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 engage in intensive study of the German language 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 the politics and culture of contemporary Germany.

Beginning students are taught German through a combination of main courses and subsections, rapidly acquiring speaking skills through intensive interactive classroom activities. Intermediate German combines a three-hour main course with a subsection to enable students to work steadily on speaking, writing, listening and reading skills. In advanced language courses, students refine their core skills and acquire new knowledge of complex grammatical structures, and they improve their ability to express sophisticated 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 medieval through 21st-century literature, history, film and media, translation, German-Jewish studies, music and sound studies, narrative theory, second-language acquisition and gender studies. 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 cocurricular activities, including film series, the national German honor society Delta Phi Alpha, lectures by guest speakers, and readings by visiting authors. Many German students also elect to share their interest in German with the next generation of students by assisting with our annual German Day, which is hosted for high school students from Missouri and Illinois.

A degree in German prepares students for a wide range of future pursuits, including graduate study in such fields as German studies, language education, comparative literature and art history. Students frequently combine a degree in German with another major in the college and, upon graduation, earn advanced degrees in law, medicine, economics, business, engineering, environmental studies, and international and area studies. Our graduates pursue work in diverse fields, from academia to international banking and from diplomacy to publishing.

Contact: Cecily Stewart Hawksworth
Phone: 314-935-4276
Email: cecilyhawksworth@wustl.edu
Website: https://german.wustl.edu/

Faculty

Chair
Erin McGlothlin (https://german.wustl.edu/people/erin-mcgllothlin/)
Professor of German
PhD, University of Virginia
Contemporary literature; Holocaust studies; Jewish studies; narrative theory

Endowed Professors
Paul Michael Lützeler (https://german.wustl.edu/people/paul-michael-lutzeler/)
Rosa May Distinguished University Professor in the Humanities
Director of the Max Kade Center
PhD, Indiana University
Contemporary and exile literature; Romanticism; literary discourses on Europe
Lynne Tatlock (https://german.wustl.edu/people/lynne-tatlock/)
Hortense and Tobias Lewin Distinguished Professor in the Humanities
Director, Comparative Literature
PhD, Indiana University
17th-, 19th- & 20th-century novel and book history; gender; nationalism; translation
Gerhild Williams (https://german.wustl.edu/people/gerhild-williams/)
Barbara Schaps Thomas and David M. Thomas Professor in the Humanities
PhD in Comparative Literature, University of Washington
Early modern German and French literature and culture; demonology; Ottoman Eurasia

Professor
Matt Erlin (https://german.wustl.edu/people/matt-erlin/) (On leave Spring 2021)
Professor of German
PhD, University of California, Berkeley
18th- & 19th-century German literature; intellectual history; digital humanities; material culture
Associate Professors

Kurt Beals (https://german.wustl.edu/people/kurt-beals/) (On leave 2020-21 academic year)
PhD, University of California, Berkeley
20th- and 21st-century German literature and media; poetry; translation; experimentalism; digital media

Caroline Kita (https://german.wustl.edu/people/caroline-kita/)
Director of Undergraduate Studies
PhD, Duke University
Austrian literature; Jewish studies; music and sound studies; theater

Christian Schneider (https://german.wustl.edu/people/christian-schneider/)
Director of Graduate Studies
PhD, Heidelberg University
Medieval literature; narrative theory; courtly culture; history of knowledge

Assistant Professor

André Fischer (https://german.wustl.edu/people/andre%C3%A9-fischer/)
PhD, Stanford University
20th- and 21st-century German literature; German cinema; myth-making; aesthetics and politics

Lecturer and Foreign Language Pedagogy Specialist

Mary Allison (https://german.wustl.edu/people/mary-allison/)
PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Historical sociolinguistics; Germanic linguistics; second language acquisition and pedagogy

Professor Emeritus

James Fitzgerald Poag (https://german.wustl.edu/people/james-fitzgerald-poag/)
PhD, University of Illinois
Early and high Middle Ages; history of the German language; medieval Bible exegesis; medieval law and literature; medieval romance; middle high German; mysticism

Majors

The Major in Germanic Languages and Literatures

Total units required: 24

Required courses:

German 340C and its 1-unit discussion section German 340D or German 341 and its 1-unit discussion section German 341D or German 342 and its 1-unit discussion section German 342D and the senior assessment (undertaken in conjunction with a 400-level seminar) are required for all majors. German 340C/340D or German 341/341D or German 342/342D are required for admission to all 400-level courses except German 402, German 403D, German 404 and German 408D. Admission to 400-level courses (except German 402, German 403D, German 404 and German 408D) without the completion of German 340C or German 341 or German 342 is by departmental permission only.

Elective courses:

Students interested in studying German may declare German as their major or second major. Majors and second majors are required to complete 24 credit units 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 340C or German 341 or German 342, only courses taught in German will count toward the major. Students who wish to receive honors in German are required to write an honors thesis and must register for German 497/German 498 (with departmental permission) in addition to the 24 credits required for the major (for a total of 30 credit units). All majors and second majors are required to participate in the senior assessment interview during their senior year.

Applications for admission to the honors program must be submitted by the first week of classes in the student's final year of study. Forms are available on the department website.

Note: For both majors and minors, at least half of the courses at 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 our 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 (for the semester program), German 302D (for the year program), or their 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–German 498) during their senior year.

Washington University sponsors a summer program in Göttingen, Germany. Students who have taken at least one semester of German may be eligible for this intensive language program. Students interested in business are encouraged to apply for the Webster University International Business Internship or for the business internship in Koblenz, Germany, which is 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 during 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 (usually during the fall of the senior year), the student registers for the German 497–German 498 sequence. They present the senior thesis to their thesis adviser and a second reader approximately six weeks before the conclusion of their final semester at the university.

Minors

The Minor in Germanic Languages and Literatures

Units required: 15

Required courses: Students who intend to minor in German must complete 15 upper-level (300- and 400-level) credit courses taught in German. With the exception of German 340C or German 341 or German 342, only courses taught in German will count toward the minor. At least 3 of these units must be at the 400 level.

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

We strongly recommend that minors take German 340C German Literature and the Modern Era with discussion section or German 341 German Thought and the Modern Era with discussion section or German 342 German Literature and the Pre-Modern Era with discussion section, because these courses serve as a prerequisite for all 400-level courses except German 402, German 403D, 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.

Courses


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. BU: HUM, IS

L21 German 101D Basic German: Core Course I
Introductory program; no previous German required. Students will develop their competence in listening, speaking, reading, and writing German by means of interpersonal, interpretative and presentational communicative practice. This first course serves as an introduction to German grammar and culture; goals range from developing communicative skills necessary to find an apartment to being able to read modern German poetry. Students will 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. Students who complete this course successfully should enter German 102D.
Credit 5 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

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 will further introduce students to fundamental German grammar, culture and history. It comprises a combination of situational lessons and tasks that will challenge students’ critical thinking abilities. Students in German 102 will familiarize themselves with the language necessary to understand and give directions, apply for a job, and speak with a doctor; students will also read more advanced content such as Grimm’s fairy tales and a text from Franz Kafka. Prerequisite: German 100D, 101D, the equivalent, or placement by examination. Students who complete this course successfully should enter German 210D.
Credit 5 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

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. Students will further develop their 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, equivalent, or placement by examination. Students who complete this course successfully should enter German 301D or 313.
Credit 4 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

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 IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

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: Ger 301D or equivalent, or placement by examination. Students completing this course successfully may enter 400-level courses. Note that German 340C/340D, German 341/341D, and German 342/342D are prerequisites for most 400-level courses.

Credit 4 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

L21 German 331 Conversational German
Practice in speaking and vocabulary development in cultural contexts. Prerequisite: German 210D, equivalent, or placement by examination. May be repeated for credit.

Credit 1 unit. A&S IQ: LCD BU: HUM EN: H

L21 German 331 Topics in Holocaust Studies: Children in the Shadow of the Swastika
This course will approach the history, culture and literature of Nazism, World War II and the Holocaust by focusing on one particular aspect of the period — the experience of children. Children as a whole were drastically affected by the policies of the Nazi regime and the war it conducted in Europe, yet different groups of children experienced the period in radically different ways, depending on who they were and where they lived. By reading key texts written for and about children, we will first take a look at how the Nazis made children — both those they considered “Aryan” and those they designated “enemies” of the German people, such as Jewish children — an important focus of their politics. We will then examine literary texts and films that depict different aspects of the experience of European children during this period: daily life in the Nazi state, the trials of war and bombardment in Germany and the experience of expulsion from the East and defeat, the increasingly restrictive sphere in which Jewish children were allowed to live, the particular difficulties children faced in the Holocaust, and the experience of children in the immediate postwar period. Readings include texts by Ruth Klüger, Harry Mulisch, Imre Kertész, Miriam Katin, David Grossman and others. Course conducted entirely in English. Open to freshmen. Students must enroll in both main section and a discussion section.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L21 German 340C German Literature and the Modern Era
Introduction in English to German writers from 1750 to the present. Discussion focuses on questions like the role of outsiders in society, the human psyche, technology, war, gender, the individual and mass culture, 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, non-majors and majors. Admission to 400-level courses (except 402, 403D, 404, and 408D) is contingent on completion of this course or 341/341D. The main course is conducted in English, so this will only qualify for major or minor credit when taken in conjunction with one-hour discussion section in German (L21 340D).

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: ETH, IS EN: H

L21 German 340D German Literature and the Modern Era
This course must be taken concurrently with 340C for major/minor credit. The discussion section provides an introduction to critical German vocabulary and is open to students with prior knowledge of German (210D or equivalent, or placement by examination.)

Credit 1 unit.

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 will 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 will 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 will 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 402, 403D, 404, and 408D) is contingent on completion of this course or 340C/340D. The main course is conducted in English, so this will only qualify for major or minor credit when taken in conjunction with one-hour discussion section in German (L21 341D).

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM BU: ETH EN: H

L21 German 341D German Thought and the Modern Era
This course must be taken concurrently with 341 for major/minor credit. The discussion section provides an introduction to critical German vocabulary and is open to students with prior knowledge of German (210D or equivalent, or placement by examination.)

Credit 1 unit.

L21 German 342 German Literature and the Premodern Era
In this introduction to the literary and intellectual history of the German-speaking world from roughly 800 C.E to the 17th century, we will read English translations of some of the most influential authors and works in the medieval and early modern German tradition, including the "Heroic Age" (e.g., "Nibelungenlied"), the classical period of the 12th and 13th centuries (e.g., Walther von der Vogelweide, Wolfram von Eschenbach, Gottfried von Straßburg), late-medieval philosophy and mysticism (e.g., Mechtild von Magdeburg, Meister Eckhart), and early modern humanism and the Reformation (e.g., Martin Luther). Students enrolled in this course engage in close and sustained reading of a set of texts that are indispensable for an understanding of the German and European literary tradition; these are texts that continue to offer invaluable insights into humanity and the world around us. Our discussions will focus on concepts such as heroism, chivalry, and courtly love and on questions regarding the relationship between the individual and society, the role of religion in society, and the emergence of modern mass media (e.g., the Gutenberg revolution). We will consider the texts both on their own terms and against the backdrop of the historical contexts in which they were written.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H
L21 German 342D German Literature and the Premodern Era
This course must be taken concurrently with L41 342 for major
or minor credit. The discussion section provides an introduction
to critical German vocabulary and is open to students with prior
knowledge of German (L41 210D or equivalent or placement by
examination.)
Credit 1 unit. BU: HUM

L21 German 402 Advanced Grammar and Style Lab
Take your German skills to the next level! This 1-unit lab is
designed for advanced students seeking to master the finer
points of German grammar and style through targeted exercises
and discussion. Students will learn to construct sophisticated,
elegant, and accurate sentences, with the goal of improving their
effectiveness as writers and speakers of German. A rotating
weekly focus will cover such topics as: complex sentence
structures; advanced passive and subjunctive forms; idiomatic
prepositional and verb phrases; and infinitive constructions.
Prerequisite: German 302 or the equivalent.
Credit 1 unit.

L21 German 403D Advanced Vocabulary and Usage
This one-unit workshop is designed for advanced undergraduate
students wishing develop advanced communication skills
by improving their grasp of German vocabulary and usage.
Over the course of the semester, students will discuss a wide
variety of texts related to German art, philosophy, literature
and contemporary culture, focusing on specific aspects of
the language that pose challenges for non-native speakers.
Assignments (not to exceed 1.5 hours per week) will include
short written responses and exercises aimed to help students
speak and write more elegantly and idiomatically. Prerequisite:
German 302 or the equivalent or permission of the Director of
Undergraduate Studies.
Credit 1 unit.

L21 German 404 Germany Today
Introduction to the history, politics, and culture of contemporary
Germany (1945 to the present). Topics include the cultural
construction of identity in post-unified Germany; European
integration and post-wall economy; the German constitution,
electoral system and current elections; current debates and
controversies; political parties and leading political figures; the
role of literature, film, music, the visual arts, media and popular
culture; the role of universities. Discussion, readings, and papers
in German. Required for candidates planning to attend the
overseas program in Tübingen, Germany. Prerequisite: Ger
302D (may be taken concurrently with Ger 404), or permission of the
Director of Undergraduate Studies.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, LS Art: HUM BU: IS EN: H

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 3 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: IS EN: H

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, 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: German 302D
and German 340C/340D OR German 341/341D OR German
342/342D
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, LS, WI EN: H

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. Prerequisites: German 302D
and German 340C/340D OR German 341/341D OR German
342/342D.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, LS, WI Art: HUM

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, liberalisation 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, Ebnerr-Eschenbach, Schnitzler, Rilke. Discussion,
readings, and papers in German. Prerequisites: German 302D
and German 340C/340D OR German 341/341D OR German
342/342D.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, LS, WI Art: HUM

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, Seehens, Boell,
Bachmann, Grass, Wolf. Discussion, readings, and papers in
German. Prerequisites: German 302D and German 340C/340D
OR German 341/341D OR German 342/342D.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, LS, WI Art: HUM EN: H
This course investigates the relationship of the burgeoning field of psychoanalysis to modernist art and literature in Vienna at the beginning of the 20th century. Examining literary 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. Prerequisite: German 302D and German 340C/340D OR German 341/341D OR German 342/342D. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, LS, WI Art: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

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: German 302D and German 340C/340D OR German 341/341D OR Ger 342/342D. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, LS, WI Art: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

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: German 302D and German 340C/340D OR German 341/341D OR Ger 342/342D. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, LS, SD, WI EN: H

L21 German 432 Undergrad Seminar: What Dreams May Come: Explorations of the Psyche in Viennese Modernism
This course investigates the relationship of the burgeoning field of psychoanalysis to modernist art and literature in Vienna at the beginning of the 20th century. Examining literary texts and artworks alongside theories of dreams and the unconscious by thinkers such as Ernst Mach and Sigmund Freud, we will analyze the ways that visual artists, composers, and poets sought to divulge the inner workings of the psyche. Our discussion will focus on key questions: What forms and what visual, aural, and verbal languages were developed to represent subjective experience? How did theories of memory and trauma and ideas about gendered psyches shape the depiction of individual agency in these works? What can these works tell us about the larger societal forces at play in this cultural moment? Readings will include the drama, poetry, and novels of Arthur Schnitzler and Hugo von Hofmannsthal; musical works by Mahler and Schoenberg; and the visual art of Gustav Klimt, Oskar Kokoschka, and others. Prerequisites: German 302D; German 340C/340D; German 341/341D; or German 342/342D. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L21 German 4381 Contemporary German Literature
Taught by the Max Kade writer and critic in residence, the course deals with the most recent trends and developments in contemporary German literature, including its multicultural, feminist, and postcolonial aspects. In all, the writer and critic will deal with approximately eight literary texts during the semester. The writers generally include a work of their own and give an idea of their personal poetries. Admission for undergraduate senior German majors is allowed only with permission of the Director of Graduate Studies. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L21 German 453 Theories of Literary and Cultural Analysis: Narrative Theory — A Critical and Analytical Toolbox
This seminar familiarizes advanced undergraduate and graduate students with concepts and methodologies that are foundational for research in the humanities. Our discussions will be 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 will also require 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 will 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 Director of Graduate Studies for undergraduates. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD EN: H

L21 German 456 History of the German Language
This course provides a solid introduction to the earliest forms of German language and literary culture, with the emphasis on Middle High German and the years around 1200. A variety of approaches — paleographical, linguistic, semantic, and theoretical — encourage a broad-based fluency in Middle High German. Students apply this knowledge to the texts at hand. Exemplary readings are drawn from heroic epic, Minnesang, courtly romance, and other legal, historical, and devotional texts of the German Middle Ages. Instruction, discussion, and assignments in English. For students with graduate standing only. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: 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. Prerequisite: Undergraduates may only take this course with permission of the Director of Graduate Studies.
L21 German 490 Undergraduate Topics in German Film: Introduction to German Cinema
In this undergraduate course, we will watch and discuss some of the great highlights of German film history. The course will provide students with a visual and linguistic foundation for discussing German film from the early days of cinema to the present. To cover such an extensive time span and range of cinematographic output, we will view representative works from various periods, genres, and authors that deal with a wide variety of themes. Class discussions will address the social and cultural significance of cinematic production in 20th- and 21st-century German culture as well as historical moments in German culture that are viewed through film. Certain themes will reoccur throughout the semester, including gender, the city, technology, violence, and social crisis. This course will also help students to improve their reading, writing, listening and speaking proficiency in German. Classroom discussions and readings will be entirely in German. The films will have English subtitles. This class will accommodate a range of levels of German proficiency. The reading and writing assignments will be adjusted accordingly. All instruction and all discussion will be in German. Note: There will be required weekly screenings. Prerequisite: successful completion of German 302D AND German 340C/340D OR German 341/341D OR German 342/342D or permission of the Director of Undergraduate Studies.
Credit 3 units. Art: AH 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 will have the opportunity to translate a wide range of fictional and non-fictional texts from a variety of genres (short stories, philosophy, journalism, academic prose). The focus will be on translation from German to English, but we will also translate from English to German. Next, we will read selections from key works on the theory of translation, from Martin Luther's sixteenth-century treatise on his Bible translation to twentieth-century essays by philosophers like Walter Benjamin. Finally, we will 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. Prerequisite: German 302D and German 340C/340D OR German 341/341D OR German 342/342D
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD: AH EN: H

L21 German 494 Graduate Seminar on German Film: New German Cinema - Influences, Origins, and New Approaches
This graduate seminar examines New German Cinema, drawing on a far broader than usual selection of films and filmmakers. The course focuses specifically on 1968 through 1982, also known as "the long 1970s." Paying special attention to influences from other cinematic New Waves, we will explore some of the earliest and most revolutionary films of that era. How did major stylistic hallmarks such as self-reflexivity and nonlinearity transform after German cinema's politics began to change and explore themes such as domestic terrorism and postwar guilt? The seminar will revisit major research questions, including how New German filmmakers defined "Autorenkino" and how that definition differed from traditional concepts of cinematic authorship. We will also examine what was at stake in New German Cinema's adaptations of German literary works (by Hoffmann, Kleist, and others). The course will explore films by the best-known German directors such as Herzog, Wenders, and Fassbinder, but it will widen its scope of inquiry to include films by Spils, Reitz, Klick, and von Trotta. Readings in both German and English will include theoretical and historical texts dealing with the films' public and scholarly receptions. Discussions will be in English. Note: Seminar participants may be expected to view as many as two films per week. Prerequisite: graduate student standing.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Art: AH 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.