

Department of German Studies

Courses - Spring 2018

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.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Jane Sokolosky</i> | <i>S01 MWF 1-1:50; MWF 2-2:50</i> | <i>101 Thayer, VGQ, 116A</i> |
| <i>Daniel Lange</i> | <i>C01 TuTh 9-10:20</i> | <i>190 Hope 203</i> |
| <i>TBD</i> | <i>C02 TuTh 1-2:20</i> | <i>190 Hope 203</i> |

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.

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Mirjam Paninski</i> | <i>S01 MWF 9-9:50, Tu 12-12:50</i> | <i>190 Hope 102, 190 Hope 203</i> |
| <i>Michael Paninski</i> | <i>S02 MWF 11-11:50, Tu 12-12:50</i> | <i>190 Hope 203, JWW 303</i> |
| <i>Jan Tabor</i> | <i>S03 MWF 12-12:50, Tu 12-12:50</i> | <i>190 Hope 203, JWW 301</i> |

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

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Rebecca Haubrich</i> | <i>S01 MWF 10-10:50, Th 12-12:50</i> | <i>190 Hope 203, JWW 301</i> |
| <i>Christian Obst</i> | <i>S02 MWF 1-1:50, Th 12-12:50</i> | <i>190 Hope 203, 190 Hope 203</i> |

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. Recommended prerequisite: one course in the GRMN0500 series. WRIT

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Thomas Kniesche</i> | <i>S01 MWF 10-10:50</i> | <i>190 Hope 102</i> |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|

GRMN1200H *Writers in Exile: Addressing Fascism in America*

Having fled Nazi Germany, Ernst Bloch wrote of fascism from his latest location: "The masks of the Ku Klux Klan were thus the first fascist uniform, and its proclamations were the first to colour with their wishful images the 'revolution' from the right, the Lynch revolution. The beginning of the movement is instructive here." And he was not the only one among the many diverse European writers in American exile to be reminded of the political, social, technocratic, and economic formations s/he was seeking to escape. Even Thomas Mann, the erstwhile guest at the White House and bourgeois advocate of democracy in America, aroused the suspicions of the FBI and his public enemies, ultimately finding himself provoked to view in Cold War politics tendencies toward a "fascist dictatorship." In this course, we will closely read a selection of the texts that emerged from German writers in exile with a view to their implications regarding fascism and American culture. In English.

Kristina Mendicino S01 Th 4-6:30

101 Thayer, VGQ, 116A

GRMN1320P *Friends and Adjuncts: J.P. Hebel, Kafka, Benjamin, Sebald*

He was a favorite among seminal German writers and thinkers such as Goethe, Kafka, and Walter Benjamin. Nonetheless, Johann Peter Hebel's work remains largely unknown outside of German-speaking countries and is generally ignored by the academy. In this seminar we will read Hebel's poetry and prose alongside some of the seminal works of those who wrote and thought with him as unexpected friends or adjuncts. In English.

Benjamin Brand S01 MWF 11-11:50

Rockefeller Library, B6

GRMN01440V *Armut/Poverty*

Eros, according to a legend told by Diotima in Plato's *Symposium*, is the son of Poverty – *Penia* – and Resoure – *Poros* –. Poverty is the other side of the development of (economic, linguistic) wealth and riches. Our seminar will unfold certain aspects of (the love for) this other side. Readings include texts by Bonaventura (*Apologia pauperum/Defense of the Mendicants*), Hans Sachs (*Die tugentreich fraw Armut*), Heinrich Heine (*Die schlesischen Weber*), Franz Grillparzer (*Der arme Spielmann*); fairy tales by the Grimm brothers; Karl Marx; Bertolt Brecht (*Vom armen B.B.*), Walter Benjamin (*Erfahrung und Armut*), and Martin Heidegger (*Die Armut*). In German.

Thomas Schestag S01 TuTh 10:30-11:50

190 Hope 203

GRMN01440Y *Return to Sender: Love, Letters, and Literature*

This seminar investigates the relays between the postal system (18th – 20th century) and German literature, philosophy, as well as love. We will read selected correspondence and literary prose emulating or reflecting the epistolary form. Writers include Goethe, Kafka, Bachmann, and Celan. In English.

Benjamin Brand S01 TuTh 9-10:20

190 Hope 102

Courses Beyond German Studies Spring 2018 That May Count Towards the Concentration

COLT 1411B/GRMN1441A Theater and Revolution

This class explores how theater and dramatic literature question and shape our understanding of "revolution" as a radical turn, incisive rupture, and profound shift in the way we perceive and organize our social and cultural life. How does drama accompany revolutionary movements, and how do revolutions compel political theater to transform itself? Readings include Aristophanes's *Lysistrata*, Shakespeare's *Coriolanus*, Büchner's *Danton's Death*, Brecht's *Life of Galileo*, and Parks's *The America Play*. We will analyze plays and performances, write our own dramatic scenes, and discuss key concepts of theater theory and practice.

Dennis Johannssen **MWF 11am-11:50am**

COLT 2520F Theories of the Lyric

Through readings of recent critical discussions of the lyric genre, we will explore more general methodological problems of literary theory. Questions to be raised include: the role of form, structure and tropes in analyzing poetry; problems of subjectivity and voice; the relation between poetry, history and politics; the function of reading; and the problematic "objectivity" of criticism. Readings from Jakobson, Benveniste, Jaus, Benjamin, Johnson, De Man, Lacoue-Labarthe, Agamben, Badiou and Derrida. Focus on poets Hölderlin, Baudelaire and Celan.

Susan Bernstein **Th 4pm-6:30pm**

HIST 1230C The Search for Renewal in 20th century Europe

The overarching theme of the course is the relationship between modernity and the primitive as manifested in major cultural, aesthetic and political movements in the 20th century. Films are an integral part of the course. WRIT

Mary Gluck **MWF 12pm-12:50pm**

PHIL 0360 Early Modern Philosophy

An introduction to central themes in Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. Major topics include: reason, experience, and knowledge; substance and the nature of the world as it really is; induction, causation, and the origin of our ideas; skepticism, realism, and idealism. Connections are made with the scientific revolution of the 17th century. There will be discussion and advice on ways to approach philosophical reading, research and writing. Students should register for both a section and a conference. WRIT

Charles Larmore **MWF 11am-11:50am**

PHIL 2080J Kant and Mendelssohn

An examination of the intimately intertwined intellectual careers of Immanuel Kant and Moses Mendelssohn. Topics will include their approaches to philosophy; their metaphysics, including attitudes towards proofs of the existence of God and immortality; their aesthetics; and their positions on religion and religious liberty. Readings from a wide range of sources, including Mendelssohn's *Philosophical Writings*, *Jerusalem*, and *Morning Hours*, and Kant's *Critiques*, *Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason*, and *Metaphysics of Morals*.

Paul Guyer

W 3pm-5:30pm

Courses Beyond German Studies Spring 2018 That May Count Towards the Concentration

COLT 1411B Theater and Revolution

This class explores how theater and dramatic literature question and shape our understanding of "revolution" as a radical turn, incisive rupture, and profound shift in the way we perceive and organize our social and cultural life. How does drama accompany revolutionary movements, and how do revolutions compel political theater to transform itself? Readings include Aristophanes's *Lysistrata*, Shakespeare's *Coriolanus*, Büchner's *Danton's Death*, Brecht's *Life of Galileo*, and Parks's *The America Play*. We will analyze plays and performances, write our own dramatic scenes, and discuss key concepts of theater theory and practice.

Dennis Johannssen *MWF 11am-11:50am*

COLT 2520F Theories of the Lyric

Through readings of recent critical discussions of the lyric genre, we will explore more general methodological problems of literary theory. Questions to be raised include: the role of form, structure and tropes in analyzing poetry; problems of subjectivity and voice; the relation between poetry, history and politics; the function of reading; and the problematic "objectivity" of criticism. Readings from Jakobson, Benveniste, Jaus, Benjamin, Johnson, De Man, Lacoue-Labarthe, Agamben, Badiou and Derrida. Focus on poets Hölderlin, Baudelaire and Celan.

Susan Bernstein *Th 4pm-6:30pm*

HIST 1230C The Search for Renewal in 20th century Europe

The overarching theme of the course is the relationship between modernity and the primitive as manifested in major cultural, aesthetic and political movements in the 20th century. Films are an integral part of the course. WRIT

Mary Gluck *MWF 12pm-12:50pm*

PHIL 0360 Early Modern Philosophy

An introduction to central themes in Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. Major topics include: reason, experience, and knowledge; substance and the nature of the world as it really is; induction, causation, and the origin of our ideas; skepticism, realism, and idealism. Connections are made with the scientific revolution of

the 17th century. There will be discussion and advice on ways to approach philosophical reading, research and writing. Students should register for both a section and a conference. WRIT

Charles Larmore

MWF 11am-11:50am

PHIL 2080J Kant and Mendelssohn

An examination of the intimately intertwined intellectual careers of Immanuel Kant and Moses Mendelssohn. Topics will include their approaches to philosophy; their metaphysics, including attitudes towards proofs of the existence of God and immortality; their aesthetics; and their positions on religion and religious liberty. Readings from a wide range of sources, including Mendelssohn's *Philosophical Writings*, *Jerusalem*, and *Morning Hours*, and Kant's *Critiques*, *Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason*, and *Metaphysics of Morals*.

Paul Guyer

W 3pm-5:30pm