

GERMAN (Div I)

Chair: Professor Gail M Newman

Professors: G. Newman, Associate Professor, C. Koné, Assistant Professor, P. Ogunniran

Teaching Associates: Sarah Kurz and Hila Razi.

STUDY OF GERMAN LANGUAGE AND GERMAN-LANGUAGE CULTURE

The department seeks to enable students to acquire all five linguistic skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and cultural understanding through a stepped sequence of courses:

- GERM 101-W-102 (first-semester and second-semester German) stresses communicative competence and exposes students to all of the basic features of German grammar, helps them build everyday vocabulary and introduces them to some aspects of German-speaking culture. At the end of the year, students should be “basic users,” having reached the level A2, as defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). GERM 120 is an intensive communicative German course that strives to cover two semesters of language instruction at the basic level in one. At the end of the semester students should also become “basic users” and near the A2 level
- GERM 103 (third-semester German) combines a review of the grammar covered in GERM 101 & 102 with extensive practice in reading, writing, speaking and conversation with native speakers. By the end of the semester, students should become “independent users” and reach level B1.
- GERM 104 (fourth-semester German) aims to further develop facility in speaking, writing, and reading, while further exploring aspects of German-speaking literature and culture. At the end of the semester, students should be “independent users” and reach level B2
- Courses numbered GERM 201-205 (fifth-semester German) emphasize accuracy and idiomatic expression in speaking and writing while introducing students to an important topic in the cultures of the German-speaking world. At this stage, students are usually close to the C1 level (“proficient users”).
- Courses numbered GERM 206-210 (sixth-semester German) combine advanced language study with more detailed examination of topics in German-speaking literatures and cultures. Students at this level are “proficient users” and at the C1 level.
- 300-level courses treat various topics from the German-language intellectual, cultural, and social world in which reading, discussion, and writing are in German
- GERM 497 and 498 designate independent study courses. Students who are interested in a particular topic may propose an independent study on the condition that a sufficiently qualified faculty member is available to facilitate the course.

Students with previous experience with the language who wish to begin studying German at Williams should take the placement test before the start of the semester and have a conversation with a faculty member from the German department to determine which course is best fitted for their level and needs.

THE MAJOR IN GERMAN

The German major offers students an interdisciplinary approach to the intellectual and cultural history of the German-speaking world by combining courses in German language and literature with seminars in history, art history, comparative literature, philosophy, music, political science, theater, and other relevant fields.

For students who start German at Williams, the major requires a minimum of **ten courses**:

- GERM 101
- GERM 102
- (GERM 120 can be taken instead of 101-102, and will count as one course toward the major)
- GERM 103
- GERM 104
- GERM 201-205
- GERM 206-210
- Two 300-level German courses
- Two electives from either German courses at the 300-level or appropriate offerings in other departments, which might include History,

Philosophy, Art History, Music, Comparative Literature, Political Science, Theater, etc.

For students who place into courses above GERM 102/120 (second-semester German/A2 level) the minimum requirement is nine courses.

Students may receive major credit for as many as four courses at the 200 or 300 level taken during a study abroad program in a German-speaking country after consultation with a faculty member from the German department.

THE CERTIFICATE IN GERMAN

To enhance a student's educational and professional profiles, the department offers the Certificate in German. It requires **seven courses** and is especially appropriate for students who begin study of the language at Williams:

- GERM 101
- GERM 102
- (GERM 120 may be taken instead of GERM 101-102, and will be counted as one course toward the certificate)
- GERM 103
- GERM 104
- One course numbered GERM 201-205
- Two electives, at least one course on German cultural history (literature, art, drama, music) and at least one course (in German or English) on German intellectual, political, or social history. These may be taken in the German Department or drawn from other relevant departments, e.g., History, Philosophy, Art History, Music, Political Science, Sociology, Theater, etc.

For students who place into courses above GERM 102/120 (second-semester German/A2 level), the minimum requirement is six courses.

STUDY ABROAD

The department strongly encourages students who wish to attain fluency in German—especially those who wish to pursue a major or certificate in German—to spend a semester or year studying in Germany, Austria, or Switzerland, either independently or in one of several approved international study programs. GERM 104 or the equivalent is generally the minimum requirement for junior-year abroad programs. Students who wish to enroll directly in a German-speaking university in Germany or Austria should have completed at least 201-205 or the equivalent. In any case, all students considering study-abroad should discuss their program with a member from the Global Education and Study Away office and their language preparation with a member of the department.

Study Abroad FAQ

Students **MUST** contact departments/programs **BEFORE** assuming study away credit will be granted toward the major or certificate.

- Can your department or program typically pre-approve courses for major/concentration credit?

Yes, the department can tentatively pre-approve courses for major or certificate credit, based on information from the study away program or the course catalog, if direct enrollment, but final credit is only granted after review by faculty of the courses and the grades once taken.

- What criteria will typically be used/required to determine whether a student may receive major/certificate credit for a course taken while on study away?

Course title and description, plus conversations with the student if necessary.

- Does your department/program place restrictions on the number of major/certificate credits that a student might earn through study away?

Yes. The maximum number of credits toward the major or certificate is four.

- Does your department/program place restrictions on the types of courses that can be awarded credit towards your major?

Yes. Students may not count language courses in other languages (e.g., Italian) for major credit, nor natural science or math courses.

- Are there specific major requirements that cannot be fulfilled while on study away?

No.

- Are there specific major requirements in your department/program that students should be particularly aware of when weighing study away options? (Some examples might include a required course that is always taught in one semester, laboratory requirements.)

No.

- Give examples in which students thought or assumed that courses taken away would count toward the major or concentration and then

learned they wouldn't:

One of our majors who is pre-med thought he could take Chemistry of Biology in Germany and have it count toward the German major, but that is not the case. It is not sufficient for the language of instruction in a given course to be German; the content must also have to do with the culture, history, politics, economics, etc. of Germany, Austria, or Switzerland.

THE DEGREE WITH HONORS IN GERMAN

Students earn honors by completing a senior thesis (German 493-W31-494) of honors quality.

Students interested in honors should consult with the department chair no later than **April 15** of their junior year. The usual qualifications for pursuing honors are: (1) a strong interest in a specific topic for which an appropriate faculty advisor will be available in the senior year and (2) a departmental GPA of 3.67 or better,.

GERMAN PRIZE

Each year, the Department awards the Benedict Prize to one or two outstanding Senior majors or certificate holders at Commencement as recognition for their accomplishments in German Studies.

GERM 101 (F) Elementary German

German 101-102 is for students with no previous study of German. The course employs a communicative approach involving all five language skills: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, writing, and culture. We focus initially on practice in understanding the spoken language and then move rapidly to basic forms of dialogue and self-expression. It is strongly recommended that students continue with GERM 102 in the Spring semester immediately following.

Class Format: Various types of instruction and learning; meets five days a week

Requirements/Evaluation: Active class participation, written homework, written and oral assessments

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 16

Enrollment Preferences: First- and second-year students

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2024

SEM Section: 01 M-F 10:00 am - 10:50 am Gail M. Newman

GERM 102 (S) Elementary German II

German 102 is the continuation of German 101, and will provide you with a further introduction to the language and cultures of German-speaking countries. You will have the opportunity to practice listening, reading, writing, and speaking in German both through in-class activities and homework assignments. During the semester, you will learn about various cultural perspectives, products, and practices of German-speaking countries. Some of the topics that will be addressed this semester include the following: housing; housework; geography and landscape; transportation; travel plans and experiences; food and drink; cooking and ordering food at restaurants; childhood and youth; fairy tales; health and personal hygiene; family, marriage, and partnership; community issues in a multicultural society; literature, music, and film. The use of easy readers in the target language will also help to enhance reading comprehension. Active and dedicated participation including homework is expected. *This course is taught exclusively in German.*

Requirements/Evaluation: Active class participation, homework, quizzes, tests, exams

Prerequisites: GERM 101 or placement test

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: If course over-enrolls (beyond cap), preference will be given to students who have completed GERM 101

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2025

SEM Section: 01 M-F 10:00 am - 10:50 am Peter Ogunniran

GERM 103 (F) Intermediate German I

In this course students will further develop their German language skills by engaging with a variety of cultural topics and everyday experiences in the German-speaking world. Through extensive work on expanding vocabulary, reviewing major grammatical structures, and conversation and composition exercises students will strengthen their language skills and develop cultural competency. The course focuses on real communication in meaningful contexts and aims to develop and consolidate students' speaking, listening, reading and writing abilities at the intermediate level. In addition to a textbook, the course will deploy a variety of media, such as texts, video and audio to aid in the practice of and improvement of spoken and written German skills through in-class activities and homework assignments. Easy readers in the target language will help to enhance reading comprehension, and mandatory weekly conversation sessions with the German-speaking teaching associates will greatly contribute to enhancing the learners' speaking and listening comprehension. *The course is taught exclusively in German.*

Requirements/Evaluation: Active class participation, grammar homework, tests, short writing assignments, final project

Prerequisites: GERM 102, GERM 120, or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Prospective German majors

Expected Class Size: 8

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2024

SEM Section: 01 MWF 12:00 pm - 12:50 pm Gail M. Newman

GERM 104 (S) Intermediate German II

German 104 is the continuation of German 103 and a prerequisite to all advanced courses in German. In this course students will further develop their German language skills by engaging with a variety of cultural topics and everyday experiences in the German-speaking world. Through extensive work on expanding vocabulary, reviewing major grammatical structures, conversation and composition exercises, students will strengthen their language skills and develop cultural competency. The course focuses on real communication in meaningful contexts and aims to develop and consolidate students' speaking, listening, reading, and writing abilities at the intermediate high level. In addition to a textbook, the course will deploy a variety of media, such as texts, video and audio to aid in the practice and improvement of spoken and written German skills through in-class activities and homework assignments. Easy readers in the target language will help to enhance reading comprehension, and mandatory weekly conversation sessions with the German-speaking teaching associates will greatly contribute to enhancing the learners' speaking and listening comprehension. *The course is taught exclusively in German.*

Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, quizzes, essays, homework.

Prerequisites: GERM 103 or permission of the instructor.

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: If course over-enrolls (beyond cap), preference will be given to students in GERM.

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2025

SEM Section: 01 MWF 10:00 am - 10:50 am Christophe A. Koné

GERM 120 (S) Turbodeutsch: Intensive Elementary German

An accelerated version of Elementary German, covering nearly all the material of GERM 101-102 in one semester. The course employs a communicative approach involving all four language skills: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Turbodeutsch requires significant initiative on the part of students in their own learning process. Best suited to very committed students who are highly motivated to learn German. The course will meet every day, including three 50-minute periods on MWF and 2 75-minute periods on TR, plus a required TA session at a time to be arranged.

Requirements/Evaluation: active participation, tests, quizzes, final project

Prerequisites: students with demonstrated need to take the language in only one semester; students also need to show a great deal of commitment to learning German

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: students who need German for their academic goals

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2025

SEM Section: 01 MWF 10:00 am - 10:50 am TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am Gail M. Newman

GERM 201 (F) "Oida!" Living Language in Vienna

Language is a living being, varied, like identity itself, across cultures and across time. This course has as its thematic focus *Wienerisch*, the very special variety of German that has developed in the multi-linguistic metropolis of Vienna; listening and reading work will center on Viennese German. But the thrust of the course is honing the students' own German. It will provide extensive study of German grammar and style, and intensive practice in speaking and writing idiomatically. *Readings and discussion in German.*

Requirements/Evaluation: Intensive class participation, regular written and oral exercises, midterm and final projects

Prerequisites: GERM 104 or contact instructor

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Prospective German majors and German certificate students

Expected Class Size: 8

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies

Not offered current academic year

GERM 202 (S) German Comics

The goal of this advanced course is to study language and culture through the exploration of German-language comics. Despite the boom in the production of comics since the reunification and the appearance of numerous talented artists in the German speaking world, German comics remain largely unknown and unrecognized abroad. This course seeks to introduce students to this rich, active genre and to deepen their understanding of it by allowing them to engage with its broad spectrum of subjects and styles. The course will address a variety of recent comics ranging from graphic novels by Nora Krug, Olivia Vieweg to literary comics by Flix, Isabel Kreitz, as well as historical comics by Simon Schwartz and Reinhardt Kleist. What are the recurrent themes in German comics? What kind of current political issues do these comics raise and what type of contemporary anxieties do they express? These are some of the questions the course seeks to answer. *This course is conducted entirely in German.*

Requirements/Evaluation: short oral presentations, three 1-2-page papers, two 3- to 5-page papers, and one final project

Prerequisites: GERM 104 and GERM 201

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: German Majors and German Certificate

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

GERM 205 (F) (In)justice and Morals in German Literature

In this course students will develop their German reading, speaking and writing as they examine the intricate relationship between morals, (in)justice, and human behavior through creative works in the German tradition. We explore some works from different periods and literary movements, analyzing various moral dilemmas, ethics, and inquiries on values presented by selected German authors. Through close reading, interpretation and analysis of various parables, short stories and dramas, class discussions will focus on key themes such as individual conscience, societal norms, the questions of right and wrong, good and evil, and the consequences of moral choices. This course places particular emphasis on gaining a deeper understanding of the language by helping students improve language skills in German through engagement with original texts, exercises in vocabulary and style, and discussion in and about German. Conducted in German.

Requirements/Evaluation: Active class participation, short oral presentations, papers, and one final project

Prerequisites: GERM 104, GERM 201 or equivalent, permission of instructor.

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: German majors and German certificate prospectives

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2024

SEM Section: 01 TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am Peter Ogunniran

GERM 206 (F) Seh'n Se, det is Berlin

In the history of Germany, Berlin has always been a very important cultural and political center: it was successively the capital of the Kingdom of Prussia, the German Empire, the Weimar Republic, the Third Reich, and the German Democratic Republic, before becoming the capital of a reunited Federal Republic of Germany in 1990. In order to understand the fascination held by this metropolis before and after WWII and its increasing popularity today, it is crucial to gain an insight into the cultural and historical aspects of the capital of Germany throughout the 20th century. In order to do so, we will read texts by Erich Kästner, Kurt Tucholsky, Thomas Brussig, and Wladimir Kaminer, look at paintings by Ernst Ludwig Kirschner, Otto Dix and photographs by August Sander, watch movies by Fritz Lang, Wolfgang Staudte, Hannes Stöhr, Detlev Buck, and Burhan Qurbani, listen to cabaret songs by Marlene Dietrich and Hildegard Knef, hip hop songs by Seed, Sido, and Bushido, and electronic music by Ellen Allien. We will also explore the multicultural facets of the German capital, such as Queer Berlin, Black Berlin, Turkish Berlin as well as the techno club scene. Active and dedicated class participation is expected. *Conducted in German.*

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: Midterm, final exam, several short papers

Prerequisites: GERM 201 or equivalent

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: German major or certificate

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

GERM 208 (S) Translation in Practice

When we're learning a new language, we're constantly told not to translate--"Don't write in English and then translate into German!" "Don't translate in your head, think in your own German!" The goal is to immerse yourself as deeply as possible in the target language so that you can engage with it idiomatically. Translation is a different kind of operation than language learning, but it presents its own challenges and joys in working with the

language. In this course we will read literary and theoretical texts that engage with translation as a phenomenon, we will compare English translations of German and Austrian literature, and we will talk with some professional literary translators about their process. In addition, students will prepare their own translations of German into English and/or their native languages. Readings and discussion in German.

Requirements/Evaluation: In addition to consistent and active class participation, students will write two 3-5-page analytic papers and prepare an 8-10-page translation as a final project. Students will be expected to correct the language errors in their analytic papers, and the translation projects will be workshopped in tutorial format. Evaluation will be holistic, taking into account initiative and effort as well as the results of the work.

Prerequisites: GERM 201-206 or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: German students

Expected Class Size: 6

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

GERM 209 The Other Germans : Exploring Diversity in Contemporary German Literature & Culture

This seminar examines the nuanced landscape of German society, going beyond mainstream narratives to uncover the multiple identities and complex histories that contribute to its cultural mosaic. This course offers an immersive exploration of the experiences of diverse communities -- such as Afro-Germans, Turks, Vietnamese, LGBTQ among others -- within Germany, including immigrant groups, marginalized communities, and diasporic populations. Through a multidisciplinary approach encompassing historical analysis, cultural studies by immigrants, and personal narratives & literary texts by Theodor Michael, Marshall-Hügel, Ijoma Mangold, Olivia Wenzel, Hans -Jürgen Massaquoi, and films, students will gain a deep understanding of the complexities of identity and belonging in the German context. We will also examine the challenges, triumphs, and contributions of "Other Germans", shedding light on their often-overlooked roles in shaping the nation's collective identity. By critically engaging with topics such as immigration, integration, intersectionality, and representation, participants will develop a nuanced perspective on Germanness that transcends stereotypes and embraces the diverse voices that have enriched German society. Through thoughtful discourse and exploration, participants will cultivate empathy, appreciation, and respect for the multitude of experiences that "Other Germans" represent in Germany. Class discussions and exercises, students will improve their language skills and vocabulary as we discuss contemporary issues.

Requirements/Evaluation: Active participation, papers and presentations.

Prerequisites: GERM 201-205 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: German Majors and German Certificate

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading:

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

GERM 210 (S) The Other Germans : Exploring Diversity in Contemporary German Literature & Culture

This seminar examines the nuanced landscape of German society, going beyond mainstream narratives to uncover the multiple identities and complex histories that contribute to its cultural mosaic. This course offers an immersive exploration of the experiences of diverse communities -- such as Afro-Germans, Turks, Vietnamese, LGBTQ among others -- within Germany, including immigrant groups, marginalized communities, and diasporic populations. In the process of engaging with these crucial topics in contemporary Germany, students will develop their listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills in German through targeted discussion and practice. Through a multidisciplinary approach encompassing historical analysis, cultural studies by immigrants, and personal narratives & literary texts by Theodor Michael, Marshall-Hügel, Ijoma Mangold, Olivia Wenzel, Hans -Jürgen Massaquoi, and films, students will gain a deep understanding of the complexities of identity and belonging in the German context. We will also examine the challenges, triumphs, and contributions of "Other Germans." shedding light on their often-overlooked roles in shaping the nation's collective identity. By critically engaging with topics such as immigration, integration, intersectionality, and representation, participants will develop a nuanced perspective on Germanness that transcends stereotypes and embraces the diverse voices that have enriched German society. Through thoughtful discourse and exploration, participants will cultivate empathy, appreciation, and respect for the multitude of experiences that "Other Germans" represent in Germany.

Requirements/Evaluation: Active participation, papers and presentations

Prerequisites: GERM 104 and GERM 201, permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: German majors and German certificate

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2025

SEM Section: 01 MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Peter Ogunniran

GERM 234 (F) Europe and the Black Diaspora (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: AFR 236 / COMP 238

Primary Cross-listing

This course provides an overview of the relationships and interactions between the Black diaspora and the European continent in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Drawing from biographies, autobiographies, reports, literature, creative arts and academic articles, we will consider the different relationships that have evolved between Black people and Europe over the course of time. Focusing on Central Europe, we will discuss the relationships established between Europe and the Black diaspora, such as Africans, African-Americans, Afro-Latinx and Afro-Caribbeans. Some of the themes we will address include the influence of cultural contact on intellectuals, writers, artists, soldiers, politicians and asylum seekers and their works, factors that established and influenced their relationship with Europe, as well the ways in which these selected people did or did not exert influence on European cultures. We will conclude by looking at some of the current discussions that still revolve around the relationship between the Black diaspora and Europe. Reading and Discussion in English.

Requirements/Evaluation: Active class participation, written homework, short papers and final research paper.

Prerequisites: None.

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: If course overenrolls (beyond cap), preference given to first-years, sophomores, and juniors.

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AFR 236(D2) GERM 234(D1) COMP 238(D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will write two 3-5-page essays each written in two drafts with instructor comments. They will also write an 8-12-page research paper with required submission of a proposed topic, an annotated bibliography, an outline, and a draft before the final paper itself. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: We will discuss how minorities and minoritized individuals and the identities they hold can be affected by the dominant cultures around them. While we will focus on Europe, we will approach discussions with a comparative view, so as to encourage the students to reflect on how difference, power and equity interact and impact minorities in the context of the United States or wherever they come from.

Not offered current academic year

GERM 301 (F) From Red Riding Hood to Autobahn: German Forests in Literature, Culture, and Economy

Over the centuries, German and other Western literary traditions projected widely diverse notions onto the forest. It served as a placeholder for romantic concepts of origination as well as threatening notions of wilderness. It is "the shadow of civilization" (R.P. Harrison), a liminal space, an imagined refuge for the marginalized -- and home to countless fairy-tale characters. Consistently, both positive and negative idealizations stand in stark contrast to the woods' predominantly economic and embattled role in German society: Wood fueled the early industrial revolution and today environmentalists occupy trees to protect them from lignite mining and highway construction. In this course, we will trace these histories and notions as well as their tensions and contradictions in German literary texts from the 19th to the 21st century. We will pay special attention to the central symbolic role the forest has played in German culture and nation-building, and reflect on its multiple poetic, political, and economic functions. The

earliest texts we will read include Grimms' fairy tales and Droste-Hülshoff's *Judenbuche*. We will read well-known authors of the 20th century, such as Brecht and Grass, and discuss more recent poetry and novels, such as excerpts from Strubel's *In den Wäldern des menschlichen Herzens*. The literary texts will be complemented by a limited number of key essays in Ecocriticism and the Environmental Humanities. We will also take advantage of our location in the Berkshires to explore de- and reforestation in the region during a field trip. *Discussion and primary readings in German*.

Class Format: One field trip planned to learn about the history of de- and reforestation in the region from an ecologist based in the area

Requirements/Evaluation: Careful reading and preparation of texts, written assignments, short oral presentations

Prerequisites: GERM 202 or equivalent

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: If course over-enrolls (beyond the cap), preference will be given to students in GERM

Expected Class Size: 10 - 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

GERM 302 (F) Heimat: Identity, Belonging, and Home in German Literature

This course delves into the concept of "Heimat" in German literature, examining its multifaceted nature and its significance in shaping individual and collective identities. We will explore diverse representations of "Heimat" - encompassing notions of home, homeland, and belonging - across different media and historical periods. Through a curated selection of works and novels by Nora Krug, Stefanie Zweig, Fatma Aydemir, films by Caroline Link and Israel Kaunatjike, and stories by German settlers and migrants around the world, we will analyze how the concept of "Heimat" is portrayed and interrogated in German cultural production. We will examine themes such as tradition, nostalgia, displacement, and the impact of historical and societal changes on notions of identity and belonging. Through close analysis, discussions, and critical essays, we will gain insights into the cultural, historical, and philosophical dimensions of "Heimat" in German society. We will also reflect on how representations of "Heimat" intersect with questions of identity, memory, and the search for meaning in contemporary contexts, including the relevance of the notion in the contemporary political discourse. By the end of the course, participants will have developed a nuanced understanding of "Heimat" and its significance in German cultural production, as well as honed their skills in critical analysis and interpretation. Intermediate- advanced knowledge of German, an openness to engaging with challenging ideas and cultural perspectives are required. Conducted in German.

Requirements/Evaluation: Active class participation, written homework, written and oral assessments.

Prerequisites: GERM 202 or equivalent, permission of the instructor.

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Preference for German majors and German certificate

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2024

SEM Section: 01 MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Peter Ogunniran

GERM 313 (S) The Mediation of Nationalism in Germany (1871-1918)

The German unification of 1871 was a fusion of different kingdoms, grand duchies, duchies, principalities and free cities that created a shared cultural identity. This course examines how nationalism was mediated to create, achieve, and sustain a German identity in the German Empire from 1871 until 1918 when it ended. This course surveys the role of the mass media, public art, and other forms of cultural expression in maintaining a sense of German community and resolving the tensions between different geographical, cultural and religious identities while also simultaneously mediating and juxtaposing a collective German identity against non-Germans. Our materials include literature, magazine publications, paintings, monuments and popular culture in the Empire. Some specific themes we will address include the aims of the agents and "architects" of nationalism and the roles of religion and geography in nationalism and of national heroes and legends, and the definition of national identity in opposition to a perceived Other (France and Africans). The course will proceed thematically, focusing on the relationship between nationalism and public figures, nationalism and the Other, as well as nationalism and visual culture. We also touch on the intersection between nationalism and children's literature and some opposition to nationalism in the German Empire. We will conclude by considering how the nationalism of the German Empire still informs politics today. Reading

and Discussion in German.

Requirements/Evaluation: Active class participation, written homework, written and oral assessments.

Prerequisites: GERM 202 or permission of the instructor.

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: If course overenrolls (beyond cap), preference given to German Students.

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

GERM 335 (S) Afro-Germans: History, Culture, and Literature

Even though Afro-Germans have been a part of Germany for centuries and have undergone efforts at establishing themselves as an organized cultural group, their culture and literature have been often dismissed, relegated at the margins of dominant white German culture. In the aftermath of the Black Lives Matter movement in Germany, the country's belated debate about German colonialism, and its recent reckoning with race and racism, Afro-Germans have lately gained an unprecedented visibility in the German public sphere. Through their work, Afro-German journalists, writers, activists, and artists are all contributing to questioning and redefining German identity, culture, and history. Focusing primarily on Afro-German history, culture, and literature of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, this upper-level seminar starts by examining acts of racist violence in German history (the Herero and Namaqua genocide in Namibia in 1904, the "schwarze Schmach" campaign in 1920's, the killing of Black French soldiers by the Wehrmacht in 1940). We will address issues of race, bi-racialism, and racism in a post-war context in West as well as East Germany through the poems by May Ayim, the essays by Aubre Lorde and Alice Hasters, the memoirs by Hans-Jürgen Massaquoi, Theodor Michael, Lucia Engombe, Stefanie Lahya-Aukongo, and Ika-Hügel Marshall, the novels by Harald Gerunde, Noah Sow, Sharon Dodua, Olivia Wenzel, Ijoma Mangold, the documentary films by Nadja Ofuatey-Alazard, and the artworks by Marc Brandenburg.

Requirements/Evaluation: Short oral presentations, active participation in the discussion, two 2-3-page papers and three 3-5-page papers

Prerequisites: GERM 202 and GERM 300

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: German Majors and German Certificate

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

GERM 366 (S) Reason and "Unreason" in the German Tradition (WS)

"I am proud of my heart alone, it is the sole source of everything, all our strength, happiness and misery. All the knowledge I possess everyone else can acquire, but my heart is all my own." So spoke Johann Wolfgang Goethe's young Werther in his groundbreaking novel from 1774, *The Sorrows of Young Werther*, which exposed the fault lines of the Enlightenment, with its emphasis on rationality, on universal human values, and on optimism about the future. Throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in Germany and Austria, challenges arose to what was touted as the triumph of objective, scientific thought, often leading to alienation and despair for the writers and thinkers who explored the deepest recesses of the mind. These challenges led to some of the most creative cultural production in Western history, but the concatenation of reason and "unreason" also contributed to one of its biggest catastrophes. This course will explore and complicate the relationship between reason and those forces that throw it into question. Specifically, we will focus first on the moments around 1800 and 1900 when the tectonic plates of reason and supposed unreason converge and collide most forcefully, reading authors like Kant, Goethe, Novalis, Kleist, Büchner, Hoffmann, and Freud, then turn to the mid-twentieth century, when both forces combine to create the disaster of the "Third Reich" and the difficulties of its aftermath (Hitler, Harlan, Bachmann, Haneke). Finally, we will look at the complex ways in which rationality triumphs and is challenged in our current time by engaging with the debates around science that roil German and Austrian society. Readings and discussion in German (with some theoretical readings in English).

Requirements/Evaluation: Active participation, several short papers and reading responses, longer final project. All writing will include rewrites with corrected grammar and the final paper will be written in stages, including a draft that is workshopped in tutorial format.

Prerequisites: GERM 200-level course or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: German majors, German students

Expected Class Size: 8

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will write and rewrite several short papers in German. A longer final paper will be written in stages that will include a draft that is workshopped in tutorial format.

Spring 2025

SEM Section: 01 MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Gail M. Newman

GERM 377 (F) Austria and its Borders

For centuries, Austria was characterized not just by the sheer expanse of its territory, extending from the Adriatic Sea to the South to Ukraine in the North, from Switzerland in the west to nearly Turkey in the east. Its identity was also closely associated with the many porous internal borders among its various ethnic groups: German, Polish, Romanian, Slavic, Italian, etc.. The first World War put an end to this multiethnic, multilingual identity, leaving a primarily ethnic-German "Rest-Österreich" whose fatal passivity in the face of German expansionism led to the erasure of the nation altogether. After World War II, Austria expended far too much energy cordoning off its own past as a perpetrator, creating through willful ignorance a psychic and political boundary that only began to open with the election of a former Nazi to the symbolic office of president in the mid-eighties. Austria's entrance into the European Union in 1995 coincided with an influx of refugees from the Balkan Wars; it would seem that Austria was on its way back to expansive borders. But the 2000s have seen a two-track development: on the one hand rapidly increasing ethnic, linguistic, and cultural diversity and on the other a ferocious defense of ostensibly "Austrian" identity. This course will trace the Austrian relationship to its internal and external borders by examining literature, history, and popular culture surrounding key touchpoints: 1918, 1945, 1987, and 2015.

Class Format: This will be a "tritorial," with groups of three students meeting in tutorial format with the instructor.

Requirements/Evaluation: Three-four 5-page papers, three-four 1-2 page responses, one final project, discussion leading. Evaluation: Tutorial papers will receive extensive comments, but no grade; the instructor will meet with individual students at least twice during the semester to discuss how things are going for them. Responses will not be evaluated by the instructor, but instead will function well or less well in the context of the discussion. The final project will receive a grade, and the final grade will be determined by the overall trajectory of the student's learning.

Prerequisites: German 202 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: German students

Expected Class Size: 6

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

GERM 493 (F) Senior Thesis: German

German senior thesis; this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494).

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2024

HON Section: 01 TBA Gail M. Newman

GERM 494 (S) Senior Thesis: German

German senior thesis; this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494).

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2025

HON Section: 01 TBA Gail M. Newman

GERM 497 (F) Independent Study: German

German independent study.

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2024

IND Section: 01 TBA Gail M. Newman

GERM 498 (S) Independent Study: German

German independent study.

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2025

IND Section: 01 TBA Gail M. Newman

Winter Study -----

GERM 30 (W) Honors Project: German

To be taken by honors candidates following other than the normal thesis route.

Class Format: honors

Grading: pass/fail only

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

GERM 31 (W) Senior Thesis: German

To be taken by students registered for German 493-494.

Class Format: thesis

Grading: pass/fail only

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

GERM 88 (W) German Sustaining Program

Students registered for GERM 101-102 are required to attend and pass the German Sustaining Program. However, students are also required to register for a regular Winter Study course. Once the regular Winter Study registration process is complete, the Registrar's Office will automatically enroll you in the Sustaining Program; check your class schedule to confirm enrollment.

Requirements/Evaluation: requirements active participation, regular attendance, and earn a "Pass" grade

Grading: pass/fail option only

Materials/Lab Fee: cost to student approximately \$5 for photocopied materials

Not offered current academic year

GERM 99 (W) Independent Study: German

Open to upperclass students. Students interested in doing an independent project (99) during Winter Study must make prior arrangements with a faculty sponsor. The student and professor then complete the independent study proposal form available online. The deadline is typically in late September. Proposals are reviewed by the pertinent department and the Winter Study Committee. Students will be notified if their proposal is approved prior to the Winter Study registration period.

Class Format: independent study

Grading: pass/fail only

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year