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.

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

**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.

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

**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

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

**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

Thomas Kniesche  S01 MWF 10-10:50  190 Hope 102
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

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

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

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
Kafka and the Philosophers

Kafka’s writings take as a central concern the philosophical interpretability of what we call literature. What is one to make, for instance, of a text that begins with a protagonist awakening one morning to realize that he has been transformed into a monstrous vermin? Or another awakening protagonist unexpectedly detained by officers waiting in his apartment? For Kafka, “correct understanding of something and misunderstanding of the same thing are not entirely mutually exclusive.” We will study some of Kafka’s greatest texts alongside key attempts at interpreting Kafka philosophically, including Benjamin, Adorno, Derrida, Deleuze/Guattari, and Agamben. In English; diverse fields welcome. In English.

Gerhard Richter/Dennis Johannssen S01 M 3-5:30 190 Hope 102

Heinrich Heine und Deutschland

Heinrich Heine (1797-1856) has filled many roles in the history of German culture: a poet who wrote some of the most “Romantic” poems in the German language; an author who effortlessly switched between journalistic and literary writing; and a “wound” (Theodor W. Adorno) that cannot stop refusing to heal. We will conduct extensive readings from Heine’s poetic, essayistic, and narrative oeuvre which will result not only in a better understanding of the development of post-classical German literature, but also in a deeper knowledge of German culture as a whole. In German.

Thomas Kniesche S01 MWF 2-2:50 190 Hope 203

Nietzsche’s Philology

In September 1869, Friedrich Nietzsche delivers his inaugural lecture as a professor of philology at the University of Basel: *Homer und die klassische Philologie*. Our seminar will reconsider the *Homerian question* as it unfolds in Giambattista Vico (*Scienza nuova*), and Friedrich August Wolff (*Prolegomena ad Homerum*); its transformation in Nietzsche’s inaugural lecture; and the continuous quest for philology in Nietzsche’s later writings. In English.

Thomas Schestag S01 W 3-5:30 John Hay Library 315

Speaking of Appearances: Phenomenology and its Fictions

How does Husserl’s oeuvre open other ways to think through the relation of language and phenomena than those admitted by the traditions of logic he receives? Especially in his late writings, he seeks to retrace the passive preconditions for every thesis on the world. This radical questioning of origins should establish logic more firmly; however, it lies on a fiction—”wir machen eine Fiktion eines Subjektes,” Husserl writes in one introduction—rendering phenomenology contingent upon poetics in a fashion that opens other inroads into Husserl’s analyses and methods, which we will pursue via close readings of Husserl’s writing, among others. In English.

Kristina Mendicino S01 F 3-5:30 190 Hope 203

Beginning Swedish

Swedish 200 is a continuation of Swedish 100, with the same goals, materials and methods. It may also be suited to students with some prior background in Swedish.

Ann Weinstein S01 TuTh 4-5:30 190 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 Johannsen*  
*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, Jauss, 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.

*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.

*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
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