

Department of German Studies

Courses - Spring 2020

GRMNO110 *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.

<i>Rebecca Haubrich</i>	<i>S01</i>	<i>MWF 1-1:50; MWF 2-2:50</i>	<i>SciLi 604 (CLS)</i>
<i>Jonathan Fine</i>	<i>C01</i>	<i>TuTh 9-10:20</i>	<i>190 Hope 203</i>
<i>Chelsea Timlin</i>	<i>C02</i>	<i>TuTh 1-2:20</i>	<i>SciLi 604 (CLS)</i>

GRMNO200 *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.

<i>Geoffrey Wildanger</i>	<i>S01</i>	<i>MWF 9-9:50, Tu 12-12:50</i>	<i>190 Hope 203, B&H 165</i>
<i>Pasqual Solass</i>	<i>S02</i>	<i>MWF 11-11:50, Tu 12-12:50</i>	<i>190 Hope 203, B&H 155</i>
<i>Jonathan Fine</i>	<i>S03</i>	<i>MWF 12-12:50, Tu 12-12:50</i>	<i>190 Hope 203, B&H 159</i>

GRMNO400 *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

<i>Jonathan Fine</i>	<i>S01</i>	<i>MWF 10-10:50, Th 12-12:50</i>	<i>190 Hope 203, 190 Hope 203</i>
<i>Jasmin Meier</i>	<i>S02</i>	<i>MWF 1-1:50, Th 12-12:50</i>	<i>190 Hope 203, B&H 155</i>

GRMNO600B *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.

<i>Thomas Kniesche</i>	<i>S01</i>	<i>TuTh 10:30-11:50am</i>	<i>111 Thayer/Watson, Rm 114</i>
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GRMN1200K *Languages of Seduction*

According to Genesis, languages of seduction can be traced back to Paradise. But where does seduction come from? Where does it lead the seducer and the seduced? This seminar will follow traces of seduction in Esopian fables; in Ulysses' encounter with the sirens (Homer, Kafka); in Orpheus' songs (Vergil, Rilke); in Sheherazade; in excerpts from Casanova's Story of My Life; in Kierkegaard's Diary of a Seducer; and in the (seductive) suggestion from a song by Bob Dylan: "Don't follow leaders, watch the parkin' meters". What would happen were you to follow such an advice, seduced by its charm? In English.

Thomas Schestag *S01* *TuTh 1-2:20pm*

190 Hope 203

GRMN1320S *Reading Friedrich Hölderlin: An Introduction*

This course introduces student readers to the work of one of the German language's most prominent poets, Friedrich Hölderlin (1770-1843). Largely ignored throughout the 19th century, Hölderlin's poetry achieved an unprecedented importance for 20th century developments in poetry as well as in textual philology, literary theory and philosophy. The course will focus on close readings of the poetry between 1801-1806, a period in which the poet gradually replaced his use of classical verse forms by a practice of free verse which proved groundbreaking for modernist poets such as Rilke, Trakl and Celan. Taught in German.

Charles deRoche *S01* *T 4:00-6:30*

Smith Buonanno 201

GRMN1340W *Writing Revolution*

How is revolution articulated, recorded, and scripted? The word "re-volution" implies a turning-again. Revolution, however, is also marked, from the French Revolution to the revolutionary movements of the twentieth century, by a rhetoric of cutting, interrupting, and disjoining. Turning to the tropes of the turn and the cut for orientation, among others, this seminar will examine the modes by which revolutionary history is written from the eighteenth through the twentieth century. Readings include works by Rousseau, Kant, von Arnim, Hölderlin, Büchner, Marx, and Luxemburg. In English.

Kristina Mendicino *S01* *W 3-5:30pm*

190 Hope 203

GRMN1340X *Literature and Multilingualism*

Has literature ever really been monolingual? Has it not always spoken with a split tongue and a fractured voice, enabling it to move in the interstices between languages, cultures, and identities? In this seminar, we examine some authors from the twentieth century for whom speaking is always speaking otherwise: speaking about the other, speaking as other, as something other than merely speaking. Our goal is to think beyond the 'monolingual paradigm' and come up with ways to describe the richness of linguistic multiplicity beyond the easy binaries of native vs foreign, self vs other. In English.

Zachary Sng *S01* *MWF 12-12:50*

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GRMN1441E *Krüge*

What kind of thing does a jug represent or materialize? How is one to describe and judge its (literal or metaphorical) shape or use? And in which words? This seminar is split in two: its first part will focus on Heinrich von Kleist's comedy *Der zerbrochne Krug*; its second part will consider Martin Heidegger's essay *Das Ding*, which is centered around the question: What does a jug reveal – or hide – about the thing-character of every thing? The seminar opens with a small prose piece by French writer Francis Ponge: *La cruche*. Taught in German.

Thomas Schestag *S01* *TuTh 10:30-11:50am*

190 Hope 203

GRMN1900P Erinnerung in der deutschen Gegenwartsliteratur

Erinnerung (memory, remembrance) is one of the big topics in contemporary German literature. Erinnerungsliteratur deals with the ramifications of highly problematic periods of nineteenth- and twentieth century German history, such as colonialism, the rise of Nazism, the Holocaust, or the communist dictatorship in former East Germany. Coming to terms with the past – one way or another – is the focus of texts by Günter Grass, W.G. Sebald, Uwe Timm, Marcel Beyer, Herta Müller, or Ulrike Draesner, to name just a few. Senior seminar. Taught in German.

Thomas Kniesche S01 TuTh 2:30-3:50pm

190 Hope 102

GRMN2661T What is Called Thinking? On Critical Styles

Why does Kant problematize how we “orient” ourselves in thinking? Why does Hegel rebuke detractors of abstract thought? Why does Heidegger write that we are still not thinking? We will engage a carefully chosen series of exemplary essays whose lasting value derives from a rigorous interrogation not only of the subject matter at hand but also the very style of thinking critically and attentively. These essays (by Kant, Hegel, Freud, Benjamin, Heidegger, Adorno, Levinas, de Man, and Derrida), each a small masterpiece of modern thought, recast the question of critical style each time anew. Graduate students from diverse fields welcome.

Gerhard Richter S01 M 3-5:30pm

Rockefeller Library A9

GRMN2662A Theories of Poetry and the Poetic

Poetry, poésie, poesia carries a double meaning in many Western languages, since it can refer to a foundational principle of literary art in general as well as to a specific literary genre. Accordingly, the accent may be on poetic activity, derived from one or several meanings of the Greek poiein, or on the textual product, the poem. The course is interested in the problems and perspectives of this double meaning in a series of texts by poets and literary theorists from different periods, mainly Romanticism and 20th century modernism. Taught in English.

Charles deRoche S01 Th 4:00-6:30

Smith-Buonanno 201

SWED200 Intermediate Beginning Swedish

Ann Weinstein S01 TuTh 4-5:30pm

190 Hope 102

Courses Offered Beyond German Studies that May Count Towards the Concentration

COLT 0710C **Introduction to Scandinavian Literature** **A. Weinstein**
An introduction to major works of Scandinavian writers, painters and filmmakers over the past 150 years. Figures include Kierkegaard, Ibsen, Strindberg, Munch, Hamsun, Josephson, Södergran, Lagerkvist, Vesaas, Cronqvist, Bergman, August and Vinterberg, as well as children's books by Astrid Lindgren and Tove Jansson.

COLT 1610B **Irony** **S. Bernstein**
A study of the trope of irony and its evaluation, especially in the Romantic tradition. Focuses on the epistemological implications of irony and the role it plays in contemporary criticism. Readings from Plato, Hegel, Schlegel, Kierkegaard, Baudelaire, Lukács, Booth, White, De Man.

COLT 1610V/GRMN1661B **The Promise of Being: Heidegger for Beginners** **G. Richter**
“The most thought-provoking thing in our thought-provoking time is,” Martin Heidegger writes, “that we are still not thinking.” Our undergraduate seminar will study, slowly and carefully, some of Heidegger’s most fascinating and challenging paths of thinking, especially as they relate to questions of Being and our being-in-the-world. We will encounter his unique engagements with art and literature, his critique of modern technology, his reflections on what it means to “dwell” somewhere, his views on finitude and death, and his notion of being “on the way” toward language. No previous familiarity with Heidegger is assumed; curious students from diverse fields welcome.

COLT 1814U **Politics of Reading** **P. Szendy**
What do we do when we read? And do we even do something, or, as Blanchot suggests, do we rather let be? While being true to Michel de Certeau’s plea for a “politics of reading” and an “autonomy of the reader”, we will question its binary logic (active vs. passive): 1. by looking closely at the (de)construction of a “sovereign reader” in Hobbes’ Leviathan; 2. by analyzing the reading imperative—“Read!”—as it is staged in Plato’s and, above all, in Sade’s erotics; 3. by taking seriously Walter Benjamin’s paradoxical intuition that one should “read what was never written”.

HIAA 0062 **Dutch and Flemish Art: Visual Culture of the Netherlands in the Seventeenth Century** **J. Muller**
Survey the amazing art in Holland and Flanders that revolutionized all media. We will see how paintings, sculpture, and architecture formed the historical environment of life in the 17th-century Netherlands. The work of such artists as Rubens, Rembrandt, Van Dyck, and Vermeer is presented as part of this history of art in a "golden age." Weekly one-hour conference required.

HIAA 0860 **Contemporary Architecture** **D. Neumann**
Stylistic, technological, and theoretical developments in architecture from the 1960s to the present. Analyzes movements such as "Brutalism," "Postmodernism," and "Deconstruction" and works by architects such as Frank Gehry, I. M. Pei, and Zaha Hadid. Emphasizes the complex conditions of architectural production in different parts of the world. Complements [HIAA 0850](#), but may be taken independently.

HIAA 1850H **Berlin: Architecture, Politics and Memory** **D. Neumann**
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. The course will travel to Berlin during spring break. There we would meet with local architects, politicians and artists to discuss the city’s engagement with its dramatic past. Course enrollment by application.

HIST 0285A Modern Genocide and Other Crimes against Humanity H. Merritt

This lecture course explores genocide and other crimes against humanity across the world during the 20th century. We will discuss the origins of modern genocide in the transition to modernity and subsequent conceptualizations of this phenomenon; review examples of colonial, imperial, racial, communist, anti-communist, and post-colonial genocides; discuss war crimes and other mass crimes perpetrated by authoritarian regimes; and consider policies of mass deportation and ethnic cleansing. This course will conclude with a discussion of attempts by the international community to prevent and punish genocide along with various ways in which genocide has been commemorated or denied.

HIST 0523M History of Fascism H. Merritt

What is fascism—both in theory and in practice—and what remains of it a century after the establishment of the first fascist regime in Italy? This course will explore the social, cultural, and intellectual origins of fascism, the rise of fascist movements in Europe in the early to mid-20th century, the politics and policies of fascist parties and regimes—including Germany, Italy, Iberia, in the Balkans, and in the Baltic States—and transnational links to the Americas, Asia, and Africa. This course will conclude with considerations of anti-fascism in the postwar world as well as the legacies of fascism in contemporary far right politics.

HIST 1241A/ Migration in European History B. Hein
GRMN1200J

From the “Germanic” people’s migrations of antiquity to the global refugee crises of today, migration has left an indelible mark on European society. What are the causes and consequences of periods of “mass” migration? Surveying major episodes in recent European migration history, this lecture course explores how human mobility has historically shaped culture, politics, economics, and society on this continent. Special attention will be given to the 19th century, an exceptional chapter in global migration history that saw more than 50 million Europeans departing for the Americas.

HIST 1965H Europe and the Invention of Race M. Steinberg

This upper-level seminar in European intellectual history will examine key texts from the 16th through the 20th century in which the negotiation of difference and diversity produced and questioned the organization of populations into groups and hierarchies called races. How does “race thinking,” with its spectrum from racism to critical race thinking, channel and direct phenomena such as European global expansions, capitalism and slavery, religious difference and secularization, colonialism, imperialism, and fascism.

HIST 1965I Industrial Revolution in Europe B. Hein
/GRMN1900F

Europe’s industrial revolution is often cited among the key drivers of global inequality between “the West and the Rest.” But industrialization unfolded unevenly everywhere, including within Europe itself. Using a local perspective on a global story, this seminar explores how the industrial revolution unfolded differently and unevenly across the diverse communities, regions, and landscapes of Europe during the long 19th century. Major themes include the urban-rural divide; technology and deindustrialization; the culture of work; faith and politics; socialism, populism, and antisemitism.

HMAN 1974L The Coming Apocalypse: Between the Earth and the World A. Ophir

A cascading catastrophe threatens to turn the earth uninhabitable and bring our world to its end. How to think, in this context, the relation between **our** world, **the** world, and the **earth**? Are they known, experienced, shared with others, or being destroyed in the same way? How have their difference and convergence been affected by globalization, and affect our understanding of “the Anthropocene”? Following environmental news, the seminar addresses these and related questions through literary, theoretical, and philosophical texts, including works by Nietzsche, Heidegger, Arendt, Derrida, Nancy, Latour, Haraway, Povinelli, Coates, and Mbembe.

JUDS 0063**Antisemitism: A History****M. Satlow**

This course will review the history of antisemitism, from antiquity to the present along with theoretical perspectives on why it has been so persistent. Topics will include: Christian and Muslim anti-Judaism; racism; economic stereotypes; and modern manifestations in the U.S. and Europe.

JUDS 1713**Introduction to Yiddish Culture and Language****R. Rojanski**

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.

MUSC 0900**Haydn and Mozart****E. Dolan**

This course explores the music of Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) and Wolfgang Amadé Mozart (1756-1791): two remarkable composers, who led powerfully contrasting but intertwined lives. Our focus will be Mozart's three operas that he produced with the librettist Lorenzo Da Ponte—Le Nozze di Figaro, Don Giovanni, and Così fan tutte, Haydn's twelve London Symphonies, and his grand oratorio, The Creation. Through these works we can access a wealth of issues and themes of the late Enlightenment style: questions of voice, affect, register, eighteenth-century listening, comedy, form, dance, naturalness, mimesis, the sublime, orchestral effect, and musical modernity.

PHIL 1720 Kant: The Critique of Pure Reason**P. Guyer**

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.

PHIL 1820 Philosophy and Psychoanalysis**B. Reginster**

The course proposes a philosophical examination of a variety of psychoanalytical theories beginning with classical Freudian theory and including ego psychology, various relational theories (object relations, intersubjectivity, and attachment theories), and self psychology. The course might also consider some of the philosophical sources of psychoanalytic theory, its interaction with recent developmental research, and its applications in literary and cultural studies.

