Germanic Studies

Department Website: http://german.uchicago.edu

Program of Study

The program for the BA degree in Germanic Studies is intended to provide students with a wide ranging and highly personalized introduction to the language, literature, and culture of German-speaking countries and to various methods of approaching and examining these areas. It is designed to be complemented by other areas of study (e.g., anthropology, art history, comparative literature, economics, film studies, history, philosophy, political science, sociology).

Students in other fields of study may also complete a minor in Germanic Studies. Information follows the description of the major.

Program Requirements

Students majoring in Germanic Studies can choose between two concentrations: Literature and Culture or Comparative Germanics.

1) Literature and Culture Concentration

Students typically register for:

1. Six German language courses at the second-year level and above*
2. Three courses in German literature and culture
3. Three courses in German literature and culture conducted in German, of which one may be a departmental course with a Languages Across the Curriculum (LxC) session and one may be an additional third-year course
4. GRMN 29900 (http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/search/?P=GRMN%2029900) Capstone Project

* Or prior satisfactory working knowledge of the language. Students may satisfy the required language courses through placement or accreditation examinations and may petition for back credits.

With prior approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, students may count up to two relevant German-oriented courses from other departments in the humanities or social sciences toward the requirements of the major in Germanic Studies.

2) Comparative Germanics Concentration

Students pursuing the Comparative Germanics Concentration reach intermediate to advanced proficiency in two Germanic languages (German and either Yiddish or Norwegian) and develop familiarity with two Germanic cultures.

Students typically register for:

1. Three German language courses at the second-year level and above*
2. Three Yiddish OR Norwegian language courses at the first-year level and above*
3. Six additional courses, of which at least three must be Germanic Literature and Culture courses
4. GRMN 29900 (http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/search/?P=GRMN%2029900) Capstone Project

* Or prior satisfactory working knowledge of the language. Students may satisfy the required language courses through placement or accreditation examinations and may petition for back credits.

With prior approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, students may count up to two relevant German-oriented courses from other departments in the humanities or social sciences toward the requirements of the major in Germanic Studies.

Please note: More than half of the requirements for the major must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

Capstone Project

Students in both tracks of the Germanics major must complete a Capstone Project—a culminating senior project. This can be either a traditional BA Paper or a project of creative inquiry.

Examples of alternatives to the BA Paper include (but are not limited to) an original translation, a creative writing text, an app or a podcast, an online exhibit, a website, or a documentary film. For these undertakings, students need to have sufficient previous experience with the relevant medium (e.g., artistic, digital, etc.) either through previous course work or independent practice. For the Capstone Project, students will have the opportunity to pursue their own individual intellectual interests, cultivate new skills and modes of communication and presentation, and potentially engage wider audiences for their scholarship. Projects must demonstrate substantial engagement with German-language culture(s), including the use of German-language
sources, and they must include a written summary and reflection (at least five to seven pages). The written component of the creative inquiry project must contain a clear statement on the issue or problem the student is tackling, and it must provide background information on the chosen field (e.g., other translations, alternative digital designs that exist, etc.). Furthermore, the written component must include a critical self-analysis of the undertaking, and it must reflect on methodologies employed and contributions to the chosen area of inquiry.

The BA Paper typically is a research paper of at least twenty-five pages. While the paper may be written in either English or German, it must include a bibliography that makes ample use of Germanic-language sources.

Students must submit a proposal for their Capstone Project to their faculty adviser by the beginning of the eighth week of Autumn Quarter in their senior year. A first draft of the paper or the written reflection is due on the first day of Spring Quarter, and the completed Capstone Project must be submitted by the beginning of the sixth week of Spring Quarter. Each student needs at least one adviser from within the department of Germanic Studies.

Germanic Studies will accept a Capstone Project used to meet the BA requirement in another major, under the condition that original Germanic language sources are used. Students should consult with both chairs by the earliest BA proposal deadline (or by the end of their third year, when neither program publishes a deadline). A consent form, to be signed by both chairs, is available from the College adviser. It must be completed and returned to the College adviser by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student’s year of graduation.

Outstanding Capstone Projects are eligible for the department’s McKenzie Prize.

**SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS: LITERATURE AND CULTURE CONCENTRATION**

**Second-Year German:** One of the following three-course sequences:  

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<tr>
<td>GRMN 12001-12002-12003</td>
<td>Intensive German I-II-III</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Deutsche Maerchen; Grünes Deutschland; Kurzprosa 20. Jahrhundert</td>
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**Third-Year German:** Any three of the following courses:

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Three courses in literature or culture taken in German  

Three courses in German literature and culture  

GRMN 29900 Capstone Project (Capstone Project)  

Total Units: 1300

- Or credit for the equivalent as determined by petition.
- With approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, one third-year course can be replaced by the independent project in Vienna.
- One may be a course with a Languages Across the Curriculum (LxC) session taught within the Department of Germanic Studies; one may be an additional third-year course.
- Two may be courses in other departments.

**SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS: COMPARATIVE GERMANICS CONCENTRATION**

**Second-Year German:** One of the following three-course sequences:

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRMN 12001-12002-12003</td>
<td>Intensive German I-II-III</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Three courses in first-year Norwegian or Yiddish, or above  

Six additional Germanic language, literature, and/or culture courses, of which at least three must be literature and culture courses  

GRMN 29900 Capstone Project  

Total Units: 1300

- Or credit for the equivalent as determined by petition.
- Two may be a relevant Germanic Studies-oriented course in another department.
HONORS

Honors are reserved for students who achieve overall excellence in grades for courses in the College and within the major, as well as complete a Capstone Project that shows proof of outstanding original research or creative inquiry. Students with an overall GPA of at least 3.25 for College work and a GPA of at least 3.5 in courses within the major, and whose Capstone Project is judged superior by two evaluators, will be recommended to the Master of the Humanities Collegiate Division for honors.

GRADING

Students who are majoring in Germanic Studies must receive a quality grade in all courses taken to meet requirements in the major. Non-majors have the option of taking courses for Pass/Fail grading (except for language courses, which must be taken for quality grades). More than half of the requirements for the major must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

STUDY ABROAD

As early in their course of study as possible, interested students are encouraged to take advantage of one of the study abroad options that are available in the College. The five options are:

1. A program in Vienna, which is offered each Autumn Quarter, includes three courses of European Civilization, as well as German language instruction on several levels.
   - Vienna program: contact Lauren Schneider, lschneider12@uchicago.edu and consult study-abroad.uchicago.edu/programs/vienna-western-civilization (https://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/programs/vienna-western-civilization/)

2. The College also co-sponsors, with the Berlin Consortium for German Studies, a yearlong program at the Freie Universität Berlin. Students register for regular classes at the Freie Universität or at other Berlin universities. To be eligible, students must have completed the second year of German language courses or an equivalent, and should have completed all general education requirements.
   - Berlin Consortium: contact Elana Kranz, ekranz@uchicago.edu and consult study-abroad.uchicago.edu/programs/berlin-freie-universität-berlin (https://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/programs/berlin-freie-universität-berlin/)

3. Third-year majors can apply for a Romberg Summer Research Grant to do preparatory work for the BA paper.
   - Send your application, a two-page single-spaced description of your research project and a budget description, to the Director of Undergraduate Studies by March 1.

4. Students who wish to do a summer study abroad program can apply for a Foreign Language Acquisition Grant (FLAG) that is administered by the College and provides support for a minimum of eight weeks of study at a recognized summer program abroad. Students must have completed GRMN 10300 Elementary German For Beginners-3 or its equivalent to be eligible for FLAG support for the study of German. For more information, visit study-abroad.uchicago.edu/sitg (http://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/sitg/).
   - FLAG program: consult study-abroad.uchicago.edu/programs/foreign-language-acquisition-grant-flag (https://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/programs/foreign-language-acquisition-grant-flag/)

5. DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Programs
   - DAAD German Studies Research Grant: Supports third- or fourth-year students seeking a 1-2 month research experience in Germany
   - DAAD Research Internships in Science and Engineering (RISE): Offers a stipend of 650 Euros per month for up to three months to conduct research in Germany over the summer
   - DAAD Undergraduate Scholarship (Supports second- and third-year students who wish to study and conduct research in Germany for 4 to 10 months)
   - DAAD University Summer Course Grant (Summer courses at German universities to help build your language skills while studying anything from film to politics to engineering)
   - UA7 Study & Internship Program (SIP) in Germany (Provides support for study at a German university, followed by an internship (including applied science research)

For other opportunities, details, and updates, visit ccrf.uchicago.edu/scholarships-and-fellowships/daad-german-academic-exchange-programs (https://ccrf.uchicago.edu/scholarships-and-fellowships/daad-german-academic-exchange-programs/) or contact Arthur Salvo at aksalvo@uchicago.edu.

More than half of the requirements for the major must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATES

It is recommended that students studying German complete one of the College’s Language Proficiency Certificates (Practical or Advanced) as documentation of functional ability in German. Students who successfully pass a University of Chicago oral and written proficiency test will receive a certificate of proficiency in a foreign language and will have this proficiency noted on their transcripts. Students are eligible to take the Advanced examination after they have completed courses beyond the second year of language study and subsequently have spent
a minimum of one quarter abroad in an approved program. FLAG students are also eligible. For more information, contact Maevé Hooper at hooperm@uchicago.edu, and consult languageassessment.uchicago.edu (https://languageassessment.uchicago.edu/).

**Placement Testing**

The German Placement Test is offered online to students registered at the University. Students may only take the Placement Test once. A score on the test does not confer credit, rather, it provides students with an entry point into the German language program. For questions or issues regarding placement, please contact the Director of the German Language Program, Maevé Hooper, hooperm@uchicago.edu.

**Accreditation Testing**

For issues regarding accreditation, please contact the Director of the German Language Program, Maevé Hooper, hooperm@uchicago.edu.

**Minor Program in Germanic Studies**

Students in other fields of study may complete a minor in Germanic Studies. The minor in Germanic Studies requires a total of six courses in addition to the second-year language sequence (GRMN 20100-20201-20300 Deutsche Maerchen; Grünes Deutschland; Kurzprosa 20. Jahrhundert) (or credit for the equivalent as determined by petition). These six courses usually include the third-year sequence and three literature/culture courses. Two of the literature/culture courses must be taken in German. Note that credit toward the minor for courses taken abroad must be determined in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies.

Students who elect the minor program in Germanic Studies must meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies before the end of Spring Quarter of their third year to declare their intention to complete the minor and must submit the Consent to Complete a Minor Program (https://humanities-web.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/college-prod/s3fs-public/documents/Consent_Minor_Program.pdf) form, obtained from their College adviser or online. Students choose courses in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. The director’s approval for the minor program should be submitted to the student’s College adviser by the deadline above on the consent form.

Courses in the minor may not be double counted with the student’s major(s) or with other minors and may not be counted toward general education requirements. Courses in the minor must be taken for quality grades, and more than half of the requirements for the minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

The following group of courses would comprise a minor in Germanic Studies. Other programs may be designed in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies.

**Germanic Studies Minor Requirements**

**Third-Year German:** Any three of the following courses: ‡ 300

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Three courses in German literature and culture * 300

Total Units 600

‡ With approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, one third-year course can be replaced by the independent project in Vienna.

* At least two must be taken in German. Of these one may be a departmental course with a Languages Across the Curriculum (LxC) session, and one may be an additional third-year course.

**Minor Program in Norwegian Studies**

See the Norwegian Studies (http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/norwegianstudies/) page in this catalog for program requirements and courses for the minor in Norwegian Studies.

**Yiddish Studies**

Students may enroll in the beginning language sequence (YDDH 10100-10200-10300 Elementary Yiddish for Beginners I-II-III) as well as the intermediate sequence (YDDH 20100 Intermediate Yiddish I and YDDH 20200 Intermediate Yiddish II: Archival Skills). There are opportunities for independent study for students whose Yiddish is above the intermediate level. Courses in Yiddish literature taught in English are offered biannually through the Department of Germanic Studies and may also be available in the Department of Comparative Literature. Courses in Yiddish may also be applied to the major or minor in Jewish Studies. Students interested in pursuing these degrees should consult Nancy Pardee (npardee@uchicago.edu). Students who study in the
Yiddish program may be eligible for funding for supplemental Yiddish language study in the summers or for internships.

Undergraduates are eligible to apply for the Vladimir and Pearl Heifetz Memorial Fellowship and the Vivian Lefsky Hort Memorial Fellowship (for East European Jewish literature), and the Joseph Kremen Memorial Fellowship (for East European Jewish Arts, Music, and Theater) at the YIVO institute for Jewish Research. These are two–three-month in-residence (in New York) research grants: www.yivo.org/List-of-Fellowships. Furthermore, the Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies offers undergraduate summer research grants: ccjs.uchicago.edu/undergraduate-summer-research-grants.

For further information on the Yiddish program and on opportunities, please contact Jessica Kirzane, Lecturer in Yiddish, jkirzane@uchicago.edu.

MINOR PROGRAM IN YIDDISH STUDIES
See the Yiddish Studies (http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/yiddish/) page in this catalog for program requirements and courses for the minor in Yiddish Studies.

YIDDISH PROGRAM INTERNSHIP
Career Advancement and the Greenberg Center co-sponsor an undergraduate intern from the University of Chicago to work for In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies.

GERMAN COURSES (LANGUAGE)
FIRST-YEAR SEQUENCE

GRMN 10100-10200-10300. Elementary German for Beginners I-II-III.
This sequence develops proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking for use in everyday communication. Knowledge and awareness of the different cultures of the German speaking countries is also a goal.

GRMN 10100. Elementary German For Beginners-1. 100 Units.
This sequence develops proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking for use in everyday communication. Knowledge and awareness of the different cultures of the German speaking countries is also a goal. No auditors permitted. Must be taken for quality grade.
Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): No auditors permitted. Must be taken for quality grade.

GRMN 10200. Elementary German For Beginners-2. 100 Units.
Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): GRMN 10100 or placement
Note(s): No auditors permitted. Must be taken for quality grade.

GRMN 10300. Elementary German For Beginners-3. 100 Units.
This sequence develops proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking for use in everyday communication. Knowledge and awareness of the different cultures of the German speaking countries is also a goal. Prerequisite(s): GRMN 10200 or 10201, or placement. No auditors permitted. Must be taken for quality grade.
Terms Offered: Autumn,Winter,Spring
Prerequisite(s): GRMN 10200 or 10201, or placement
Note(s): No auditors permitted. Must be taken for quality grade.

GRMN 10123. Summer Intensive Introductory German. 300 Units.
Summer Introductory German is a 7-week course designed for students wishing to develop intermediate proficiency in reading, writing, listening and speaking for use in everyday communication. Students will work with authentic materials as well as gain familiarity with the different cultures of the German-speaking countries. The course meets Monday through Thursday for three hours per day, with additional 90-minute meeting times in the afternoon. Summer Introductory German is the equivalent of the 10100-10200-10300 sequence offered during the regular academic year at the University of Chicago and satisfies the university competency requirement.
During Summer 2020, this course will be offered online and it will be adjusted accordingly.
Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Summer

GRMN 10201. Elementary German 2. 100 Units.
This is an accelerated version of the GRMN 10100-10200 sequence intended for students with previous knowledge of the language. Prerequisite(s): Placement or consent of language coordinator. No auditors permitted. Must be taken for a quality grade.
Terms Offered: Autumn,Winter
Prerequisite(s): Placement or consent of language coordinator
Note(s): No auditors permitted. Must be taken for a quality grade.

GRMN 12001-12002-12003. Intensive German I-II-III.
This intensive, three-quarter sequence brings students to high-intermediate levels in all four skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening so that students can enter third-year level courses in German. Learners who are
starting German late in their College careers or who wish to move forward swiftly will gain skills corresponding to two full years of study. NOTE: Each course is 200 units and corresponds in workload to taking two courses.

GRMN 12001. Intensive German I. 200 Units.
This intensive, three-quarter sequence brings students to high-intermediate levels in all four skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening so that students can enter third-year level courses in German. Learners who are starting German late in their College careers or who wish to move forward swiftly will gain skills corresponding to two full years of study. NOTE: Each course is 200 units and corresponds in workload to taking two courses.
Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: TBD

GRMN 12002. Intensive German II. 200 Units.
This intensive, three-quarter sequence brings students to high-intermediate levels in all four skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening so that students can enter third-year level courses in German. Learners who are starting German late in their College careers or who wish to move forward swiftly will gain skills corresponding to two full years of study. NOTE: Each course is 200 units and corresponds in workload to taking two courses.
Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: TBD

GRMN 12003. Intensive German III. 200 Units.
This intensive, three-quarter sequence brings students to high-intermediate levels in all four skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening so that students can enter third-year level courses in German. Learners who are starting German late in their College careers or who wish to move forward swiftly will gain skills corresponding to two full years of study. NOTE: Each course is 200 units and corresponds in workload to taking two courses.
Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: TBD

GRMN 13100. Reading German. 100 Units.
This course prepares students to read a variety of German texts. By the end of the quarter, students should have a fundamental knowledge of German grammar and a basic vocabulary. While the course does not teach conversational German, the basic elements of pronunciation are introduced.
Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Prior knowledge of German not required. No auditors permitted. This course does not prepare students for the competency exam. Must be taken for a quality grade.

SECOND-YEAR SEQUENCE

GRMN 20100-20201-20300. Deutsche Maerchen; Grünes Deutschland; Kurzprosa 20. Jahrhundert.
Second-Year Sequence

GRMN 20100. Deutsche Märchen. 100 Units.
This course is a comprehensive look at German fairy tales, including structure and role in German nineteenth-century literature, adaptation as children's books in German and English, and film interpretations. This course also includes a review and expansion of German grammar.
Terms Offered: Autumn,Winter,Spring
Prerequisite(s): GRMN 10300 or placement
Note(s): No auditors permitted. Must be taken for a quality grade.

GRMN 20201. Grünes Deutschland. 100 Units.
Over the past three decades Germany has become a global leader in environmentalism and sustainability practices. This course develops students' proficiency in all four skills (speaking, listening, reading, writing) and reviews basic grammar while exploring various aspects of "Green Germany," from recycling and transportation to renewable energies (die Energiewende) to the history of the green movement. We investigate environmental practices and attitudes in German-speaking countries while comparing them with those in the US and other countries. In doing so, we consider whether environmental practices in German-speaking countries represent positive and feasible models for other countries. Students work with authentic and current materials (articles, websites, videos) and pursue a variety of independent projects (research, creative), including a final project on how to make the university campus more sustainable.
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter
Prerequisite(s): Prerequisite(s): GRMN 20100 or placement exam

GRMN 20300. Kurzprosa aus dem 20. Jahrhundert. 100 Units.
This course is a study of descriptive and narrative prose through short fiction and other texts, as well as media from the twentieth century, with a focus on grammatical issues that are designed to push toward more cohesive and idiomatic use of language.
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter
Prerequisite(s): GRMN 20201 or placement
Note(s): No auditors permitted. Must be taken for a quality grade.

THIRD-YEAR SEQUENCE
GRMN 21103-21303-21403-21503-21603-21703. Drama; Erzählen; Film; Gedichte; Medien und Gesellschaft; Philosophie.

It is not necessary to take these courses in sequence. These courses serve as preparation for seminar-style classes. Students work with a variety of texts and learn to present and participate in instructor- and student-led discussions of relevant issues and topics. Students also write short essays and longer research papers. Work in grammar, structure, and vocabulary moves students toward more idiomatic use of German.

GRMN 21103. Erzählen. 100 Units.

It is not necessary to take these courses in sequence, but three of the four courses are required for the major. These courses serve as preparation for seminar-style classes. Students work with a variety of texts and learn to present and participate in instructor- and student-led discussions of relevant issues and topics. Students also write short essays and longer research papers. Work in grammar, structure, and vocabulary moves students toward more idiomatic use of German. This course develops advanced German skills through the study of narratives of various authors from different periods. Prerequisite(s): GRMN 20300 or placement

Note(s): No auditors permitted. Must be taken for a quality grade.

Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): GRMN 20300 or placement

Note(s): No auditors permitted. Must be taken for a quality grade.

GRMN 21303. Gedicht. 100 Units.

This course develops advanced German skills through the study of poetry of various authors from different periods.

Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): GRMN 20300 or placement

Note(s): No auditors permitted. Must be taken for a quality grade.

GRMN 21403. Philosophie. 100 Units.

This course develops advanced German skills through the study of philosophical texts of various authors from different periods.

Terms Offered: Spring. Offered in even-numbered years.

Prerequisite(s): GRMN 20300 or placement

Note(s): No auditors permitted. Must be taken for a quality grade.

GRMN 21503. Film. 100 Units.

Instructor(s): Staff

Terms Offered: TBD

GRMN 21603. Drama. 100 Units.

Instructor(s): Staff

Terms Offered: TBD

GRMN 21703. Medien und Gesellschaft. 100 Units.

Instructor(s): Staff

Terms Offered: TBD

GRMN 21803. Arbeitskulturen: Trends in the German-Speaking Working World. 100 Units.

This advanced language course will cover the economic and political bases of the European Union, an overview of the German-speaking world’s largest industries, the contemporary emphasis on sustainable business practices, as well as the on-going process of Brexit. Brexit brings key questions, such as the value of the common currency, immigration mobility within the Bloc and Germany’s role as economic and political leader of the group into focus. We will practice skills such as effective digital correspondence, presentations, and interviewing strategies. Students may tailor major assignments to their specific field or industry of interest with the aim of securing a summer internship or developing an in situ research project. All reading and discussion in German.

Instructor(s): Nicole Burgoyne

Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): Prerequisite(s): GRMN 20300 or placement exam

LANGUAGES ACROSS THE CURRICULUM (LXC)

LXC courses have two possible formats: (1) an additional course meeting during which students read and discuss authentic source material and primary texts in German; or (2) a course in another discipline (such as history) that is taught entirely in German. Prerequisite German language skills depend on the course format and content. LXC courses maintain or improve students’ German language skills while giving them a unique and broadened perspective into the regular course content.

GERMAN COURSES (LITERATURE AND CULTURE)

All literature and culture courses are conducted in German unless otherwise indicated. Students who are majoring or minoring in German and take courses taught in English are expected to do the majority of their course work in German.

GRMN 20678. Narratives of the End of Faith. 100 Units.

There seems to be consensus around the notion that the loss of religious faith is one of the defining features of modern society. What does this mean for human life going forward, however? Is what Nietzsche called the “death of God” a catastrophe, or an opportunity? Or is it an event that only seems revolutionary, which in fact
Germanic Studies

masks a deep social continuity? In this course, we will examine some of the various responses to these questions in the 19th and 20th century, from Karl Marx and Max Weber, through Nietzsche and Heidegger, to “death of God theology.” A guiding thread throughout the course will be the relationship of secularization to freedom. Along the way we will reflect on the meaning of “modernity” and “postmodernity.”

Instructor(s): Mat Messerschmidt Terms Offered: Autumn. Course taught AUT 2021
Equivalent Course(s): SCTH 20678, RLST 25678

GRMN 23421. Transcontinental Romanticism. 100 Units.

In 1836, at the age of 26, Margaret Fuller began teaching the great works of German Romanticism to students at Amos Alcott’s radically progressive Temple School. Fuller’s passion for the German Romantics and their propagation in America is representative of the profound importance that the “American Transcendentalists” (Emerson, Thoreau, Fuller) attributed to German literature and its potential to shape American culture and values. In this course, we will explore the elective affinities between German Romanticism and its American counterpart, tracing the ways in which the two traditions mutually illuminate each other. Each unit will pair one major German and one major American text or artwork. Themes / pairings include: ecstatic experiences of nature in Goethe’s The Sorrows of Young Werther and Thoreau’s Walden; spiritual landscapes in the paintings of Caspar David Friedrich and the Hudson River School; world-history in Novalis’ Hymns to the Night and Whitman’s Leaves of Grass; exemplarity and individualism in Emerson’s “Self-Reliance” and Nietzsche’s “Schopenhauer as Educator.”

Instructor(s): Florian Klinger Terms Offered: Winter

GRMN 24422. In the Absence of Power. 100 Units.

The Western philosophical tradition not only produced conceptions of agency, the power to act, but also, and almost in equal measure, conceptions of non-agency - that is, conceptions of what to do, what to think, how to conceive of ourselves in the absence of power. Proposals from Aristotle to Foucault to conceive power as at once constraining and productive leave unanswered the question what to do when conditions for action are not in place or have broken down, or one is shut off from them. This seminar reviews and puts to the test conceptions of non-agency drawn from the contexts of ontology, political thought, and aesthetics. How, if at all, is acting possible when one possesses no resources? What does it mean to conceive agency from a position of weakness? Who can claim to inhabit such a position? Materials include Heidegger, Benjamin, Fanon, Lorde, Nancy, Glissant, Spillers, Agamben, Hamacher, Wilderson. Readings and discussion in English.

Instructor(s): Simon Friedland Terms Offered: Spring

GRMN 24819. Maniacs, Specters, Automata: The Tales of E.T.A. Hoffmann. 100 Units.

In this course we will read stories by one of the most prominent representatives of Romanticism, the German writer, composer, and painter E.T.A. Hoffmann who wrote “The Nutcracker and the Mouse King” on which Tchaikovsky would later base his ballet. His stories of bizarre yet psychologically compelling characters will introduce us to the “dark side” of Romanticism as well as to its fantastical aspects. Students will read Hoffmann’s extraordinary stories, develop skills of literary analysis, and engage in historical inquiry by tracing the way in which Hoffmann’s texts engage with the context of their time, in particular with the history of medicine (mesmerism, early psychiatry) and law (Hoffmann worked as a legal official). Those with reading knowledge of German can read the texts in the original, otherwise readings and discussions will be in English.

Instructor(s): Margareta Ingrid Christian Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): GRMN 34819

GRMN 25005. The Pleasure of Literature: The Novella. 100 Units.

According to Ian McEwan, the novella is “the perfect form of prose fiction. It is the beautiful daughter of a rambling, bloated, ill-shaven giant” (i.e., the novel.) This course introduces students to the short prose form of the German novella from Romanticism to the present. We will use the genre of the novella to explore the many pleasures of reading literature, among which storytelling features prominently. What kind of storytelling happens in a novella? Where does the pleasure of reading stem from? How can we think the relationship between pleasure and literature? How do developments in new media and new modes of reading affect our pleasure? How can we compare our literary gratification to other types of readerly gratification such as those coming from news articles, blog entries, and other short forms (aphorisms, magazine articles) - or, for that matter, the ”reading” of images? Might the pleasure of literature also point to its utility? Readings include: Boccaccio, Goethe, Hoffmann, Kleist, Keller, Büchner, Schnitzler, M. Walser, and others, alongside some scientific articles (e.g., cognitive neuroscience) and theoretical texts.

Instructor(s): Margareta Ingrid Christian Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): This course will be taught in German.

GRMN 25120. Nietzsche: Culture, Critique, Self-Transcendence. 100 Units.

This course is conceived as a pathway to the Humanities and an introduction to the work of Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900). A range of Nietzsche’s work will be considered, but the focus will be on three themes to which Nietzsche recurs throughout his writing career: Culture: Nietzsche’s thought on the anthropological roots and the expressive forms of human meaning-making; Apollo/Dionysus; Gesture; Music; Metaphor Critique: the vacuous character of modern culture; romanticism, decadence, nihilism, Self-Transcendence: individual self-realization and freedom. The selection of these themes is motivated by the fact that they may be considered as fundamental dimensions of humanistic inquiry. Students will develop a sound understanding of a writer whose intellectual influence continues to grow, but at the same time they will become acquainted with such core
concepts of humanistic/interpretive inquiry as form, expression, ideology, genealogy, discourse, self-fashioning, individuality, and value.
Instructor(s): David Wellbery Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): SIGN 26013, FNDL 25121

GRMN 25121. Intimacy and Desire in German Cinema. 100 Units.
This seminar explores representations of intimacy, sensuality and private life through the lens of German-language cinema from the Weimar period to New German Cinema of the 1960s. Departing from Richard Wagner's revolutionary darkening of the auditorium in the late 19th century, this course considers the emergence of cinema as a social institution and site of desire, fantasy and fulfillment in the broader German cultural context. Close readings of canonic films including Der blaue Engel, Die Büchse der Pandora, La Habanera and Die Ehe der Maria Braun will be guided by literary and theoretical texts on the formation of the film viewer as a sensuous subject. We will integrate journalistic writings on sexuality, degeneracy and bourgeois morality in the public sphere and the historical phenomenon of modern stardom associated with the careers of Marlene Dietrich, Louise Brooks and Zarah Leander. Films by Joseph von Sternberg, G. W. Pabst, Douglas Sirk, Helmut Käutner and Rainer Werner Fassbinder are accompanied by texts by Irmgard Keun, Lotte H. Eisner, Siegfried Kracauer, Thomas Elsaesser and Erica Carter. Class will be conducted in English.
Instructor(s): Emily Dreyfus Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 25121

GRMN 25322. New German Cinema. 100 Units.
This class will offer an intense exploration of the classical New German Cinema and some of the issues in its aesthetics, history and theory. Thus, we will see a broad variety of films (some familiar, some not so familiar: including work by R.W. Fassbinder, A. Kluge, W. Herzog, W. Wenders, H. Sanders-Brahms, U. Ottinger, J-M Straub/D Huillet, et al.) and read a broad range of material-incorporating, among others, questions of genre, auteur theory, psychoanalysis, history, politics, and film style. Proficiency in German language, culture, or history is welcome but not required (all films have subtitles); a serious commitment to thinking about the logic, rhetoric, history, and textuality of film is essential. The pace and conceptual level of the readings make this course most appropriate for graduate students.
Instructor(s): David Levin Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): undergrads by consent only
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 42027, GRMN 35322

GRMN 25421. Babylon Berlin: Politics and Culture in the Weimar Period. 100 Units.
This seminar will focus on the political and cultural turmoil of the Weimar Republic from its beginnings up to Hitler's seizure of power. How did Germany's first experiment with democracy go so terribly wrong? How was it that the arts flourished while the Republic succumbed ever more to extremist politics accompanied by armed militias? What role did new media and art forms play in the cultural and political turmoil of the period? Course material will include historical studies, novels, poetry, theater, political essays, philosophy, visual art, and film.
Instructor(s): Eric Santner Terms Offered: Autumn

GRMN 27621. Philosophical Aesthetics: Heidegger and Adorno. 100 Units.
Two major positions in German philosophical aesthetics of the 20th century will be considered in detail: 1) the ontological-hermeneutic theory advanced by Martin Heidegger; 2) the dialectical-critical theory developed by Theodor W. Adorno. Primary readings will be Heidegger's Origin of the Work of Art and selections from Adorno's Aesthetic Theory. In addition, selected shorter pieces by the two authors will be studied, with a special emphasis on their work on lyric poetry. The seminar will also consider contributions by Georg Simmel, Walter Benjamin, Helmut Plessner, Arnold Gehlen, Georg Lukács. The course seeks to develop an understanding of the conceptual foundation of each of the two philosophical positions. Particular topics to be considered: a) the nature of artistic presentation (Darstellung); b) the nature of artistic truth; c) the historical character of art; d) the political significance of art; e) the relation of art to philosophy.
Instructor(s): David Wellbery Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Undergrads must receive consent.
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 27621, SCTX 27621, SCTX 37621, CMLT 37621, GRMN 37621

GRMN 28922. Spiel. 100 Units.
Drawing on Johan Huizinga's argument in his classic book Homo Ludens about play's centrality to human culture, this seminar will investigate some of the philosophical, literary, and pedagogical dimensions of Spiel in German culture, with a focus on the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. We will also examine one of the most fundamental of objects related to games, the doll, and will explore why this source of childhood nostalgia, imaginative engagement, and delight has also been the starting point for countless horror stories. Readings include: Schiller, Goethe, Froebel, E. T. A. Hoffmann, Kleist, Heinrich Hoffmann, Hans Christian Andersen, Rilke, Freud, Winnicott.
Instructor(s): Catriona MacLeod Terms Offered: Winter

GRMN 29700. Reading and Research Course in German. 100 Units.
No description available. Prerequisite(s): Consent of instructor and director of undergraduate studies Note(s): Students must consult with the instructor by the eighth week of the preceding quarter to determine the subject of the course and the work to be done. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form.
Germanic Studies

Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter, Spring
Prerequisite(s): Consent of instructor and director of undergraduate studies
Note(s): Students must consult with the instructor by the eighth week of the preceding quarter to determine the subject of the course and the work to be done. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form.

GRMN 29900. Capstone Project. 100 Units.
A culminating senior project. This can be either a traditional BA Paper, or a project of creative inquiry.
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter
Prerequisite(s): Fourth-year standing. Consent of instructor and director of undergraduate studies.
Note(s): Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form.