

*Department of German Studies*  
*Courses - Spring 2025*

*GRMN0110 Intensive Beginning German*

An intensive, double-credit language course that meets five days a week for 9 hours and focuses on speaking, listening, reading and writing skills and the cultures of the German-speaking countries. At the end of the semester, students will be able to communicate successfully about everyday topics relating to the university, jobs, daily life and traveling. Ideal for undergraduate students interested in learning German for study abroad or for concentration requirements and for graduate students interested in starting their foreign language requirements. The course is designed for new students of German, regardless of any previous experience with German.

*Jane Sokolosky*    *SO1*    *MWF 1-1:50; MWF 2-2:50*

*Serena Luckhoff*    *C01*    *TuTh 9-10:20*

*Ioannis Dimopoulos CO2 TuTh 1-2:20*

GRMN0200      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 about everyday topics and participate in the annual film festival. This is the second half of a year-long course. Students must have taken GRMN0100 to receive credit for this course. The final grade for this course will become the final grade for GRMN0100.

*Jonathan Fine*                      *S01 MWF 9-9:50, Tu 12-12:50*

Henrique Carvalho Pereira S02 MWF 12-12:50, Tu 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

*Jonathan Fine*      *S01 MWF 10-10:50, Th 12-12:50*

Kylee Bolinger SO2 MWF 1-1:50, Th 12-12:50

GRMN0600B Was ist Deutsch?

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.** WRIT.

*Christian Obst*      *S01*    *MWF 11-11:50*

## **GRMN1321A Sadistic Reasoning: Kant and Sade**

As Theodor W. Adorno, Max Horkheimer, and Jacques Lacan recognized, there is a certain structural affinity between Immanuel Kant's discourse of practical reason and the discursive practices of the Marquis de Sade. In this course, participants will consider the sadistic traits of reason that are registered and analyzed in the corpuses of Kant, Sade, Adorno, Horkheimer, and Lacan, among others. What is at stake, however, is not only (another) "critique of reason," but also the ethical alternatives that emerge through reading and analyzing these bodies of literature.

**Kristina Mendicino S01 TuTh 10:30-11:50**

## **GRMN14410 Childhood Imaginaries: Romanticism, Psychoanalysis and Beyond**

Since the Enlightenment, childhood has been at the center of the Western imagination. In German-language literature, political models of society, psychological theories on the dynamics of thinking and feeling, and critical discussions of history are often negotiated on the basis of an outline of what childhood is. This is because studying how humans develop promises to provide insight into what it means to be human and permits one to construct images of how humans should live. This line of thought breaks from a centuries-old convention of equating children with animals due to their lack of articulate speech and regretting this phase. In this course, we will read key texts of German-language literature from the Enlightenment to the present day that expound childhood as a special, formative epoch of individual life that, at the same time, grants insight into social dynamics. In German.

**Christian Obst S01 TuTh 1-2:20**

## **GRMN1900R Zur Frage des Besitzes**

In 1803 the German jurist and historian Carl Friedrich von Savigny publishes a civil treatise *Das Recht des Besitzes*, dealing with the question of how to describe and justify private property as possession. Almost 50 years later, Jacob Grimm delivers a lecture under a similar yet slightly—and decisively—different title: *Das Wort des Besitzes*, dealing not only with the history and semantics of the word *Besitz* but with the word *itself*. His lecture transforms a juridical question into a linguistic one: how is it possible (and is it possible at all) to possess a *word*? In other words: to turn a language into one's own in order to *possess* it? The seminar will discuss aspects of this question in legal, philosophical, political, linguistic, and literary texts by (among others) Rousseau, Kant, Babeuf, Proudhon, Hölderlin, Kleist, Hebel, Marx, and Kafka. Senior seminar. Taught in German.

**Thomas Schestag S01 TuTh 9-10:20**

## **GRMN2662T The Darkness of the Lived Moment**

What is a moment? What will a moment have meant? Is a moment completely over as long as I can still conjure it in memory? The more one thinks about the moment, the more inscrutable it appears. Seemingly the most basic of experiences, the moment remains nevertheless shrouded in darkness, as already Plato, in the late dialogue *Parmenides*, worried. Our seminar will examine the "darkness of the lived moment," as Ernst Bloch, the great political philosopher of hope, named it. What appears in the immediacy of our experience, is actually far removed from our understanding, but it does open onto an unforeclosed futurity. We will contemplate this darkness of the lived moment in a constellation of works drawn from literature and the arts; and in relation to theoretical texts by such thinkers as Bloch, Hegel, Nietzsche, Freud, Heidegger, and Blanchot.

**Gerhard Richter S01 M 3-5:30**

**GRMN2662U**

***Witnessing Totalitarianism***

The memory of National Socialism has been as mainstay of post-1990 German politics and culture. However, at least with the end of the Cold War, national German memory culture has also been challenged by non-national perspectives, especially by the necessity to commemorate the entanglement of National Socialism with Communist totalitarianisms and to situate German memory culture within a Central and Eastern European context. To engage with this tension, we will read theoretical texts that continue to inform current memory debates (Arendt, Mitscherlich), recent social sciences approaches to transgenerational transmissions of psycho-social sequelae of perpetration and complicity (Welzer & al., Mihai, Gobodo-Madikizela), and literary texts that have brought transgenerational transmissions into the focus of public attention (Bernhard, Sebald), in order then to focus on contemporary German-language texts that negotiate the difficulties of commemorating totalitarianisms.

***Kristina Mendicino 501 W 3-5:30***

## **COURSES IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS THAT MAY COUNT TOWARDS CONCENTRATION**

### **COLT 1210 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.

**Bernstein/Pabon**

### **PHIL 0352 Introduction to 19th Century Philosophy**

This course is an introduction to classic texts of 19th century German philosophy. Readings include key texts by Kant, Schopenhauer, Hegel, Marx, and Nietzsche. The course explores the German idealist response to Kant as well as Marx's and Nietzsche's challenges to the project of philosophy and traditional conceptions of reason, morality, and agency.

**B. Beizaei**

### **MUSC 1610 Beethoven: Work, Biography, and Afterlife**

By the 20th century latest, Ludwig van Beethoven became the greatest icon in music history. His presence extends beyond the realm of classical music into history, politics and popular culture, which celebrates him as the embodiment of the humanistic artist figure. This course examines Beethoven in a field of tension between biography, work and contemporary history. The musical work always in focus, it traces his development from a young piano virtuoso writing for his own performances to the creator of late, highly abstract spiritual works that completely leave the realm of "performance music". Alongside a study of his highly dramatic life and spheres of influence, we will examine his early works and trace the development of his musical language within the different Genres.

**S. Abboud Ashkar**

### **MUSC 1902 Giuseppe Verdi, Richard Wagner, and the Music of the Nation**

This seminar will analyze selected works and the ideological trajectories of Giuseppe Verdi and Richard Wagner during the decades before and after the unification of Italy and Germany. We will pay attention to the operas— and to the genre and institution of opera more generally— along with contexts such as nation-building, liberalism, imperialism, and the politics of race.

**M. Steinberg**