Department of German Studies
Courses - Fall 2019

GRMN0100 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 successfully about everyday topics. This is the first half of a year-long course whose first semester grade is normally a temporary one. Neither semester may be elected independently without special written permission. The final grade submitted at the end of the course work in GRMN 0200 covers the entire year and is recorded as the final grade for both semesters. Students who have a conflict with the Tuesday hour should contact the instructor.

Jonathan Fine
S01 MWF 9-9:50, T 12-12:50
S02 MWF 11-11:50, T 12-12:50
S03 MWF 12-12:50, T 12-12:50
S04 MWF 1-1:50, T 12-12:50

GRMN0300 Intermediate German I
Focuses on deepening students' understanding of modern German culture by reading texts and viewing films pertinent to Germany today. Intended to provide a thorough review of German grammar and help students develop their writing, reading, listening, and speaking skills. Frequent writing assignments. Four hours per week. Recommended prerequisite: GRMN 0200. Students who have a conflict with the Thursday hour should contact the instructor.

Jonathan Fine
S01 MWF 10-10:50, Th 12-12:50
S02 MWF 1-1:50, Th 12-12:50

GRMN0500F 20th Century German Culture
A broad exploration of twentieth-century German culture using many kinds of written and visual texts (e.g. literature, journalism, film, art). While continuing to work on all four language skills (speaking, listening, reading, writing) students will gain more intensive knowledge about German culture, society, and history. In German. Recommended prerequisite: GRMN 0400. WRIT

Rebecca Haubrich
S01 MWF 11-11:50am
TBD
S02 MWF 9-9:50am

GRMN0750F Historical Crime Fiction
There is almost no time period that has not been covered by historical crime fiction. From ancient Egypt and Rome to 18th century China, historical crime fiction has complemented and contested our knowledge of history. In this seminar, we will do some extensive time travel and explore how crime fiction explores the past and challenges our understanding of bygone times. Readings of texts by Ellis Peters, Umberto Eco, Peter Tremayne, Lindsey Davis, Alan Gordon, Robert van Gulik, Laura Rowland, among others. In English.

Thomas Kniesche
S01 MWF 10-10:50am
GRMN1200I Show Trials: The Aesthetics of Law in Literature and Film

J’accuse! Zola’s public denunciation of the French President, accusing him of anti-Semitism and unlawful imprisonment, has become emblematic for theatrical politics and dramatized trials. Even though their outcomes were decided in advance, the performance of show trials – from the Dreyfus affair to the Auschwitz trials and the prosecution of Saddam Hussein – have been indispensable for the political formation of society. In this course, we will analyze the literary, cinematic, and philosophical reception of such performative trials, ranging from Kafka’s Trial and Arendt’s Eichmann in Jerusalem to Dreyer’s The Passion of Joan of Arc and Kramer’s Judgment at Nuremberg. In English.

Rebecca Haubrich S01 MWF 2-2:50pm

GRMN1440S Grimms’ Fairy Tales

“One doesn’t know the sorts of things one has in one’s house,” says the servant girl in Kafka’s "A Country Doctor," as a stranger, who will soon act violently towards her, emerges on all fours from an unused sty. The precarious moment of finding more than one seeks in one's midst is among the key motifs of Grimms’ "Household Tales" that we will trace, following the way they move writers of literature, psychoanalysis, and critical theory. Reading the Grimms among others, we will find: what was "once upon a time" is not finished, nor can these uncanny tales be domesticated. In English.

Kristina Mendicino S01 MWF 1-1:50pm

GRMN1441G Städtebilder

Cities mark sites of humans gathering and dwelling as political animals, bound to language. But while cities confirm this Aristotelian definition of human beings, they also expose its vulnerability. Cities have to be founded and surrounded by walls. They are in need of protection and driven by the desire to expand. What’s in a city? The seminar follows this question through the evocation of various cities and sites in texts by Hölderlin, Hebel, Heine, Stifter, Brecht and Benjamin; in photographs (of Paris) by Eugène Atget; in films by Walter Ruttmann (on Berlin), and Wim Wenders (Paris, Texas). Taught in German.

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

GRMN1661K Gesellschaftskritik im deutschen Gegenwartskrimi

Contemporary crime fiction in Germany in many cases (!) turns to and on certain kinds of crime that very much occur in the real world: From terrorism to crimes against the environment and from corruption in government and big business to the plight of migrants, crime fiction negotiates and re-writes problems that haunt our late-capitalist societies. Globalization and digitization often play a major role in these stories and a critique of these historical developments is part and parcel of the novels we will read. Taught in German.

Thomas Kniesche S01 MWF 12-12:50pm

GRMN2661R Poetry and Politics

The belief in a strict distinction between form and content features prominently in most accepted understandings of language and words. Words are considered containers that are to be emptied or filled. Focusing on this motif and exploring its various figurations (caskets, boxes, cases, and crypts) in literary, philosophical, and psychoanalytical texts, this graduate seminar will question this assumption. Authors read in the course of the semester include Shakespeare, Goethe, Poe, Baudelaire, Freud, Benjamin, Abraham/Torok, and Derrida. Texts in English, French, and German. Taught in English. Participants from different fields of interest are welcome.

Thomas Schestag S01 T 1-3:30pm 190 Hope 103 (Library)
**GRMN2661S What Was a Medium?**

Scholars of literature, media, and aesthetics have weighed in from various viewpoints on the question “What is a medium?” This seminar takes a historical approach by examining how the medium and mediality were imagined prior to the 20th century. We will look at the history of the question itself: What was the “medium” for classical antiquity and the 18th-century (two historical moments on which we will focus)? How did it emerge from discussions about moderation, mediocrity, or mediation? Discussions and readings in English; students also welcome to work with texts in the originals.

*Zachary Sng*  
*S01 W 3-5:30pm*

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**GRMN2661U Passive Voices**

At the latest since Aristotle’s *Peri hermeneias*, there has been talk of the pathos of language: “There are symbols in the voice of the affections (*pathémata*) in the soul.” Those affections should be, Aristotle says, the same for all humans, however divergent their voices. But upon these premises, the question would nonetheless arise: how might any passion be addressed or ascertained in this way, if each affect would always differ from any word that may be given of it? This course is devoted to the question of passion in language, with readings from Descartes, Spinoza, Büchner, and Musil, among others.

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

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**SWED0100 S01 Beginning Swedish**

Swedish 100 is an introduction to both Sweden and Swedish, covering various aspects of Swedish history, art and society, as well as screening at least three Swedish films per semester. The course packet contains the text/workbook, *Mål 1*, with additional materials. We will cover one chapter of *Mål* per week, with quizzes every three weeks. There will be a midterm and a final exam, along with a short take-home project. This is a small class, so your presence is absolutely required. Emphasis will be placed on speaking and understanding Swedish. Good will and good humor are required.

*Ann Weinstein*  
*S01 TuTh 4-5:30*  
*190 Hope 102*
Courses Offered Beyond German Studies that May Count Towards the 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.
S03, CRN 16520  M. Redfield / P. Szendy

HMAN 2400P  The Idea of the University
What is the future of the university? Its very idea has undergone drastic changes, from the formulation of “academic freedom” in 1155 to what, under neoliberal capitalism, has been called the “uberification of the university.” Our seminar is dedicated to key texts—from Kant to Derrida and Butler—in this history, focusing on topics such as the corporatization of universities, political protest, and the unconditional. Students will pursue collaborative inquiries into the idea of a university or jointly translate significant historical and theoretical documents; their research will be the foundation of a critical lexicon hosted on a dedicated webpage.
Section S01, CRN 15358  G. Richter / P. Szendy

MUSC 1660A  Mahler's Century
This seminar will explore key works of Gustav Mahler in multiple contexts, including critical/interpretive traditions, conducting and performance practices, and the contexts of political, cultural, intellectual, and aesthetic history. Readings will include work of Sigmund Freud, Theodor Adorno, Carl Schorske, Julia Kristeva, Judith Butler, and others; we will think about problems such modernism, orientalism, Jewishness, montage, noise, shock, and melancholy.
S01, CRN 16702  M. Steinberg

PHIL 0080  Existentialism
An introduction to philosophical thinking through the study of existentialist themes, including being oneself, loving others, the limits of morality, and the meaning of life in the face of suffering and death. Readings are drawn primarily from Schopenhauer, Dostoyevsky, Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, Heidegger, Sartre, de Beauvoir, and Camus.
S01, CRN 16730  B. Reginster

PHIL 1710  17th Century Continental Rationalism
The course will focus on the principle of sufficient reason and involve a close reading of Spinoza's Ethics, along with other texts from Leibniz, Schopenhauer, Heidegger, and some contemporary writers.
S01, CRN 16749  C. Larmore

PHIL 1720  Kant: The Critique of Pure Reason
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.
S01, CRN 16744  P. Guyer

PHIL 1910F  Schopenhauer's Ethical Thought
The course offers a detailed survey of Schopenhauer's ethical thought, including his views about the character of moral agency (e.g., free will), about practical reason and deliberation, about philosophical psychology (e.g., the nature of egoism, the nature of pleasure), and about substantive ethics (e.g., compassion, resignation, and the ethical significance of artistic contemplation). It is recommended that students have at least one other course in ethics.
S01, CRN 16986  B. Reginster