In the Department of German and Russian

Chair, Associate Professor Arne Koch (German)
Associate Professor Arne Koch; Assistant Professor Cyrus Shahan; Faculty Fellow Tayler Kent; Language Assistant Julian Adler

The German program emphasizes the acquisition of superior skills in the German language as the basis for the study of the literatures and cultures of the German-speaking world. Unless otherwise noted, all courses are taught in German as students continue to hone their skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Upper-level courses provide training in close reading and analysis of literary and cultural texts in order to further students’ understanding of a culture different from their own. Students at all levels explore literature and film alongside culture and politics as well as history and contemporary affairs.

Majors in German studies are encouraged to study their entire junior year in a German-speaking country; majors and minors are expected to spend at least one semester abroad. Study-abroad options include approved programs in Berlin, Munich, Freiburg, Regensburg, Tübingen, and Vienna. The German faculty welcomes inquiries from students regarding the different programs and the one-semester and full-year options.

The major in German studies and the German minor provide excellent preparation for students who wish to pursue German-related grant opportunities, employment in international companies and organizations, or careers in government or academics.

Requirements for the Major in German Studies

The major in German studies requires 10 semester courses: six courses taught in German numbered above 127 including a 200-, a 300-, and a 400-level course and four additional courses chosen from the German curriculum, taken abroad, or from courses with a substantial German component in departments such as Art, Government, History, Music and Philosophy. Once declared, all majors must take at least one course in the German program each semester they are on campus until graduation.

Requirements for the German Minor

The minor in German requires five courses in the German program numbered above 126 including a 200- and a 300-level course. Students who enter the program at the intermediate or advanced level should consult with their advisor in German regarding course selection.

The following statements also apply:

- The point scale for retention of the major and the minor is based on all required and approved courses numbered above German 127 for the major and German 126 for the minor.
- No major requirement may be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory.
- Transfer of credits for courses from other institutions, including study abroad, will be evaluated by the advisor in German on an individual basis.
- Teacher Certification: Students desiring certification for teaching German should consult the faculty in German and in the Education Program.

Courses Approved for the Major in German Studies

Art
- 202 Survey of Western Art: Renaissance to Today

Cinema Studies
- 142 Introduction to Cinema Studies

Economics
- 470 Seminar: Institutions in Economic History

English
- 271 Critical Theory

Global Studies
- 245 Memory and Politics

Government
- 259 Introduction to European Politics
- 354 The European Union
History

- 111 The West from Antiquity to 1618
- 112 A Survey of Modern Europe
- 297B The Western Front in World War I
- 421 Research Seminar: Debating the Nazi Past

Music

- 121 Entartete (Degenerate) Musik
- 242 Music History II: High Baroque to the Dawn of Romanticism
- 341 Music History III: Music of the 19th and 20th Centuries

Philosophy

- 240 Ethics on the Continent: From Kant to Levinas
- 389 Philosophers in Focus: Ludwig Wittgenstein

Religious Studies

- 182 Jews, Judaism, and the Modern World

Sociology

- 215 Classical Sociological Theory

Course Offerings

[GM120] Gaga and Kafka: Writing the Self Why does Lady Gaga have a tattoo of a letter written by German modernist author Rainer Maria Rilke? Why is a letter that Franz Kafka wrote to his father published as a piece of literature? Through stories, pamphlets, music, and philosophical texts we investigate voices, forms, and content as the means through which authors make public their political, religious, or gendered identity. We uncover the continuities between writing the self today—via 140-character tweets or the choicest picture on Facebook—and the writings that have made literary stars or political martyrs of authors past. Conducted in English. Four credit hours. L, W1.

GM125f Elementary German I Introductory course for students with little or no previous knowledge of German. Development of all four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Communicative and interactive acquisition of grammar and vocabulary via study of contemporary life in the German-speaking countries. Audiovisual materials and integrated multimedia accompany textbook instruction. Four credit hours. A. KOCH

GM126s Elementary German II Continuation of Elementary German I to further develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Communicative and interactive acquisition of grammar and vocabulary via study of contemporary life in the German-speaking countries. Audiovisual materials accompany textbook instruction and integrated multimedia. Prerequisite: German 125 or appropriate score on the German placement exam. Four credit hours. KENT

GM127f Intermediate German I: Structures in Cultural Contexts Grammar review at the intermediate level with continued practice of speaking and listening skills, readings and interactive communication based on topics from German culture and literature, emphasis on practical uses of the language. First introduction to extended readings and writings in German via cultural contexts. Prerequisite: German 126 or appropriate score on the German placement exam. Four credit hours. KENT

GM128s Intermediate German II: Readings in Cultural Contexts Continuation of Intermediate German I. Practice and review of written and oral communication skills emphasizing formation of correct, idiomatic structures. Strives to build reading skills and to introduce a variety of cultural ideas and contexts through selection of literary and cultural readings/viewings in German. Preparation for transition to in-depth study in a variety of areas of German studies. Prerequisite: German 127 or appropriate score on the German placement exam. Four credit hours. A. KOCH

GM129f Conversation Group Review and practice for students at the intermediate level. A selection of written, visual, and audio German language and culture sources will provide the basis for discussion and conversation. Conducted in German. Does not count toward the language requirement or the German major and minor. May be repeated for credit. Nongraded. Prerequisite: German 126. One credit hour. ADLER

GM130s Conversation Group Review and practice for students at the intermediate level. A selection of written, visual, and audio German language and culture sources will provide the basis for discussion and conversation. Conducted in German. Does not count toward
the language requirement or the German major and minor. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: German 127 or, with permission, concurrent enrollment in German 126. Nongraded. One credit hour. ADLER

[GM151] Dungeons and Dragons: The Middle Ages in German Literature (in English) A selection of readings from the Middle Ages to the present. Particular focus on representations of medieval popular topics such as knighthly adventures, magic, and voyaging, as well as changing cultural notions of class, gender, and love. Poetry and prose readings, alongside selections of popular operatic and filmic adaptations. Conducted in English. Three credit hours. L.

GM231s Introduction to German Studies This first course beyond the language sequence continues the emphasis on composition and conversation, as well as on oral presentations of research. Introduction to German studies through examination of social and historical developments from the age of Luther to Germany’s unification in 1990 as reflected in literature, art, politics, and philosophy. Emphasis on analysis of aesthetic and intellectual accomplishments representative of major periods in German, Austrian, and Swiss history. May be repeated once for additional credit. Prerequisite: German 128. Four credit hours. FEMINELLA

[GM234] German Culture through Film An introduction and exploration of German culture through analysis of German-language cinema from its inception in the 1890s through the post-unified cinema of the present. Focus of popular and avant-garde films and notions of mass culture, education, propaganda, entertainment, and identity formation. Conducted in German. Prerequisite: German 128. Four credit hours.

[GM237] The German Fairy Tale in Popular Culture (in English) Fairy tales permeate our culture on every level. Examines the role of the fairy tale (folktales, romantic variations, and Disney versions alike) in the construction of culture along with their adaptations in the media, comics, literature, art, and film. In analyzing the historical and social development of fairy tales as a genre, students are introduced to methods of literary analysis and cultural criticism. Humanities Lab requires students to work with fourth grade students at Mount Merici Academy. Counts toward the German major or minor. Conducted in English. Four credit hours. L.

GM252f Mission Impossible: Multicultural German Literature and Film (in English) Introduction to German-speaking literature and film by writers and filmmakers of African (Ayim, Oguntoyé), Japanese (Tawada), Jewish (Celan, Honigmann), Romanian (Müller, Wagner), Russian (Kaminer), and Turkish (Özdama, Zaimoglu, Akin) backgrounds. Emphasis on contemporary literature, with background readings from the Enlightenment through the present. Examination of creative approaches to issues of migration, exile, and globalization, with focus on language politics, identity formation, gender, history and memory, and the multicultural city. Counts toward the German major or minor. Open to first-year students. Conducted in English. Four credit hours. L, I. A. KOCH

GM297f Sex, Madness, and Transgression A selection of texts from the Age of Goethe through the present, each prominently featuring the representation of acts of transgression: social, mental, or sexual. One of our guiding questions will therefore be how and for what purpose literature deals with cultural, political, and sexual norms and deviations. Texts include Büchner’s Woyzeck, Schnitzler’s Reigen, Dürrenmatt’s Das Versprechen, Böll’s Katharina Blum, and Jelinek’s Die Klavierspielerin, as well as a number of theoretical sources. Conducted in German. Prerequisite: German 128 or equivalent. Four credit hours. L, I. A. KOCH

GM329f Current Topics An informal weekly meeting for students at the advanced level for conversation practice. Source materials include newspaper and magazine articles, contemporary German film, television broadcasts and podcasts, along with other media. Conducted in German. Does not count toward the language requirement or the German major or minor. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: German 128. Nongraded. One credit hour. ADLER

GM330s Current Topics An informal weekly meeting for students at the advanced level for conversation practice. Source materials include newspaper and magazine articles, contemporary German film, television broadcasts and podcasts, along with other media. Conducted in German. Does not count toward the language requirement or the German major or minor. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: A 200-level German course. Nongraded. One credit hour. ADLER

GM368f Sex, Madness, and Transgression A selection of texts from the Age of Goethe through the present, each prominently featuring the representation of acts of transgression: social, mental, or sexual. One of our guiding questions will therefore be how and for what purpose literature deals with cultural, political, and sexual norms and deviations. Texts include Büchner’s Woyzeck, Schnitzler’s Reigen, Dürrenmatt’s Das Versprechen, Böll’s Katharina Blum, and Jelinek’s Die Klavierspielerin, as well as a number of theoretical sources. Conducted in German. Prerequisite: A 200-level German course. Nongraded. One credit hour. ADLER

GM491f, 492s Independent Study Individual projects in areas where the student has demonstrated the interest and competence necessary for independent work. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor. Two to four credit hours. FACULTY

GM493s Seminar: Human Animals Critically assesses ways German art and culture engage with ideologies and questions of personal,
cultural, and political concepts of identity. Among key ideas, the persistent "German question," along with notions of Heimat, regional and transnational belonging, gender, language politics, class, race. Discussions based on representative readings (poetry, prose, and drama), forms of artistic expression (music, visual art, and film), theory and secondary literature from the Enlightenment through the present-day Berlin Republic. Students write weekly response papers and short critical essays, participate in a writing workshop, complete a final research paper in German, and present research findings in a public symposium. Prerequisite: A 300-level German course and senior standing. Four credit hours. L. A. KOCH