

# GERMAN

## Overview & Learning Goals

### Overview

The German department offers courses in the language, literature, and culture of the German-speaking countries of Europe. The program is designed for students who wish to become literate in the language and culture, comprehend the relationship between the language and culture, and gain a better understanding of their own culture in a global context. The major is a valuable asset in a wide variety of postgraduate endeavors including business, science, and international careers; and in law and graduate school.

### Learning Goals

The major enables students to become literate in German and competent in the cultures of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland through critical engagement with texts, cultural objects, and practices.

In the process, students acquire fundamental knowledge of major literary, social, and political developments and become able to communicate the historical significance and transnational impact of the German-speaking world.

Upon completion of the German major, students will be able to converse in German on a wide range of topics—including academic topics—to comprehend and analyze German texts, and to write critically. They can effectively articulate and carry out research.

All courses place equal importance on the acquisition of linguistic and cultural knowledge, with increasing complexity and sophistication.

#### German 1101/1102:

Communication: Recognize and reproduce patterns of vocabulary and grammatical structure; paraphrase in order to demonstrate understanding; produce simple declarative statements, describe people and places, transition to narrative comprehension (identify key passages and vocabulary structures when reading a text) and narrative production.

Cultural Competency: Discover and explore historical and cultural facts.

#### German 2203/2204/2205:

Communication and cultural competency become increasingly integrated: students recognize, differentiate, and produce texts of different genres, identify and apply linguistic nuance, and differentiate language use. They demonstrate knowledge via oral presentations and short papers and analyses; they engage in critical discussion with peers. Students deepen their cultural knowledge by exploring key themes such as Europeanization, visual culture, and youth culture in their historical context. These courses prepare students to study in the language at German-speaking universities.

#### German 3308/3310:

Students become increasingly cognizant of German studies as a discipline that is defined by the exploration of texts and cultural objects in context. They define, compare, and interpret literary genres of different time periods and recognize, research, and analyze how context creates cultural products and vice versa. They refine their oral and written German skills through analysis, interpretation, and presentation.

#### German 331x:

Students identify historical coherence and importance of time periods as a mode of cultural inquiry and analysis. They categorize and arrange knowledge. They apply concepts and methodology, while refining their German language and analytical skills by identifying key passages in literary texts, conducting close readings of texts and objects, and creating historical connections between them. Students demonstrate these skills in oral presentations and writing of different formats and lengths. These courses complement rather than precede courses in the 339x category.

#### German 339x:

Students identify thematic coherence and conceptual formation as a mode of cultural inquiry, analysis, and production. They categorize and arrange knowledge across time, national contexts, and artistic modes or genres. They engage with abstract concepts and may integrate different methods through work with theoretical models and their application. As they do in the 331x-courses, students refine their German language and analytical skills by identifying key passages in literary texts, conducting close readings of texts and objects, and creating cross-disciplinary modes of presentation in speech and writing.

#### Other:

Students in German 2262/3362 acquire cultural competence through specialized linguistic and interpretive skills and appropriate techniques of translation. They evaluate language use and apply theories of translation, while building specialized German language skills in vocabulary, style, and syntax. They create cross-curricular connections allowing them to integrate knowledge from other disciplines with their study of German. The dual-level course fosters collaboration and cooperation between students of differing linguistic abilities; at the 3362-level, students carry out a research project involving presentation, simulation, and translation.

Study abroad enables students to apply and expand upon the linguistic and cultural knowledge acquired at Bowdoin in their interaction with native speakers. Their daily immersion in the native culture, in turn, fosters comparative perspectives and allows them to relate different course contents from German-speaking universities back to their German courses at Bowdoin.

### Independent Studies/Honors Program

These student-driven and faculty-guided research courses allow students to plan, design, and execute independent research, with the possibility of completing an honors thesis. The thesis demonstrates critical acumen, and intellectual and methodological rigor.

The department complements its major program with interdisciplinary courses in English—in so doing strengthening Bowdoin's liberal arts mission and opening its course offerings to majors, minors, and students from all disciplines.

Department/Program Website (<https://www.bowdoin.edu/german/>)

### Faculty

Birgit Tautz, *Department Chair*

Kate Flaherty, *Department Coordinator*

*Professor:* Birgit Tautz

*Associate Professor:* Jill S. Smith

*Assistant Professor:* Jens Klenner

Faculty/Staff Website (<https://www.bowdoin.edu/german/faculty-and-staff/>)

## Requirements

### German Major

The major consists of eight courses.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
GER 2204	Intermediate German II: German History through Visual Culture (or the equivalent)	1

Select seven additional courses. Of those: 7

One course taught in English may be taken from German 1000–1049 or German 1151–1159 or German 2251–2551; or a course taught by German faculty in other programs may be substituted for this requirement upon prior approval.

The other courses (or all of the seven courses) must be taken from German 2205–4052.

All majors are required to do coursework with the department in their senior year; the configuration of this senior work must be determined in direct consultation with the department. This consultation takes place prior to registering for the fall semester of the senior year, which for some students means before they depart for study away. Normally, senior work includes two courses at the 33xx-level. Prospective majors, including those who begin with first- or second-year German at Bowdoin, may arrange an accelerated program, usually including study away. Majors are encouraged to consider a number of study-away programs with different calendars and formats.

### German Minor

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
GER 1102	Elementary German II	1

Select any four courses. 4

two courses in the language (German 2203–2289 and German 3300–3999)

up to two may be taught in English (German 1000–1049, German 1151–1159, or German 2251–2551)

With advance departmental approval of the transfer credit, any number of courses from another college or university may count toward the major or minor.

## Additional Information

### Additional Information and Department Policies

- Courses that count toward the major or minor must be taken for regular letter grades (not Credit/D/Fail) and earn a course grade of C- or better.
- First-year writing seminars taught by German department faculty count toward the major and minor.
- Students may engage in independent study at the intermediate (2970–2979) or advanced (4000–4051) level. Independent studies, including honors projects, may count toward the major.
- If taught by a German faculty member and pre-approved, majors and minors may double-count one course with another department or program.

- Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate (AP/IB): Students who received a minimum score of four on the German Advanced Placement exam receive a general credit toward their degree, normally no credit to the major or minor, after completion of a 3000-level German course with a minimum grade of B-. Students who took the German IB exam should consult the department regarding credit. Regardless of earned scores, all students are expected to take the placement exam. In order to receive credit for AP/IB work, students must have their scores officially reported to the Office of the Registrar by the end of their sophomore year at Bowdoin.

## Courses

### GER 1027 (c, FYS) From Flowers of Evil to Pretty Woman: Prostitutes in Modern Western Culture

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Explores the myriad ways that prostitutes have been represented in modern Western culture from the middle of the nineteenth century to the present. By analyzing literary texts, visual artworks, and films from Europe and the United States, examines prostitution as a complex urban phenomenon and a vehicle through which artists and writers grapple with issues of labor, morality, sexuality, and gender roles. Introduces students to a variety of literary, artistic, musical, and filmic genres, as well as to different disciplinary approaches to the study of prostitution. Authors, artists, and film directors may include Baudelaire, Toulouse-Lautrec, Kirchner, Wedekind, Pabst, Marshall, Scorsese, Spielmann, and Sting. (Same as: GSWS 1027)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2018.

### GER 1101 (c) Elementary German I

Jens Klenner.

Every Fall. Fall 2020. Enrollment limit: 18.

German 1101 is the first course in German language and culture and is open to all students without prerequisite. Facilitates an understanding of culture through language. Introduces German history and cultural topics. Three hours per week. Acquisition of four skills: speaking and understanding, reading, and writing. One hour of conversation and practice with teaching assistant. Integrated Language Media Center work.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017, Fall 2016.

### GER 1102 (c) Elementary German II

Every Spring. Enrollment limit: 18.

Continuation of German 1101. Equivalent of German 1101 is required.

Prerequisites: GER 1101 or Placement in GER 1102.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Spring 2017.

**GER 1152 (c, IP, VPA) Berlin: Sin City, Divided City, City of the Future**  
Jill Smith.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2020. Enrollment limit: 50.

An examination of literary, artistic, and cinematic representations of the city of Berlin during three distinct time periods: the "Roaring 20s," the Cold War, and the post-Wall period. Explores the dramatic cultural, political, and physical transformations that Berlin underwent during the twentieth century and thereby illustrates the central role that Berlin played, and continues to play, in European history and culture, as well as in the American cultural imagination. For each time period studied, compares Anglo-American representations of Berlin with those produced by German artists and writers, and investigates how, why, and to what extent Berlin has retained its status as one of the most quintessentially modern cities in the world. No knowledge of German is required. Note: Fulfills the non-US cinema requirement for cinema studies minors. (Same as: CINE 1152)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019.

**GER 1155 (c, IP) Into the Wild**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 50.

An examination of the mix of conflicting ideas that shape the many conceptions of "wilderness." Among other questions, explores the ideas of wilderness as a space without or preceding culture and civilization, as a mental state, and as an aesthetic experience. Considers the place of wilderness in the 'urban jungle' of cities. Puts Anglo-American and European theories and images of the wilderness into dialogue by comparing literary works, film, artworks, and philosophical texts. No knowledge of German is required. (Same as: ENVS 1155)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2016.

**GER 1157 (c, IP) Technology and Its Discontents**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 50.

An exploration of German literary history focused on the two-sided reaction that accompanies the arrival of modern technology: on the one hand, the praise of progress and the promise of improvement; on the other, anxiety about the dangers posed by change. Takes the history of German thought as a starting point to examine broad philosophical and moral questions about the ever-expanding reach of technology into individual lives, and into mankind's collective capacity for both good and evil. Students will read literary, philosophical, and historical texts from antiquity to the present day, and from a number of countries and traditions, with a focus on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in Germany, Europe, and the United States.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2018.

**GER 2052 (c, IP) Karl Marx: Texts, Ideas, Impact**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Explores key texts by Karl Marx in depth, not only for the force of their ideas, but in pursuit of insight into Marx's critical method. How does Marx make the intangible idea of political economy tangible through rhetorical style? Examines Marx's own writing style and encourages students to reflect on rhetorical methods as they read and write about his works themselves. Demonstrates Marx's impact through carefully chosen examples of theoretical texts that apply Marx's theories to literary and cultural analysis. Emphasizes writing as a multistep process. Texts include The Communist Manifesto, The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte, and selections from Das Kapital. Taught in English.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019.

**GER 2203 (c) Intermediate German I: Germany within Europe**

Birgit Tautz.

Every Fall. Fall 2020. Enrollment limit: 18.

Continued emphasis on the understanding of German culture through language. Focus on social and cultural topics through history, literature, politics, popular culture, and the arts. Three hours per week of reading, speaking, and writing. One hour of discussion and practice with teaching assistant. Language laboratory also available. Equivalent of German 1102 is required.

Prerequisites: GER 1102 or Placement in GER 2203.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017, Fall 2016.

**GER 2204 (c) Intermediate German II: German History through Visual Culture**

Every Spring. Enrollment limit: 18.

Continuation of German 2203. Equivalent of German 2203 is required.

Prerequisites: GER 2203 or Placement in GER 2204.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Spring 2017.

**GER 2205 (c, IP) Advanced German Texts and Contexts**

Jill Smith.

Every Fall. Fall 2020. Enrollment limit: 18.

Designed to explore aspects of German culture in depth, to deepen the understanding of culture through language, and to increase facility in speaking, writing, reading, and comprehension. Topics include post-war and/or post-unification themes in historical and cross-cultural contexts. Particular emphasis on post-1990 German youth culture and language. Includes fiction writing, film, music, and various news media. Weekly individual sessions with the teaching fellow from the Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität-Mainz. Equivalent of German 2204 is required.

Prerequisites: GER 2204 or Placement in GER 2205.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017, Fall 2016.

**GER 2251 (c, ESD, IP) Making Sex a Science: Sexology and its Cultural Representation from Krafft-Ebing to Kinsey**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Traces the development of sexual science, or sexology, from its roots in late nineteenth-century Austria and Germany to its manifestations in twentieth-century Great Britain and the United States. Examines ideas of key figures within sexual science and the myriad ways they sought to define, categorize, and explain non-normative sexual behaviors and desires. Explores how claims of scientific authority and empirical knowledge were used to shape social attitudes toward sexual difference. Analyzes cultural works that either influenced or were influenced by these thinkers. Includes works by the sexologists Krafft-Ebing, Hirschfeld, Ellis, and Kinsey, as well as cultural texts by Boyle, Praunheim, and Sacher-Masoch. (Same as: GSWS 2258)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.

**GER 2252 (c, IP, VPA) Terrorists and Spies, Borders and Bridges: Highlights of German Cinema since 1980**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Examines the particular ways in which, in the aftermath of New German Cinema (NGC), the cinematic medium constructs protagonists of mass appeal (terrorists, spies, slackers, etc.) while moving beyond the limits and possibilities of a national cinematic tradition and toward a European (and global) cinematic language. Pays special attention to historical advancement, over the past four decades, of material conditions of film production, distribution, and reception as well as to the development of cinematic genres, techniques, and effects that cinema has on other art forms. Filmmakers/films may include von Trotta ("Marianne and Juliane"), Petersen ("Das Boot," "The Neverending Story"), von Donnermarck ("Lives of Others"), Wolf ("Solo Sunny"), Schlöndorff ("The Legend of Rita"), Misselwitz ("Winter adé"), Edel ("Baader-Meinhof Complex"), Hirschbiegel ("Downfall"), Ade ("Forest for the Trees," "Toni Erdmann"), Link ("Nowhere in Africa"), Petzold ("Yella," "Barbara"), Tykwer ("Run Lola Run," "Three"), Schmid ("Distant Lights"), Dresen ("Stopped on Track"), Dörrie ("Men," "Nobody Loves Me"), Ruzowitsky ("Counterfeiters"), Maccarone ("Veiled"), Akin ("Edge of Heaven," "The Cut"), Gerster ("A Coffee in Berlin"), Schipper ("Victoria"). Fulfills international requirement for cinema studies. Taught in English. (Same as: CINE 2900)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2017.

**GER 2253 (c, IP, VPA) The Ethics of the Image**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Explores the representation of a range of ethical questions in film as well as the ethics of film, including the formal and stylistic, historical, and political decisions made in constructing cinematic images. Arranged in the form of case studies, compares and contrasts examples of international film with a focus on theoretical questions and approaches. May consider the ways in which films represent traumatic events in history (e.g., the Holocaust), environmental disasters, and sexual and gender identity, to name a few. Addresses questions of cinematic genre as well as spectatorship (e.g., identification and repulsion, taste, appropriateness, humor, shock, activism as response). Note: Fulfills the film theory and the non-US cinema requirements for cinema studies minors. (Same as: CINE 2901)

Prerequisites: GER 1000 or higher or CINE 1000 or higher or ENGL 1000 or higher or HIST 1000 or higher or VART 1000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2020.

**GER 2262 (c, IP) Not Lost in Translation: German Across the Disciplines**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 08.

Designed to explore aspects of contemporary German language and culture beyond literature and film, such as in the contexts of business, politics and law, environmental policy and science. Students acquire cultural competence through specialized linguistic and interpretive skills and appropriate techniques of translation. Focus on discipline-specific genres and discourses (report, prospectus, analysis and briefing papers, etc.) and across media (columns, blogs, television, news, statistics). Combines in-class forms of assessment (quizzes, presentations) with writing assignments and one discipline-specific translation project. All readings, writing, and discussion in German. Meets with German 3362. German 2205 is recommended. Equivalent of German 2204 is required.

Prerequisites: GER 2204 - 2969 or Placement in GER 2204.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2018.

**GER 3308 (c, IP) Introduction to German Literature and Culture**

Every Other Spring. Enrollment limit: 15.

Designed to be an introduction to the critical reading of texts by genre (e.g., prose fiction and nonfiction, lyric poetry, drama, opera, film) in the context of German intellectual, political, and social history. Focuses on various themes and periods. Develops students' sensitivity to generic structures and introduces terminology for describing and analyzing texts in historical and cross-cultural contexts. Weekly individual sessions with the teaching fellow from the Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität-Mainz. All materials and coursework in German.

Prerequisites: GER 2204 - 2969 or GER 3000 or higher or Placement in GER 3000 level.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2018.

**GER 3310 (c, IP) German Culture Studies: Made in Germany**

Every Other Spring. Enrollment limit: 15.

An examination of the most influential "products" made in Germany. From technological developments to musical innovations, many things made in Germany have had an enduring, global impact. Explores the context in which these products were made or ideas were developed, the process of their worldwide dissemination, as well as the ways in which they shape the national and cultural imagination. Designed to be an introduction to methods of cultural analysis through an examination of diverse materials. Expands students' knowledge of German culture, history, and language while also developing skills, including close reading, visual analysis, and contextualization. All materials and coursework in German.

Prerequisites: GER 2204 - 2969 or GER 3000 or higher or Placement in GER 3000 level.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2017.

**GER 3313 (c, IP) 18th century German Literature and Culture: Love, Theft, Travel**

Birgit Tautz.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2020. Enrollment limit: 15.

Focus on the mid-to late eighteenth century as an age of contradictory impulses (e.g., the youthful revolt of Storm and Stress against the Age of Reason). Examines manifestations of such impulses in the works of major (e.g., Goethe, Schiller, Humboldt) and less well-known (e.g., Karsch, Forster) and anonymous authors and translators. Beginning with discussions of transparency, the course investigates constellations that began to define the century: "Love" as a then new, very modern idea that organized families and human relationships, "theft" as a shortcut to discuss issues of property (e.g., proprietary ideas, property of goods) and "travel," expressing then dominant activities of exploration as well as exploitation. These terms serve as key concepts throughout the course, as we combine traditional reading and discussion with methods of Digital Humanities. The result will be an investigation of texts in their broader cultural context with appropriate theory and illustrated through film and drama on video, statistical data, developments in eighteenth-century dance, music, and legal discourse." All materials and coursework in German.

Prerequisites: GER 2204 - 2969 or GER 3000 or higher or Placement in GER 3000 level.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.

**GER 3315 (c, IP) Realism and Revolution in Nineteenth-Century German Literature and Culture**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

What is revolution? What forms has it taken within German-speaking society and culture? Examines a variety of literary, cultural, and social texts from 1830 to 1900 in their broader cultural, artistic, philosophical, and political contexts. Beyond discussing the effects (both positive and negative) of the Industrial Revolution, discusses three other forms of revolution that emerge in nineteenth-century German discourse: (1) political revolution (the formation of German national identity; the rise of the socialist movement); (2) artistic revolution (the search for an artistic direction at the end of the Age of Goethe; the tensions between social realism and romanticism); (3) sexual revolution (scientific interest in normal versus abnormal sexual behavior; the advent of the women's movement and the questioning of gender roles). Authors/artists may include Heine, Büchner, Hebbel, Hauptmann, Andreas-Salomé, Fontane, Wagner, Marx and Engels, Bebel, Simmel, Kollwitz, Krafft-Ebing.

Prerequisites: GER 2204 - 2969 or GER 3000 or higher or Placement in GER 3000 level.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2018.

**GER 3316 (c, IP) German Modernism -- Urbanity, Interiority, Sexuality**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Examines works of modern German literature, art, music, and film in their historical and social contexts. Analyzes the narrative modes used to deal with the interiority of modern protagonists and explores the particular urban settings in which works were conceived: Munich, Prague, Zurich, and Berlin. Familiarizes students with the intellectual history of the period by discussing the extent to which modernist writers were influenced by Nietzschean and Freudian thought and the questions of morality, sexuality, and pleasure raised by both of these thinkers. Asks why modernism is (or is perceived to be) rooted in urban settings, and how modernism became politicized during the Weimar Republic, as writers witnessed and sought to respond to the rise of Fascism. Contemporary artistic movements such as Expressionism, Dadaism, and Neue Sachlichkeit; literary texts by Brecht, Wedekind, Kafka, Mann, Rilke, Lasker-Schüler, and Kästner; musical works by Berg, Schoenberg, and Weill; and relevant films of the period.

Prerequisites: GER 2204 - 2969 or GER 3000 or higher or Placement in GER 3000 level.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2016.

**GER 3317 (c, IP) German Literature and Culture since 1945**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 15.

An exploration of how successive generations have expressed their relationship to the catastrophe of the Nazi past. Examines representative texts of East and West German writers/filmmakers in Cold War and post-unification contexts. A discussion of German identity from several critical perspectives, including Vergangenheitsbewältigung, the political and cultural influence of the United States and the Soviet Union, gender in the two Germanys, and the politics of migration and citizenship. Authors may include Grass, Böll, Borchert, Brussig, Özdamar, Schlink, and Wolf. Films by Fassbinder, von Trotta, Schlöndorff, Akin, and Levy.

Prerequisites: GER 2204 - 2969 or GER 3000 or higher or Placement in GER 3000 level.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2018.

**GER 3362 (c, IP) Not Lost in Translation: German Across the Disciplines**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 07.

Designed to explore aspects of contemporary German language and culture beyond literature and film, such as in the contexts of business, politics and law, environmental policy and science. Students acquire cultural competence through specialized linguistic and interpretive skills and appropriate techniques of translation. Focus on discipline-specific genres and discourses (report, prospectus, analysis and briefing papers, etc.) and across media (columns, blogs, television, news, statistics). Combines forms of in-class assessment (quizzes, presentations) with concise papers of different genres, discipline-specific translation, and individual and/or group research projects. Meets with German 2262. One previous 3000-level course in German recommended. Equivalent of German 2204 is required.

Prerequisites: GER 2204 - 2969 or GER 3000 or higher or Placement in GER 3000 level.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2018.

**GER 3380 (c, IP) Honor, Courage, and Class: Dueling in German Literature and Culture**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 15.

This course takes the institution of dueling as a lens into German literary history. How did the duel evolve from a religious ceremony in the Middle Ages to a romantic encounter between gentlemen? How did the aristocratic link between honor and violence spread to other social classes? What can duels tell us about violence, honor, and gender dynamics in a particular place and time? How do literary duels reflect and shape the course of literary history; and what makes the duel such an attractive theme to such a wide range of authors?

Prerequisites: GER 2204 - 2269 or GER 3000 or higher or Placement in GER 3000 level.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2020.

**GER 3390 (c, IP) Literature and Culture of the Great War and the Weimar**  
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 15.

A study of the First World War and the Weimar Republic in German history and culture with a focus on artistic representations of this tumultuous era. Traces key movements in literature as well as visual art and film, with attention to the way artists responded to social, political, and cultural shifts in early twentieth-century Germany. Readings thematize issues of art and politics, nationalism and militarism, gender and sexuality, and practices of memorialization. Authors may include Remarque, Jünger, Benn, Lasker-Schüler, Trakl, Toller, Brecht, Döblin, Luxemburg, and Keun. Explores contemporary popular media representations of the era such as the TV series *Babylon Berlin*. All materials and coursework in German.

Prerequisites: GER 2204 - 2969 or GER 3000 or higher or Placement in GER 3000 level.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019.

**GER 3391 (c, IP) Mapping Germany: Nature and Knowledge**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Considers how German terrain and culture were mapped or charted through representations of nature and the wilderness in a diverse range of texts. Examinations of discourses about nature and landscape reveal how Germany constitutes itself as a nation with a particular relationship to the environment. A comparison of Austrian, German, and Swiss novels, short stories, films, and artworks emphasize the varied but powerful place of nature in the German imagination. Possible works, among others, by Kant, Goethe, Humboldt, Fanck, Ransmayr, Kehlmann, Jelinek, Richter. All materials and coursework in German. (Same as: ENVS 3391)

Prerequisites: GER 2204 - 2969 or GER 3000 or higher or Placement in GER 3000 level.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2020.

**GER 3393 (c, IP) Literary History of Destruction**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 15.

Examines literary and artistic responses to the technological innovations and historical upheavals that characterized the twentieth century: science seemed to enable mass destruction and murder on an unprecedented scale, and two world wars, the Holocaust, and the threat of nuclear annihilation gave rise to a deep ambivalence about the power of technology in modern society and its reach into daily life. German-speaking Europe was a driving force behind these developments, and German and Austrian authors and artists articulated how technology changes the world, for better and for worse. Authors include, but are not limited to, Franz Kafka, Robert Musil, Stefan Zweig, Friedrich Dürrenmatt, Paul Celan, and Franz Fühmann. Considers film and visual art. Discussion and coursework in German.

Prerequisites: GER 2204 - 2969 or GER 3000 or higher or Placement in GER 3000 level.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2017.

**GER 3394 (c, IP) Contemporary Austrian Literature, Drama, and Film**  
Jens Klenner.

Discontinued Course. Fall 2020. Enrollment limit: 16.

Examines essential works of post-1945 Austrian literature, drama, and film. Explores how Austrian artists attempt to come to terms with the collapse of the Habsburg Empire and the legacy of collaboration with the Nazi regime. Also considers how works of art both support and call into question Austria's cultural and national identity in terms of gender and ethnicity. Texts by Bachmann, Bernhard, Handke, Jelinek, and Mayröcker, films by Glawogger, Haneke, Kusturica, and Spielmann. All materials and coursework in German.

Prerequisites: GER 2204 - 2969 or GER 3000 or higher or Placement in GER 3000 level.

**GER 3397 (c, IP) Global Germany?**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 15.

The fall of the Berlin Wall and the concomitant end of the Cold War ushered in what many cultural critics call the era of globalization. An exploration of how contemporary German culture (1990-present) grapples with both the possibilities and uncertainties presented by globalization. Examines a myriad of cultural texts – films, audio plays, dramas, short fiction, novels, photographs, websites – as well as mass events (i.e., the Love Parade, the 2006 World Cup) within their political, social, and economic contexts to show how Germany's troubled past continues to affect the role it plays on the global stage and how its changing demographics – increased urbanization and ethnic diversity – have altered its cultural and literary landscape. Critically considers issues such as migration, terrorism and genocide, sex tourism, the formation of the European Union, and the supposed decline of the nation-state. Frequent short writings, participation in debates, and a final research project based upon a relevant topic of individual interest are required. All materials and course work in German. (Same as: CINE 3395)

Prerequisites: GER 2204 - 2969 or GER 3000 or higher or Placement in GER 3000 level.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2018.

**GER 3398 (c, IP) Colors: Signs of Ethnic Difference 1800/1900/2000**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 15.

In German culture, color/hue has played an important role in marking ethnic difference. Investigates the presence of color--metaphorical and actual, as provocative rhetoric and residual thought--in Germany today (e.g., around 2000), before exploring to what extent this presence is a lingering effect of the cultures around 1900 and 1800. In German culture color marks not only "racial difference" (e.g., "black" vs. "white"), but also geographical difference ("tropical colors") or diversity ("Bunte Republik Deutschland"). Considers changing discourse on color and ethnic difference in literary texts and films, all of which serve to illuminate the broader cultural context at three historical junctures: 1800, 1900, and 2000. Considers texts and films in conjunction with non-fiction, including examples from the visual arts (paintings, photographs, "Hagenbecks Völkerschauen"), medical and 'scientific' encyclopedic entries, policy statements and advertisements ("Reklamemarken," commercials), and popular music (hip-hop, lyrics), recognizing, in the process, how German culture ("national identity") defines itself through and against color. Taught in German.

Prerequisites: GER 2204 - 2969 or GER 3000 or higher or Placement in GER 3000 level.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2016.

**GER 3399 (c, IP) Narrating Crisis and Catastrophe**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 18.

Studies the ubiquity of images and ideas of crises and catastrophes in modern culture. Natural disasters, accidents, financial collapse, wars, and terror permeate the media; crises legitimize political and legal interventions; catastrophic scenarios are central to disaster films. To be imagined and processed, catastrophes must be narrated. Consequently, different models and functions of such narratives from Austria, Germany, and Switzerland since 1800 are investigated; media and formats examined; social and political dimensions explored; and concepts like trauma, survival, prophecy, testimony, or sovereignty scrutinized. All materials and coursework in German.

Prerequisites: GER 2204 - 2969 or GER 3000 or higher or Placement in GER 3000 level.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2017.