

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.

PHIL1910E: Hegel's Metaphysics - Rolf-Peter M. Horstmann
R 4:00pm - 6:30pm Smith-Buonanno 101

Hegel is famous (or rather infamous) for entertaining and endorsing startling and obscure claims like “Contradiction is the rule of truth,” “The Truth is the whole,” and “What is rational is real, and what is real is rational.” Before one is in the position to evaluate, to criticize (and to dismiss) these claims one has to become familiar with their philosophical background. The aim of the seminar is to find out what is meant with claims like these and why Hegel thought of them as reasonable.