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. In the second semester, reading and especially writing come increasingly into play.

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

Unit Notes: Credit granted only if both semesters (GERM 101, 102 and Winter Study Sustaining Program) are taken.

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2023

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

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, midterm & final exams, essays, quizzes, homework

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
GERM 103 (F) Intermediate German I

In this course students will further develop their German language skills, by discussing a variety of cultural topics and themes in the German-speaking world. Through extensive work on expanding vocabulary, reviewing major grammar topics, 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. Using a variety of media, such as texts, video and audio, students will explore various themes and cultural topics in the German-speaking world. Students will have the opportunity to practice and improve their spoken and written German skills through in-class activities and homework assignments. The use of easy readers in the target language will also help to enhance reading comprehension. The 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. Active and dedicated participation including homework is expected.

Requirements/Evaluation: Active class participation, midterm and final exams, quizzes, essays, homework

Prerequisites: GERM 102, Turbodeutsch, or placement test

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: If course over-enrolls (beyond cap), preference will be given to students who have already completed GERM 102 or Turbodeutsch.

Expected Class Size: 10

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

Distributions: (D1)
This First Year tutorial, available in English, investigates the mutual mistrust between the two Germanies in the Cold War period up until the peaceful popular protests that brought down the Berlin Wall. The political tensions between communist East Germany, the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and its capitalist Western counterpart, the Federal Republic (FRG), created a fascinating culture of governmental spying, but also led to aggravated periods of state surveillance of its own citizens. How were families affected across generations by these divisive politics, including the two states’ differing treatment of the Nazi legacy? What was the involvement of the KGB and the CIA? How did East German intelligence try to destabilize the West from inside? Which locations in Berlin served as centers for spying, given that the city’s terrain is quite flat and exposed? High-profile cases of conflicting loyalties include the Guillaume spy affair that brought down Willy Brandt as Chancellor of the FRG in 1974, and the Brasch family in the GDR, where the father, a communist true believer, turned his three sons over to the Stasi for their dissident activism and engaged art. We will debate filmic treatments of the recruitment of spies as double agents (Coded Message for the Boss, 1979), the chilling effects of police surveillance during the Baader-Meinhof radical left terrorist attacks (The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum, 1975; Knife in the Head, 1978) the afterlives of former terrorists who were offered new identities as ‘ordinary’ East Germans (The legend of Rita, 2000), to the effects of the Stasi files becoming accessible to their victims after the fall of the wall (Es ist nicht vorbei, Anderson). We will also discuss popular film representations of spying in Lives of Others (2007) and Bridge of Spies (2015), and selected episodes from the popular TV-series Germany 83 and 86 (2018). Literature will likely include: Thomas Brasch, The Sons Die Before the Fathers (1977), Christa Wolf, What Remains (1993), Monika Maron, Flight of Ashes (1981), Heinrich Böll, The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum (1974). All texts in English, films have English subtitles.

Class Format: Students in this course will be separated into small tutorial groups of 3 students, in order to promote intensive exchange of ideas. In a typical week, the students in each group will: (1) study a substantial "text" or film; (2) watch mini-lectures or power points by the instructor to supplement the assigned primary texts.

Requirements/Evaluation: 5 5-page tutorial papers and 2-page responses (in English)

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: First Years, in groups of 3 students.

Expected Class Size: 12

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

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

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

COMP 109(D1) GERM 110(D1)

Writing Skills Notes: This tutorial will teach students to analyze visual media and fiction in German Studies in combination with secondary sources from a variety of related disciplines (History, Political Science, journalism). The toggling between these different types of sources promotes critical thinking skills.

Not offered current academic year

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
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  
**Expected Class Size:** 8  
**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option  
**Distributions:** (D1)  
**Attributes:** GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

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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**

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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 Alien. 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.*
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

Spring 2024
SEM Section: 01  MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  Gail M. Newman

GERM 234  (F) Europe and the Black Diaspora  (DPE) (WS)
Cross-listings:  AFR 236 / COMP 238

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:
GERM 234(D1) AFR 236(D2) 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.

Fall 2023
SEM Section: 01 MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Peter Ogunniran

GERM 251 (F) Dolls, Puppets and Automatons (WS)

Cross-listings: COMP 251

Secondary Cross-listing

Since their origin, humans have always made anthropomorphic representations, first in the form of idols, fetishes, or statues for religious worship, later in the shape of puppets, dolls, or automatons for their entertainment qualities. And yet, these objects have always played multiple roles in human society; modernity in particular shows a great interest paired with great ambivalence towards dolls, puppets, and automatons, regarded both as uncanny Doppelgänger or threatening machines. In order to comprehend the scope of our modern fascination with these figures, we will explore their haunting presence in literary texts by ETA Hoffmann, Achim von Arnim, Theodor Storm, Felisberto Hernandez, discuss theoretical texts by Sigmund Freud and Heinrich von Kleist, look at paintings by Oskar Kokoschka and at photographs by Hans Bellmer & Cindy Sherman, watch a ballet by Andreas Heise and films by Fritz Lang and Alex Garland, and watch fashion shows by Alexander McQueen and Jean-Paul Gaultier. Conducted in English.

Class Format: This seminar will be taught online.

Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, oral presentations on the reading materials, three 5- to 8-page papers

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Comparative Literature majors, or those considering a major in Comparative Literature

Expected Class Size: 12

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

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
GERM 251(D1) COMP 251(D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Each student will write three 5- to 8-page papers on which I will provide written feedback regarding grammar, style, and argument. Each student will write two 3-4 page papers on which I will provide written feedback regarding grammar, style, and textual analysis.

Attributes: FMST Related Courses

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

**Expected Class Size:** 10 - 12

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

**Distributions:** (D1)

Not offered current academic year

**GERM 304 (S) Rebels and Conformists: Postwar Germany from The 'Economic Miracle' to the Fall of the Wall**

**Cross-listings:** WGSS 304

**Primary Cross-listing**

In postwar West Germany, a thorough examination of the Nazi past took a backseat to economic recovery and repairing the country's international standing, whereas to some extent the reverse was true for the East. An authoritarian democracy, an emphasis on consumerism and the qualitatively different experiences of younger generations led them to question whether the Federal Republic was a restoration or a new beginning? In the East, the cold war led to an increasingly Stalinist interpretation of communist principles, while communist ideals were upheld as an antidote to Nazism and the new materialism. This tutorial will cover a wide range of social protest as reflected in literature and film of the two Germanies: critical responses to the Holocaust in the two countries, the 1968 student revolution, anti-capitalist terrorism by the Baader-Meinhof gang, the feminist and gay rights movements, reformers and repression under Ulbricht and Honecker in the GDR, minority rights and environmental activists. Authors will include: Peter Weiss, *Die Ermittlung*, Heinrich Böll, *Und sagte kein einziges Wort*, Gisela Elsner, *Riesenzwerge*, Emine Sevgi Özdamar, *Das Leben ist eine Karawanserei*, Volker Braun, *Unvollendete Geschichte*, Alice Schwarzer, *Der kleine Unterschied und seine großen Folgen*, Christian Kracht, *Faserland*, Thomas Brussig, *Wasserfarben*. Films may include: Gerhard Klein, "Berlin-Ecke Schönhauser," Ulrich Plenzdorf, "Die Legende von Paul und Paula," Rainer Werner Fassbinder, "Angst essen Seele auf," Reinhard Hauff, "Messer im Kopf," Uli Edel, "Der Baader-Meinhof Komplex," Margarethe v. Trotta, "Das zweite Erwachen der Christa Klages," Heiner Carow, "Coming Out," Hans Weingartner, "Die fetten Jahre sind vorbei."

**Requirements/Evaluation:** alternating 4-page tutorial papers in German, and 2-page critiques

**Prerequisites:** GERM 202 or permission of the instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** 12

**Expected Class Size:** 12

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

**Materials/Lab Fee:** $80 books

**Distributions:** (D1)

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

GERM 304(D1) WGSS 304(D2)

Not offered current academic year

**GERM 313 (F)(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)

Fall 2023
SEM Section: 01 Cancelled

Spring 2024
SEM Section: 01 MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Peter Ogunniran

GERM 314 (S) Underground Berlin: Art, Performance, and Film, 1980s to Present (DPE)

Cross-listings: WGSS 344 / ARTH 315

Secondary Cross-listing

Subsequent to the National Socialist suppression of sexual expression, the intersections of politics and art in the post-World War II era reflected an organic embeddedness within the context of the city of Berlin. This course reflects upon this history to understand Berlin's present, its contradictory mix of new and old, "deep history" and nostalgia. Often described as an island moored within the communist territory of East Germany during the years of the Berlin Wall, West-Berlin became the city towards which many queer artists, musicians, and activists gravitated in order to avoid the involuntary conscription in the Bundeswehr, as an unexpected outcome of the government's plan to boost population in the former capital. We will focus on the excavation and recognition of inter/cultural positions that challenge German nationalism, at the same time that the country reestablished itself as a world power. Over the semester, we will rethink Berlin with respect to the once nascent geopolitics of the European Union, and the city's social fluctuations and periods of migration as registered through audiovisual and performative forms in advance of and in the decades following the fall of the wall in 1989. Focusing on art, performance, and film, we will examine the architectural, discursive, and cultural spaces in which these forms of creative and political expression take shape--from art museums and theater houses to occupied buildings, from independent publishing imprints and collaborative nonprofit organizations to night clubs. This course will examine the changing city with respect to activism, collectivity, alienation, solidarity, and belonging.

Requirements/Evaluation: Weekly response papers (1-2 pages); participation in class; one research paper (12-15 pages)

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Art History majors, German majors, then any interested student

Expected Class Size: 12

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

Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
GERM 314(D1) WGSS 344(D2) ARTH 315(D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Artistic works and subcultural formations addressed in this class reflect the intersection of difference, power,
and equity in contemporary culture and society. Situating the work of artists and activists within a specific and evolving social and geopolitical context, it promotes greater understanding and skills for engaging in cultural debates on racism, homophobia, and sexism.

Not offered current academic year

GERM 315  (F)  Kafka and His/Our World  (WS)

Cross-listings:  COMP 316

Primary Cross-listing

"It's so Kafkaesque!" We love to use the most famous Austro-Hungarian-Czech-Jewish writer of all time to characterize puzzling and dispiriting situations. But close examination of Franz Kafka's work and life reveals a multi-dimensional world that goes far beyond the cliché. Jewish in an increasingly anti-Semitic environment, German-speaking surrounded by Czech-speakers, deeply alone in a family that didn't understand him, Kafka produced texts that simultaneously demand and refuse to be interpreted. In this tutorial we will begin with intensive readings of selected short stories and parables, then move on to an exploration of the Kafka's own words from diaries and letters, as well as secondary sources. The course will conclude with discussions of how Kafka's texts and their contexts might relate to contemporary conditions and/or to students' own lives and thoughts. This will be a modified tutorial, with five groups of three students apiece. Students may take the tutorial in either German or English; groups will be formed accordingly.

Class Format: The class will be divided into groups of 3. At each weekly meeting, one of the 3 will present a 5-page paper, another will present a formal response, and the third will participate actively in discussion. Students will incorporate at least one of their papers into a final project that links their discussions of Kafka to their own interests and/or to contemporary issues. Students can take the course in German or English (or a combination of the two), and groups will be formed accordingly.

Requirements/Evaluation: Three 5-page papers, three 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: For German speakers: GERM 202 or the equivalent preferred, though students with less experience should contact the instructor. For students taking the course in English: one college literature course.

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: German students, majors or potential majors in Comp Lit or German

Expected Class Size: 15

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

Distributions: (D1)  (WS)

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

COMP 316(D1)  GERM 315(D1)

Writing Skills Notes: The course has a modified tutorial format, with groups of three meeting weekly instead of pairs. Each student will write three 5-page papers plus three 1-2-page responses during the semester, and will prepare a final project. Each paper will receive extensive feedback from the instructor.

Not offered current academic year

GERM 317  (F)  The New Woman in Weimar Culture  (WS)

Cross-listings: WGSS 317

Primary Cross-listing

This course explores the figure of the New Woman, a professional, political, independent, and modern woman, that rises in Germany right at the end of World War I and thrives during the Weimar Republic. Acclaimed as the epitome of Weimar Modernity, the New Woman is nevertheless greeted with great ambivalence: whether a liberated and emancipated woman for some, or a dangerous and promiscuous woman loathed by others, she is perceived as threatening to the patriarchal order. A closer look at artworks by Otto Dix, Christian Schad, and Hannah Höch, films by Fritz Lang and Georg Wilhelm Pabst, poems by Gottfried Benn, Else Lasker-Schüler, and Kurt Tucholsky, novels by Erich Kästner, Vicky Baum, and Irmgard Keun, as well as plays by Frank Wedekind and Bertolt Brecht, will provide a more precise picture of the New Woman's various incarnations, ranging from actresses (Marlene Dietrich), singers (Margo Lion and Claire Waldorf), and dancers (Anita Berber) to prostitutes, and suggest that the New Woman serves as the vessel of male anxieties and represents the contradictions of modernity. Taught in German.
**Class Format:** taught seminar style in German for the German students and as a tutorial in English for non-German speaking students

**Requirements/Evaluation:** papers and oral presentations

**Prerequisites:** for students taking the course in German: GERM 202 or the equivalent; for students taking the course in English: one college-level literature course

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Enrollment Preferences:** juniors and seniors, students with strong analytical skills and a vivid interest in literature, art, music, and films

**Expected Class Size:** 8

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

**Distributions:** (D1) (WS)

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

GERM 317(D1) WSS 317(D2)

**Writing Skills Notes:** Students will submit multiple drafts of their papers. Focus is on argument and thesis statement, introduction and conclusion as well as literary analysis and interpretation of primary and secondary literature. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Not offered current academic year

**GERM 321 (S) Lust, Liebe und Gewalt (WS)**

In this course, we will reflect on the intimate relationship between love, lust, and violence, examining how love and lust do not exclude violence, but rather include—if not provoke—it. In order to gain a better understanding of the dynamics formed by this fascinating triangle, we will read novels by Goethe and Schnitzler, short stories by Kleist, Hoffmann, Mann, plays by Büchner, Hauptmann and Wedekind, and watch films by Faßbinder, Haneke and Muskala. Conducted in German.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** papers and oral presentations

**Prerequisites:** GERM 202 or the equivalent

**Enrollment Limit:** 10

**Enrollment Preferences:** German majors

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Graduation:** no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1) (WS)

**Writing Skills Notes:** Students will submit multiple drafts of their papers. Focus is on argument and thesis statement, introduction and conclusion as well as literary analysis and interpretation of primary and secondary literature. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

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 Layya-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
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 cordonning 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)

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)

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)
GERM 497 (F) Independent Study: German
German independent study.
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)

GERM 498 (S) Independent Study: German
German independent study.
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)

GERM 515 (F) Reading German for Beginners
German 515 is a beginning course for students whose principal reason for acquiring German is to work with written materials. It is particularly appropriate for students for whom the ability to read primary and secondary texts in German can be crucial. The focus of the course is on German for art history and criticism. Students will learn the key elements of grammar and acquire a core vocabulary. They will also practice reading and translating a variety of short texts.

Requirements/Evaluation: regular participation, homework
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: although this course is designed to serve the needs of students enrolled in the Graduate Program in the History of Art, undergraduates may enroll with permission of the instructor
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: pass/fail option only
Distributions: (D1)
Not offered current academic year

GERM 516 (S) Readings in German Art History and Criticism
In this continuation of German 515 students develop the skills and vocabulary necessary for reading German accurately. The course introduces advanced grammatical topics and students practice reading in a variety of textual genres. Texts are selected from classical works of art history and criticism as well as from contemporary publications. By the end of the course the students will have a solid foundation for building proficiency in German, whether through self-study or further course work.

Requirements/Evaluation: regular participation, homework
Prerequisites: GERM 515 or equivalent preparation (placement test)
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: although this course is designed to serve the needs of students enrolled in the Graduate Program in the History of Art, undergraduates may enroll with permission of the instructor
Expected Class Size: 9
GERM 12 (W) Writing the Dreamwork

What kinds of knowledge, if any, can we find in our dreams? In The Interpretation of Dreams (Die Traumdeutung), Freud writes that "there lies in dreams a marvelous poetry." In fact, one of the primary forms of the dreamwork, condensation *Verdichtung*, is related to the German word for poetry, "Dichtung." For Freud, the work of the mind is akin to the work of poetry and, thus, the work of psychoanalysis is akin to the practice of reading. But when Freud writes his dreams down, in order to transmit a theory of dreams to his readers, he admits to concealing various points of knowledge: "when I interpret my dreams for readers I am obliged to adopt [similar] distortions." The act of translating and transforming our dreams into writing is not always so clear cut. How do poets and creative writers navigate this predicament? In this course, we will examine the relationship between "dreamwork" and the act of writing. This course will also survey theories of dreams, including Aristotle, Descartes, Freud, Lacan, Fanon, Sacks and others. We will also read selections from The Odyssey, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, The Passion According to G.H., and Robot Dreams.* Finally, we will carefully record our own dreams each night and closely read writers' dream journals in class, for example by Kafka, Tawada, Nabokov, Woolf, Plath, Sontag, Bellow, Wilde, and others. Class meetings will consist of free writing, discussions, and student presentations. We will also have a visit from a practicing psychoanalyst (TBD). Outside of the classroom, students will create their own dream journals, read the assigned readings found in the course book, write two short reflections and one longer essay, and study the dream journal of a writer of their choice. In this way students will deepen their understanding of the philosophy and psychoanalysis of dreams, while improving their interpretive abilities and sharpening their creative and analytical writing.

Requirements/Evaluation: Paper(s) or report(s); Presentation(s); Creative project(s)

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Comparative Literature and German students

Expected Class Size: NA

Grading: pass/fail only

Unit Notes: Mercer Greenwald holds a Bachelor of Arts in German Studies and a Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance from Bard College/Bard Conservatory of Music. She is currently pursuing a PhD in the Department of Germanic Languages at Harvard University.

Materials/Lab Fee: $50

Attributes: SLFX Winter Study Self-Expression  STUX Winter Study Student Exploration

Winter 2024

LEC Section: 01    TR 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm     Mercer M. W. Greenwald

GERM 25 Berlin: The German Capital of Modernity, Freedom, and Diversity

The Winter Study Travel Course 2024 to "Berlin: The German Capital of Modernity, Freedom, and Diversity" is meant to be an intense learning experience, both cultural and linguistic. This two-week long, full immersion travel course is the opportunity to visit Berlin, discover its history, and explore its multicultural identity. We will do walking tours and visits focusing on the capital of Germany's cultural history as well as its various communities (Jewish, Turkish, Black, LGBTQ) that largely contributed to make Berlin the vibrant cosmopolitan city it is today. We will also partake in Berlin's rich cultural life by visiting museums and art galleries, going to the movie's and the clubs, and attending opera, theater, and cabaret performances. Because the Winter Study Travel Course also pursues a linguistic goal, all tours and visits will be conducted in German and all cultural events will be in German. Students will be required to take a language pledge and expected to speak German for the whole duration of their stay in Berlin. Students will attend morning classes (12 hours total) and participate in mandatory tours and visits in the afternoon under the supervision of their Williams professor. In class, groups of students will give presentations in German on the tours and visits of the previous days, reflect on their learning experience, and share their impressions with the group. A short film and an exhibit at the College will be the final assignment. This travel course is a perfect complement to the GERM 206 seminar on Berlin (history, culture, literature) which I will be offering in the Fall of 2023. Because the students enrolled in this class will benefit the most from a trip to the capital of Germany, they will be given priority. Williams students enrolled in upper level
German classes are strongly encouraged to apply. Students who are registered in GERM 103 by the time of their application will also be considered.

Requirements/Evaluation: Final project or presentation.

Prerequisites: Students must either be enrolled in GERM 103 to apply for this course or have already completed GERM 103 and above.

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Preference for students enrolled in my GERM 200 level class on Berlin and students enrolled in my GERM 300 level seminar on the New Woman in the Weimar Republic

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading:

Attributes: TRVL Winter Study Travel Course

Not offered current academic year

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)

Winter 2024

HON Section: 01  TBA  Gail M. Newman

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)

Winter 2024

HON Section: 01  TBA  Gail M. Newman

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

Winter 2024

LAB Section: 01  M-F 9:00 am - 9:50 am  Sarah Kurz, Hila Razi

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)

Winter 2024
IND Section: 01     TBA    Gail M. Newman