Germanic Languages and Literatures

Germanic Languages and Literatures offers a diverse and challenging program of study in the language, literature and culture of the German-speaking countries. In this program, students study the German language intensively and explore German literature and culture from the Middle Ages to the present. They also have the opportunity to learn business German and to study contemporary Germany.

Beginning students are taught German through a combination of main classes and subsections and rapidly acquire speaking skills through intensive interactive classroom activities. Intermediate German combines a three-hour main class with a subsection to enable students to work steadily on speaking, writing, listening and reading skills. Advanced language courses help students to polish their basic German and to improve their facility to use complicated grammatical structures and to express complex ideas orally and in writing.

In Washington University’s German program, students take courses from internationally recognized faculty members who are leaders in their fields and who have been recognized for their expertise in undergraduate teaching. Faculty areas of interest include literature and history, film, prose narrative, gender studies, philosophy, the history of German cultural institutions, the history of literary genres, literature before 1700, contemporary literature, and German-Jewish literature. All German classes are small, thus facilitating lively faculty-student interaction. Our collection of contemporary German literature, housed in Olin Library, is the largest in North America and attracts many visiting scholars to our campus.

Students of German can choose among several study abroad programs, and they can take advantage of an array of co-curricular activities including film series, the German honorary society Delta Phi Alpha, lectures by guest speakers, and readings by visiting authors. Many German students also elect to assist with the annual German Day for high school students from Missouri and Illinois and thus to transmit their interest in German to the next generation of students.

A degree in German prepares students for graduate study in German language, literature and culture; language education; comparative literature; and linguistics. Students also may choose to combine a degree in German with another major in the college and upon graduation to pursue graduate degrees in, for example, art history, business, environmental studies, international and area studies, law or medicine. In addition to careers in academia, our graduates have pursued careers in diverse fields, including international banking, diplomacy, publishing and law.

Contact Person: Professor Erin McGlothlin or Empress Sanders
Phone: 314/935-4288; 314/935-4276
E-mail: mcglothlin@wustl.edu; esander@wustl.edu (mcglothlin@wustl.edu; %20esander@wustl.edu)

Departmental website: http://www.artsci.wustl.edu/~german/

Chair
Matt Erlin
PhD, University of California–Berkeley

Endowed Professors
Paul Michael Lützeler
Rosa May Distinguished University Professor in the Humanities
PhD, Indiana University

Lynne Tatlock
Hortense and Tobias Lewin Distinguished University Professor in the Humanities
PhD, Indiana University

Gerhild Scholz Williams
Barbara Schaps Thomas and David M. Thomas Professor in the Humanities
PhD, University of Washington

Professor
Matt Erlin
PhD, University of California–Berkeley

Associate Professors
Jennifer Kapczynski
PhD, University of California–Berkeley

Erin McGlothlin
PhD, University of Virginia

Assistant Professors
Kurt Beals
PhD, University of California–Berkeley

Caroline Kita
PhD, Duke University

Christian Schneider
PhD, Heidelberg University

Specialist in Foreign Language Pedagogy
Eva Russo
PhD, University of California–Los Angeles
Professors Emeriti

James F. Poag
PhD, University of Illinois

Egon Schwarz
Rosa May Distinguished University Professor Emeritus in the Humanities
PhD, University of Washington

The Major in Germanic Languages and Literatures

Total units required: 24

Required courses:
German 340C or German 341C and the Senior Assessment (undertaken in conjunction with a 400-level seminar) are required of all majors. German 340C or German 341C is required for admission to all 400-level courses except German 401, German 404 and German 408D. Admission to 400-level courses (except German 401, 404 and 408D) without completion of German 340C or German 341C is by departmental permission only.

Elective courses:
Students interested in studying German may declare German as their major or second major. Majors or second majors are required to complete 24 credit hours of upper-level courses (300 and 400), at least 12 of which are on the 400-level. If students begin German at Washington University and follow the regular sequence of courses (German 101D-German 102D-German 210D), they will be ready to begin the German major after three semesters. With the exception of German 340 OR German 341, only courses taught in German will count toward the major. Students who wish to receive Honors in German will write an honors thesis and must sign up for German 497/498 (with departmental permission) in addition to the 24 hours required for the major (for a total of 30 credit hours). All majors and second majors are required in their senior year to participate in the senior assessment interview.

Applications for admission to the honors program must be submitted by the first week of classes in the fall semester of the senior year. Forms are available from Empress Sanders (Ridgley Hall, Room 324).

PLEASE NOTE: For both majors and minors, at least half of the courses on the 300-level and above must have been acquired either in residence at Washington University or in overseas programs affiliated with Washington University.

The Minor in Germanic Languages and Literatures

Units required: 15

Required courses: Students who intend to minor in German must complete 15 upper-level credit courses taught in German (300- and 400-level). With the exception of German 340 OR German 341, only courses taught in German will count toward the major. At least 3 of these units must be at the 400-level.

PLEASE NOTE: For both majors and minors, at least half of the courses on the 300-level and above must have been acquired either in residence at Washington University or in overseas programs affiliated with Washington University.

Additional Information

Study Abroad: German majors or minors are encouraged to participate in one of the overseas study programs. The German department sponsors a semester and a year abroad at the University of Tübingen, Germany. To participate in the Tübingen program, students must complete German 301D (p. 1) (for the semester program) and German 302D (p. 1) (for the year program) or the equivalent by the time the program begins. Upon returning to campus, German majors are required to take at least one 400-level course (other than German 497-498) during their senior year.

Washington University sponsors an eight-week summer program in Göttingen, Germany. Students who have taken at least one semester of German may be eligible for this intensive language program. Especially if students are interested in business, the department encourages them to apply for the Webster University International Business Internship or for the business internship in Koblenz, Germany, arranged by Washington University’s Olin Business School.

Senior Thesis in German, Departmental Distinction in German and Latin Honors in German: Students who wish to be eligible for Distinction in German must write a senior thesis in German in their final year at Washington University. Students receiving Distinction in German may additionally qualify for Latin Honors in German. The student chooses a thesis topic with the help of a faculty thesis adviser from the department. Upon acceptance of the thesis proposal (normally in the fall of the senior year), the student registers for the German 497-498 sequence. The student presents the senior thesis to the thesis adviser and a second reader approximately six weeks before the conclusion of the final semester at the university.

The Minor in Germanic Languages and Literatures

Units required: 15

Required courses: Students who intend to minor in German must complete 15 upper-level credit courses taught in German (300- and 400-level). With the exception of German 340 OR German 341, only courses taught in German will count toward the major. At least 3 of these units must be at the 400-level.

PLEASE NOTE: For both majors and minors, at least half of the courses on the 300-level and above must have been acquired either in residence at Washington University or in overseas programs affiliated with Washington University.

Additional Information

We strongly encourage minors to take German 340C German Literature and the Modern Era (with discussion section) or German 341C German Thought in the Modern Era (with discussion section) because either course serves as a prerequisite for all 400-level courses except German 401, German 404 and German 408D. Any credits obtained at the 300- or 400-level during the summer institute program in Göttingen may count toward the minor.
L21 German 100D Continuing German for Students with High School German
Builds on students’ previous knowledge of German language and culture, reviewing and reinforcing the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in cultural contexts with special emphasis on communicative competence. In addition to the regular class meetings, students sign up after the semester begins for a once-weekly subsection (time to be arranged). Prerequisites: placement by examination and at least two years of high school German, or permission of instructor. Students who complete this course successfully may enter German 102D or 290D.
Credit 3 units. A&S: LA BU: HUM, IS

L21 German 101D Basic German: Core Course I
Introductory program; no previous German required. Students develop their competence in listening, speaking, reading and writing German by means of interpersonal, interpretive and presentational communicative practice. This first course serves as an introduction to German grammar and culture; goals range from developing the communicative skills necessary to find an apartment to being able to read modern German poetry. Students learn how to apply their knowledge of basic cases and tenses in order to hold a conversation or write a letter describing their interests, family, goals, routines, etc. and to discover personal information about others. In addition to the regular class meetings, students should sign up for a twice-weekly subsection. Students who complete this course successfully should enter German 102D.
Credit 5 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: HUM, IS

L21 German 102D Basic German: Core Course II
Continuation of German 100D or 101D. In preparation for more advanced academic study in German, this second course further introduces students to fundamental German grammar, culture and history. It comprises a combination of situational lessons and tasks that challenge students’ critical thinking abilities. Students in German 102 familiarize themselves with the language necessary to understand and give directions, apply for a job and speak with a doctor; students also read more advanced content such as Grimm’s fairy tales and a text from Franz Kafka. In addition to the regular class meetings, students sign up after the semester begins for a twice-weekly subsection. Prerequisites: German 100D, 101D, the equivalent, or placement by examination. Students who complete this course successfully should enter German 210D.
Credit 5 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: HUM, IS

L21 German 111D Elementary German I
Development of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Exposure to cultural topics. Laboratory work included. Offered during Summer School only.
Credit 4 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD BU: IS

L21 German 112D Elementary German II
Continuation of Elementary German I. Further development of all skills. Exposure to cultural topics and to fiction and nonfiction texts. Laboratory work included. Prerequisite: German 111D Elementary German I or equivalent. Offered during Summer School only.
Credit 4 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD BU: IS

L21 German 210D Intermediate German: Core Course III
Continuation of German 102D. Reading and discussion in German of short literary and nonliterary texts combined with an intensive grammar review. Further development of writing skills. In addition to the regular class meetings, students sign up after the semester begins for a subsection (time to be arranged). Prerequisite: German 102D or equivalent, or placement by examination. Students who complete this course successfully should enter German 301D or 313.
Credit 4 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: HUM, IS

L21 German 240 Mad Science? The Ethics of Knowledge, Technology and Knowledge in the German World
This interdisciplinary lecture course explores the long pursuit of ethical questions concerning science, technology and medicine in the German-speaking world. Beginning with the medieval period and extending into the present, the class examines a range of texts in order to track the transition from pre-Enlightenment notions of the human to the modern concept of the reasoning subject, from the embrace of technology in the 19th century to its murderous implementation under fascism in the 20th, from post-war debates about human nature to 21st-century debates about bioethics — asking how a culture that once espoused reason, knowledge and technology as forces that could direct our inner and outer nature devolved in the early 20th century into myth, irrationalism and genocide, and how in the aftermath of the Nazi period, German culture continues to wrestle with the quandaries of scientific and technological advancement in ways that raise more universal questions about the ethics of progress. Led by a faculty member from the German department with regular guest lectures by faculty from across the disciplines, including literature, history, the arts, medicine and philosophy. In conjunction with the lectures, students read literary, critical and historical writings that address the broader topics of the course. Possible session topics include: Medieval Concepts of Race; the Science of Witchcraft; Early Modern Midwifery; Nietzsche Reads Darwin; the Birth of Science as a Discipline; Making the Forensic Case for Ritual Murder; Sex in Vienna; Nazi Medicine Then and Now; Machine Monsters of the Modern Age; Body Worlds and Contemporary Bioethics. Twice-weekly lecture with one one-hour discussion section. Lectures, readings and discussions in English. Open to freshmen.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD EN: H

Undergraduate Bulletin 2014-15
Germanic Languages and Literatures (11/30/17)
L21 German 299 An Internship for Liberal Arts Students
An Internship for Liberal Arts Students: A course for students participating in a pre-approved internship program. Students work together with a faculty adviser to determine the exact nature and scope of the work to be undertaken to receive German credit. All credit is subject to the approval of the department.
Credit 1 unit.

L21 German 301D Advanced German: Core Course IV
Discussion of literary and nonliterary texts combined with an intensive grammar review. Systematic introduction to the expressive functions of German with an emphasis on spoken and written communication. In addition to the regular class meetings, students should sign up for a twice-weekly subsection. Prerequisite: German 210D, the equivalent or placement by examination. Students who complete this course successfully should enter German 302D.
Credit 4 units. A&S: LA, A&S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: HUM, IS

L21 German 302D Advanced German: Core Course V
Continuation of German 301D. Refinement and expansion of German communication skills (speaking, listening, writing, reading), deepening understanding of German grammatical structures, acquisition of more sophisticated and varied vocabulary, introduction to stylistics through discussion and analysis of literary and nonliterary texts. In addition to the regular class meetings, students should sign up for a twice-weekly subsection. Prerequisite: German 301D or equivalent or placement by examination. Students completing this course successfully may enter the 400 level.
Credit 4 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: HUM, IS

L21 German 313 Conversational German
Practice in speaking and vocabulary development in cultural contexts. Prerequisite: German 210D or equivalent, or placement by examination. Two hours a week. May be repeated for credit.
Credit 1 unit. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD BU: HUM, IS

L21 German 314A The Legend of King Arthur in the Middle Ages
This course examines the medieval tradition of King Arthur that arose in northern Europe from the “dark ages” to the invention of printing. The objective of this course is to achieve a thematic, historical and structural insight into some of the best examples of medieval storytelling and understand why they continue to cast a spell over readers today. You may want to try your own hand at Arthurian storytelling after you have learned the building blocks. The course also lays a foundation for the study of premodern literature, the medieval and early modern world, and the national cultures of France, Germany and Britain.

Same as IPH 313A
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM BU: HUM EN: H FA: Lit

L21 German 328 Topics in German Studies
This course explores the major developments of German cinema throughout the 20th century. More specifically, this course engages with issues relating to German film culture’s negotiation of popular filmmaking and art cinema, of Hollywood conventions and European avant-garde sensibilities. Topics include the political functions of German film during the Weimar, the Nazi, the post-war and the post-wall eras; the influence of American mass culture on German film; the role of German émigrés in the classical Hollywood studio system; and the place of German cinema in present-day Europe and in our contemporary age of globalization. Special attention is given to the role of German cinema in building and questioning national identity, to the ways in which German feature films over the past 100 years have used or challenged mainstream conventions to recall the national past and envision alternative futures. Films by directors such as Murnau, Lang, Fassbinder, Herzog, Tykwer and many others. All readings and discussions in English. May not be taken for German major or minor credit. Required screenings.
Same as Film 328
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH BU: IS EN: H

L21 German 329 Topics in German Literature I
Content variable.
Same as Comp Lit 393
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD EN: H FA: Lit

L21 German 331 Topics in Holocaust Studies
Content variable.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD BU: HUM EN: H FA: Lit, SSP

L21 German 334C Masterpieces of Modern German Literature in Translation
Content variable.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD BU: HUM EN: H FA: Lit

L21 German 340C German Literature and the Modern Era
Introduction in English to German writers from 1750 to the present. Discussion focuses on questions such as the role of outsiders in society, the human psyche, technology, war, gender, the individual and mass culture, and modern and postmodern sensibilities as they are posed in predominantly literary texts and in relation to the changing political and cultural faces of Germany over the past 250 years. Readings include works in translation by some of the most influential figures of the German tradition, such as Goethe, Nietzsche, Freud, Kafka, Thomas Mann, Brecht and Christa Wolf. Open to first-year students, nonmajors and
majors. Required for admission to 400-level courses (except German 404 and 408D). Qualifies for major or minor credit when taken in conjunction with a one-hour discussion section in German. The discussion section provides an introduction to critical German vocabulary and is open to students with prior knowledge of German (German 210D or equivalent or placement by examination). Credit variable, maximum 4 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD BU: ETH, IS FA: Lit

L21 German 341 German Thought and the Modern Era
In this introduction to the intellectual history of the German-speaking world from roughly 1750 to the present, we read English translations of works by some of the most influential figures in the German tradition, including Kant, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, Freud, Adorno, Heidegger, Arendt, Habermas and others. Our discussions focus on topics such as secularization, what it means to be modern, the possibility of progress, the role of art and culture in social life, the critique of mass society, and the interpretation of the Nazi past. We consider the arguments of these thinkers both on their own terms and against the backdrop of the historical contexts in which they were written. Open to first-year students, non-majors and majors. Admission to 400-level courses (except 401, 404 and 408D) is contingent on completion of this course or German 340C. Qualifies for major or minor credit when taken in conjunction with one-hour discussion section in German. The discussion section provides an introduction to critical German vocabulary and is open to students with prior knowledge of German (German 210D or equivalent, or placement by examination). Credit 3 or 4 units. Credit variable, maximum 4 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L21 German 401 Advanced German Core Course VI
Designed to foster advanced proficiency in German through analysis and discussion of a wide variety of high-level texts and through practice in advanced composition. Discussions and papers focus on questions of style, rhetoric and cultural specificity and on developing expertise in textual interpretation. Additional emphasis on problems of advanced German grammar encountered by English speakers and on subtleties of style and idiomatic expression in spoken and written German. Prerequisite: German 302D or the equivalent or permission of instructor. Credit 3 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD, LS

L21 German 4031 Lectures on German Literature and Culture
Four lectures in German on German literature and culture by a distinguished visiting professor. Students present class notes in German and write four one-page reaction papers (in German; to be revised) as well as a final three- to five-page reaction paper (in German). Attendance is required for those taking the course for credit. Credit/no credit only.

L21 German 408D German as a Language of Business
This course introduces students to concepts and issues relevant to German business and economics and helps them to develop the language skills necessary to succeed in the German business world. We concentrate on the basic elements of the German economic system, looking at Germany as a site of production and exchange, the legal structure of German firms, the relations between labor and management, and strategies for product development and marketing in national and international contexts. Students also are introduced to specific German business practices, including forms of communication, management styles and general corporate culture. Students learn business vocabulary, writing skills for business correspondence, oral presentation techniques, and reading and comprehension strategies for German newspapers and news reports. All discussions, readings and assignments are in German. Prerequisite: German 302D. Credit 4 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: IS

L21 German 4100 German Literature and Culture, 1150–1750
Exploration of medieval and early modern literature and culture within sociohistorical contexts. Genres and themes vary and may include visual culture; representation; the development of fictionality and historical writing; questions of race, gender and class; courtly culture; law; magic and marvels; and medical and scientific epistemologies. Readings may include such genres as the heroic epic, drama, “Minnesang,” the courtly novel, the Arthurian epic, fables, the novella, religious or devotional literature, witch tracts, pamphlets, political writings, the “Volksbuch,” the picaresque novel, and the essay. Discussion, readings and papers in German. Prerequisite: see Overview and Majors pages. Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, WI A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD, WI, LS

L21 German 4101 German Literature and Culture, 1750–1830
Exploration of the literature and culture of the Enlightenment, Storm and Stress, Weimar Classicism, and Romanticism within sociohistorical contexts. Genres and themes vary and may include the representation of history, absolutism and rebellion, the formation of bourgeois society, questions of national identity, aesthetics, gender, romantic love, and the fantastic. Reading and discussion of texts by authors such as Lessing, Goethe, Schiller, Kant, Novalis, Günderode, the Brothers Grimm, Kleist, E.T.A. Hoffmann, Eichendorff, Bettina von Arnim. Discussion, readings and papers in German. Prerequisite: see Overview and Majors page. Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, WI A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD, WI, LS

A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD FA: Lit
L21 German 4102 German Literature and Culture, 1830–1914
Exploration of 19th-century literature and culture within sociohistorical contexts. Genres and themes vary and may include the representation of history, liberalism and restoration, nationalism, industrialization, colonialism, class, race and gender conflicts, materialism, secularization and fin-de-siècle. Reading and discussion of texts by authors such as Büchner, Heine, Marx, Storm, Keller, Meyer, Fontane, Droste-Hülshoff, Nietzsche, Ebner-Eschenbach, Schnitzler, Rilke. Discussion, readings and papers in German. Prerequisite: see Overview and Majors pages.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD, WI A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD, WI, LS EN: H FA: Lit

L21 German 4103 German Literature and Culture, 1914 to the Present
Exploration of modern and contemporary literature within sociohistorical contexts. Genres and themes vary and may include the representation of history, the crisis of modernity, the two World Wars, the Weimar Republic, the Third Reich, generational conflicts, the women’s movement and postmodern society. Reading and discussion of texts by authors such as Wedekind, Freud, Mann, Kafka, Brecht, Seghers, Böll, Bachmann, Grass, Wolf. Discussion, readings and papers in German. Prerequisite: see Majors page.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD, WI A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD, WI, LS EN: Lit

L21 German 4104 Studies in Genre
Exploration of the definition, style, form and content that characterize a specific genre. Investigation of the social, cultural, political and economic forces that lead to the formation and transformation of a particular genre. Examination of generic differences and of the effectiveness of a given genre in articulating the concerns of a writer or period. Topics and periods vary from semester to semester. Discussion, readings and papers in German; some theoretical readings in English. Prerequisite: see Majors page.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD, WI A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD, WI, LS FA: Lit

L21 German 4105 Topics in German Studies
Focus on particular cultural forms such as literature, film, historiography, social institutions, philosophy, the arts or on relationships between them. Course examines how cultural meanings are produced, interpreted and employed. Topics vary and may include national identity, anti-Semitism, cultural diversity, construction of values, questions of tradition, the magical, the erotic, symbolic narrative and the city. Course may address issues across a narrow or broad time frame. Discussion, readings and papers in German. Prerequisite: visit website.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD, WI A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD, WI, LS FA: SSP

L21 German 4106 Studies in Gender
Investigation of the constructions of gender in literary and other texts and their sociohistorical contexts. Particular attention to the gendered conditions of writing and reading, engendering of the subject and indicators of gender. Topics and periods vary from semester to semester and include gender and genre, education, religion, politics, cultural and state institutions, science, sexuality and human reproduction. Discussion, readings and papers in German; some theoretical readings in English. May be repeated with different content. Prerequisite: see Overview and Majors pages
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, SD, WI A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD, SD, WI, LS EN: H

L21 German 4111 German Language Seminar: History of the German Language
Treatment of the historical development of German phonology, morphology, syntax and lexicon. Focus on the emergence of New High German. Examination of the relationship of standard German to its dialects and to other Germanic languages, particularly English. Conducted in German; papers in German. Prerequisite: German 302D or the equivalent or permission of instructor.
Credit 3 units. A&S: LA

L21 German 4114 German Language Seminar: Structure of the German Language
Advanced course for undergraduates that enables better understanding of the language and sublanguages of modern German in terms of linguistic theory. Particular attention to semiotics and pragmatics, i.e. to German viewed as a “sign” of human communication, value, interaction. Conducted in German; papers in German. Prerequisite: German 302D or the equivalent or permission of instructor.
Credit 3 units. A&S: LA

L21 German 4224 The 1904 St. Louis Worlds Fair: German and Austrian Art Exhibited
The St. Louis World’s Fair of 1904 (The Louisiana Purchase Exposition) was one of the greatest events of its time. At the beginning we deal with the historical development that lead to the purchase of the Louisiana Territory in 1803 and have a look at the grand dimensions of the World’s Fair (connected with the Olympic Games). Of central importance are the Art Exhibits from Germany and Austria with their cultural-political implications. The German Emperor had a hand in selecting the German paintings to be sent to St. Louis, and his opposition against modern movements like Impressionism caused opposition in Germany. Austria was different: In their Art Nouveau Pavilion they included secessionists (Hagenbund). The Wiener Werkstaetten (Vienna’s Workshops) attracted a lot of attention. Different from the paintings, German Arts and Crafts represented avant-garde
movements. We visit libraries, archives and museums in St.
Louis that have World’s Fair holdings. The seminar is for
advanced undergraduate students but beginning graduate
students can take it with permission of the instructor.
Same as IAS 4224
Credit 3 units.

L21 German 453 Theories of Literary and Cultural Analysis
This seminar familiarizes advanced undergraduate and
graduate students with concepts and methodologies that are
foundational for research in the humanities. Our discussions
are organized around a range of conceptual categories that
have constituted the focus of scholarly reflection in the past
few decades, categories such as text, genre, image, medium,
discourse, discipline, subjectivity, gender, race, culture, politics
and history. Our consideration of these categories also requires
us to examine key currents in recent literary theory and cultural
criticism, including (post)structuralism, psychoanalysis, Marxist
theory, feminism and gender theory, postcolonial studies,
cognitive science, book history, visual studies and media theory.
Although this seminar does not aim to offer an intellectual
history, seminar members acquire a sense of some of the key
trends in cultural theory since 1945 as well as an awareness of
the limits and possibilities that characterize each of them. The
course also includes an introduction to the tools of scholarly
research. Readings and discussions in English. Prerequisite:
permission of the department.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD EN: H

L21 German 457 Introduction to Linguistics and the
Structure of German
Introduction to the structure of the German language and to
linguistic theory: phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics,
as well as semiotic, pragmatic and sociolinguistic theories.
Undergraduate students sign up for German 414.
Credit 3 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD

L21 German 4901 Major Film Directors
Same as Film 458
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM BU: HUM

L21 German 493 The Task of the Translator
This course offers an introduction to the theory and practice
of translation, consisting of three main components. First,
students have the opportunity to translate a wide range of
fiction and nonfiction texts from a variety of genres (short
stories, philosophy, journalism, academic prose). The focus is
on translation from German to English, but we also translate
from English to German. Next, we read selections from key
works on the theory of translation, from Martin Luther’s 16th-
century treatise on his Bible translation to 20th-century essays
by philosophers such as Walter Benjamin. Finally, we read
and discuss excerpts from some of the most celebrated literary
and philosophical translations of the past 200 years, including
German translations of authors ranging from Shakespeare to
J.K. Rowling as well as English translations of authors such as
Goethe and Kafka. The course aims to give students a sense of
the challenges and rewards of translation as well as a deeper
understanding of the relationship between language, thought and
culture.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD EN: H

L21 German 497 Independent Work for Senior Honors
Research for an Honors thesis, on a topic chosen in conjunction
with the adviser. Emphasis on independent study and writing.
Open to students with previous course work in German at the
400 level, an overall 3.0 grade point average, and at least a B+
average in advanced work in German. Prerequisites: senior
standing and permission of the undergraduate adviser.
Credit 3 units.

L21 German 498 Independent Work for Senior Honors
Continuation of German 497. Completion of thesis. Quality of
the thesis determines whether the student receives credit only or
Honors in German. Prerequisite: German 497.
Credit 3 units.