

GERMAN AND GERMAN STUDIES (BI-CO)

haverford.edu/german

The Bi-College Department of German draws upon the expertise of the German faculty at both Bryn Mawr and Haverford Colleges to offer a broadly conceived German Studies program, incorporating a variety of courses and major options. The purpose of the major in German is to lay the foundation for a critical understanding of German culture in its contemporary international context and its larger political, social, and intellectual history. To this end, we encourage a thorough and comparative study of the German language and culture through its linguistic and literary history, institutions, political systems, and arts and sciences.

The German program aims, by means of various methodological approaches to the study of another language, to foster critical thinking, expository writing skills, understanding of the diversity of culture(s), and the ability to respond creatively to the challenges posed by cultural difference in an increasingly global world. Course offerings are intended to serve both students with particular interests in German literature and literary theory and criticism, and those interested in studying German and German-speaking cultures from the perspective of communication arts, film, history, history of ideas, history of art and architecture, history of religion, institutions, linguistics, mass media, philosophy, politics, and urban anthropology and folklore.

LEARNING GOALS

The German program aims, through the study of German language, culture, and literature, to foster:

- critical thinking.
- expository writing skills.
- the mastery of critical theories and methodologies, crucial for the analysis of cultural artifacts.
- the ability to respond intellectually and creatively to the challenges posed by cultural difference in an increasingly multicultural and global world.
- a thorough knowledge of German language.

CURRICULUM

A thorough knowledge of German is a goal for both major concentrations. The objective of our

language instruction is to teach students communicative skills that enable them to function effectively in authentic conditions of language use and to speak and write in idiomatic German. A major component of all German courses is the examination of issues that underline the cosmopolitanism as well as the specificity and complexity of contemporary German culture. German majors can and are encouraged to take courses in interdisciplinary areas, such as comparative literature, film, gender and sexuality studies, growth and structure of cities, history, history of art, music, philosophy, and political science, where they read works of criticism in these areas in the original German. Courses relating to any aspect of German culture, history, and politics given in other departments can count toward requirements for the major or minor.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

After the completion of the GERM 101-102 sequence (or its equivalent) the German language and literature concentration normally follows the sequence 201 and/or 202; 209 or 212, or 213; plus additional courses to complete the 10 units, two of them at the 300 level; and finally one semester of Senior Conference or either an additional 300-level seminar in German or GERM 403 (Supervised Work) for double majors.

A German Studies major normally includes 201 or 202; 223 or 245; one 200- and one 300-level course in German literature; three courses (at least one at the 300 level) in subjects central to aspects of German culture, history, or politics; and one semester of GERM 321 (Advanced Topics in German Cultural Studies). Within each concentration, courses need to be selected so as to achieve a reasonable breadth, but also a degree of disciplinary coherence.

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

A minor in German and German Studies consists of six units of work. To earn a minor, students are normally required to take GERM 201 or 202, five additional units covering a reasonable range of study topics, of which at least one unit is at the 300 level. One upper-level course may be chosen with the approval of the department from the

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recommended electives for German Studies majors.

SENIOR PROJECT

All of our majors are required to write a senior thesis in German, or—if they are double majors—to produce a thesis in a related discipline that has significant overlap with their work in German. They typically take a 300-level seminar in fall and write a research term paper that often becomes the foundation for their senior project. In the spring semester they take the mandatory 399 Senior Conference consisting of weekly meetings and discussions of thesis proposals and drafts with their advisor(s).

Senior Project Learning Goals

In writing the senior thesis, the student should demonstrate a) the capacity to conceive a theoretically informed and well designed research project b) the language skills to research and evaluate primary and secondary materials and to effectively synthesize these, and c) the analytical and methodological skills to produce an innovative and critically astute thesis.

Senior Project Assessment

The quality of the thesis is evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- Originality of topic.
- Mastery of analysis.
- Familiarity with primary and secondary literature.
- Creative application of relevant theoretical discourses.
- Clarity of writing.

REQUIREMENTS FOR HONORS

Any student whose grade point average in the major at the end of the senior year is 3.8 or higher qualifies for departmental honors. Students who have completed a thesis and whose major grade point average at the end of the senior year is 3.6 or higher, but not 3.8, are eligible to be discussed as candidates for departmental honors. A student in this range of eligibility must be sponsored by at least one faculty member with whom the student has done coursework, and at least one other faculty member must read some of the student's advanced work and agree on the excellence of the work in order for departmental honors to be awarded. If there is a sharp difference of opinion, additional readers will serve as needed.

CONCENTRATIONS AND INTERDISCIPLINARY MINORS

The German department with its cross-disciplinary curriculum is a regular contributor to the Comparative Literature program, Gender and Sexuality Studies, the Cities program, as well as African and Africana Studies.

STUDY ABROAD

We encourage students majoring in German to spend time in German-speaking countries in the course of their undergraduate studies. Possibilities include summer work programs, DAAD (German Academic Exchange) scholarships for summer courses at German universities, and selected junior year abroad programs (Berlin, Freiburg, Vienna).

FACULTY

At Haverford:

Imke Brust (*Co-Chair*)

Assistant Professor of German

Simone Schlichting-Artur

Visiting Associate Professor of German

Ulrich Schönherr

Professor of German and Comparative Literature

At Bryn Mawr:

David Kenosian

Lecturer

Azade Seyhan (*Co-Chair*)

Fairbank Professor in the Humanities; Professor of German and Comparative Literature

Qinna Shen

Assistant Professor of German

COURSES AT HAVERFORD

GERM H001 ELEMENTARY GERMAN

Simone Schlichting-Artur

Humanities (HU)

Meets five hours a week with the individual class instructor, one hour with student drill instructors. Strong emphasis on communicative competence both in spoken and written German in a larger cultural context. This is a year-long course; both semesters (001 and 002) are required for credit. (Offered Fall 2017)

GERM H002 ELEMENTARY GERMAN

Simone Schlichting-Artur

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Humanities (HU)
(Offered Spring 2018)

GERM H101 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN

Imke Brust

Humanities (HU)

Meets three hours a week with the individual class instructor, one hour with student drill instructor. Thorough review of grammar, exercises in composition and conversation. Enforcement of correct grammatical patterns and idiomatic use of language. Study of selected literary and cultural texts and films from German-speaking countries. Two semesters. (Offered Fall 2017)

GERM H102 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN

Imke Brust

Humanities (HU)

Meets three hours a week with the individual class instructor, one hour with student drill instructor. Thorough review of grammar, exercises in composition and conversation. Enforcement of correct grammatical patterns and idiomatic use of language. Study of selected literary and cultural texts and films from German-speaking countries. Two semesters. (Offered Spring 2018)

GERM H201 ADVANCED TRAINING: LANGUAGE, TEXT, AND CONTEXT

Staff

Humanities (HU)

This course is intended for students who wish to refine their speaking, writing, and reading skills beyond the Intermediate level. Designed as a comprehensive introduction to modern German culture, we will discuss a variety of literary, political, historical and philosophical texts, including feature films and video materials. Weekly grammar reviews will complement these activities. (Offered every year)

GERM H223 WRITING NATIONS: AFRICA AND EUROPE

Imke Brust

Humanities (HU)

This course will explore ideas of nation-building in regard to the transnational relations between Europe and Africa. We will discuss African and European experiences of nation-creation to distinguish between exclusionary and inclusionary visions of nation states, and focus in particular on literary texts from Great Britain, Germany, and France in comparison with literary

texts from Nigeria, South Africa, and Algeria. (Offered Fall 2017)

GERM H262 EUROPEAN FILM

Imke Brust

Humanities (HU)

This course will explore what role film plays in the conceptualization of the European Union. After a brief historical overview, we will familiarize ourselves with a variety of important European film movements after 1945. Our class discussion will cover important European film movements such as German Expressionist Film, Italian Neorealism, French New Wave, Czech New Wave, New German Cinema, and Dogma 95. In addition, we will be watching films from Poland, the Netherlands, and the Balkans. Towards the end of the semester we will discuss how the accelerated integration of the European Union since the 1990s has affected film production within the European Union and what aesthetic, and political ideas shape contemporary European films. Furthermore, this class also aims to highlight transnational aspects of European film in particular in light of the recent European refugee crisis. This course is taught in English with an extra-session in German. Crosslisted: German, Comparative Literature (Typically offered every other year)

GERM H305 MODERN GERMAN DRAMA—A MORAL COMPASS?

Imke Brust

Humanities (HU)

In 1784 Friedrich Schiller started a discussion about theater as a moral institution. With this in mind, this course will provide an overview of the historical development of drama within the German-speaking world and also explore foreign influences on German drama. We will read and watch a variety of different plays from Lessing to Jelinek, and engage with different theatrical genres: classical, epic, documentary, absurd, and feminist theater. In addition, we will discuss the function of the institutionalization of theater within the German national imaginary, with a particular focus on gender and race. This course is taught in German. (Offered Fall 2017)

GERM H320 SEX-CRIME-MADNESS: THE BIRTH OF MODERN LITERATURE AND THE AESTHETICS OF TRANSGRESSION

Ulrich Schönherr

Humanities (HU)

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The emancipation from rule-bound poetics, didactic, and moral constraints led to a redefinition of literature around 1800, for which the classic/classicist triad of the true, the good, and the beautiful was no longer valid. The successful separation from extra-aesthetic determinants opened up new representational possibilities, in which the “beautiful” became boring and the “ugly” became interesting. Focusing on major literary figures from Goethe to Jelinek, the seminar will examine the ‘paradigm shift’ towards a modern aesthetics of transgression in which social, racial, and sexual deviancy take center stage. Crosslisted: German, Comparative Literature (Not offered 2017-18)

GERM H321 INTERMEDIAL TRANSFORMATIONS: MUSICO-ACOUSTIC IMAGINATIONS IN LITERATURE AND FILM

Ulrich Schönherr

Humanities (HU)

The course intends to explore the rich and diverse representations of music in all its socio-aesthetic complexity from antiquity to the present. The thematic scope will range from mythological, philosophical, and religious interpretations of music through issues of gender, race, and politics in literature, opera, and film, to theories of intermediality, and psychological implications of voice and sound. Focusing on exemplary models, we will reconstruct the changing social functions and highly ambiguous attitudes towards music in Western culture, oscillating between fear and fascination. In addition, we will also continuously confront the semiotic question of whether literature can justifiably be read in analogy to musical forms, and whether music as a language is also plausible in reverse. Crosslisted: German, Comparative Literature (Offered Spring 2018)

GERM H399 SENIOR CONFERENCE

Imke Brust, Ulrich Schönherr

Humanities (HU)

All of our majors are required to write a senior thesis in German, or—if they are double majors—to produce a thesis in a related discipline that has significant overlap with their work in German. They typically take a 300-level seminar in fall and write a research term paper which often becomes the foundation for their senior project. In the spring semester they take the mandatory senior conference consisting of weekly meetings and discussions of thesis proposals and drafts with their advisor(s). In writing the senior thesis, the

student should demonstrate a) the capacity to conceive a theoretically informed and well designed research project b) the language skills to research and evaluate primary and secondary materials and to effectively synthesize these, and c) the analytical and methodological skills to produce an innovative and critically astute thesis. (Offered Fall 2017 and Spring 2018)

COURSES AT BRYN MAWR

GERM B001 ELEMENTARY GERMAN

Qinna Shen

Meets five hours a week with the individual class instructor, an additional one hour with a TA. Strong emphasis on communicative competence both in spoken and written German in a larger cultural context. (Offered Fall 2017)

GERM B002 ELEMENTARY GERMAN

Staff

Meets five hours a week with the individual class instructor, and one additional hour with a TA. Strong emphasis on communicative competence both in spoken and written German in a larger cultural context. Prerequisite(s): GERM B001 or its equivalent or permission of instructor. (Offered Spring 2018)

GERM B101 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN

Azade Seyhan

Thorough review of grammar, exercises in composition and conversation. Enforcement of correct grammatical patterns and idiomatic use of language. Study of selected literary and cultural texts and films from German-speaking countries. Prerequisite(s): Completion of GERM B002 or its equivalent as decided by the department and/or placement test. (Offered Fall 2017)

GERM B102 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN

Qinna Shen

This course is the continuation of GERM 101 (Intermediate German). We will concentrate on all four language skills—speaking, reading, writing, and listening comprehension. We will build on the knowledge that students gained in the elementary-level courses and then honed in GERM 101. This course will also provide students with an introduction to selected aspects of German culture. Prerequisite(s): GERM B101 or its equivalent as decided by the department. (Offered Spring 2018)

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GERM B201 ADVANCED TRAINING: LANGUAGE, TEXT, CONTEXT

Qinna Shen

Emphasis on the development of conversational, writing and interpretive skills through an introductory study of German political, cultural and intellectual life and history, including public debate, institutional practices, mass media, cross-cultural currents, folklore, fashion and advertising. Taught in German. Course content may vary. (Offered Fall 2017)

GERM B202 INTRODUCTION TO GERMAN STUDIES

Staff

In this course, we will concentrate on all four language skills – speaking, reading, writing and listening comprehension. However, special emphasis will be placed on reading and writing skills. In addition, students will be introduced to different literary and non-literary texts and practice writing in different genres. Through newspaper articles, film reviews, short stories, poetry, and selected film screenings, this course also offers an introduction to some of the most compelling debates about multiculturalism in Germany and exemplary representations of cultural diversity in contemporary German life. Course taught in German. (Not offered 2017-18)

GERM B212 MARX, NIETZSCHE, FREUD, AND THE RHETORIC OF MODERNITY

Staff

This course examines selected writings by Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud as pre-texts for a critique of cultural reason and underlines their contribution to questions of language, representation, history, ethics, and art. These three visionaries of modernity have translated the abstract metaphysics of “the history of the subject” into a concrete analysis of human experience. Their work has been a major influence on the Frankfurt School of critical theory and has also led to a revolutionary shift in the understanding and writing of history and literature now associated with the work of modern French philosophers Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, Julia Kristeva, and Jacques Lacan. Our readings will, therefore, also include short selections from these philosophers in order to analyze the contested history of modernity and its intellectual and moral consequences. Special attention will be paid to the relation between rhetoric and philosophy and the narrative forms of “the philosophical discourse(s) of modernity” (e.g.,

sermon and myth in Marx; aphorism and oratory in Nietzsche, myth, fairy tale, case hi/story in Freud). Course is taught in English. One additional hour will be added for those students wanting German credit. Crosslisted with Philosophy 204. (Not offered 2017-18)

GERM B223 TOPICS IN GERMAN CULTURAL STUDIES

Staff

This is a topics course. Course content varies. Recent topics include Remembered Violence, Global Masculinities, and Crime and Detection in German. (Not offered 2017-18)

GERM B231 CULTURAL PROFILES IN MODERN EXILE

Staff

This course investigates the anthropological, philosophical, psychological, cultural, and literary aspects of modern exile. It studies exile as experience and metaphor in the context of modernity, and examines the structure of the relationship between imagined/remembered homelands and transnational identities, and the dialectics of language loss and bi- and multi-lingualism. Particular attention is given to the psychocultural dimensions of linguistic exclusion and loss. Readings of works by Julia Alvarez, Albert Camus, Ana Castillo, Sigmund Freud, Eva Hoffman, Maxine Hong Kingston, Milan Kundera, Friedrich Nietzsche, Salman Rushdie, W. G. Sebald, Kurban Said, and others. (Not offered 2017-18)

GERM B245 INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO GERMAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE

Qinna Shen

This is a topics course. Taught in English. Course content varies. Current topic: Crime and Courtroom Drama. This is a film-based course about political trials at critical junctures of German history. (Offered Spring 2018)

GERM B320 TOPICS IN GERMAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE

Staff

This is a topics course. Course content varies. Current topic description: This course focuses on the development of strong international and cross-cultural trends in German literature of modernity. Taught in English. Students wanting German credit will meet for additional hour per week. (Offered Spring 2018)

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GERM B321 ADVANCED TOPICS IN GERMAN CULTURAL STUDIES

Qinna Shen

This is a topics course. Course content varies.
Current topic description: This film course of transnational scope focuses specifically on cultural encounters between the West and the East in the 20th and 21st centuries. It uses visual material related to East Asia produced mainly by German filmmakers. Using film as the main medium, the course touches on issues that are at the center of contemporary cultural debates, such as orientalism, race, gender, class, and identity, as well as postcolonialism, nationalism, travel, exile, multiculturalism, and globalism. (Offered Fall 2017)

GERM B399 SENIOR SEMINAR

Qinna Shen

Senior Seminar. Students are required to write a long research paper with an annotated bibliography. (Offered Spring 2018)

GERM B421 GERMAN FOR READING KNOWLEDGE

Staff

This course will provide graduate and undergraduate students with the skills to read and translate challenging academic texts from German into English. We will quickly cover the essentials of German grammar and focus on vocabulary and constructions that one can encounter in scholarly writing from a variety of disciplines. Does not fulfill the Language Requirement. (Not offered 2017-18)