Colby

GERMAN

In the Department of German and Russian.

Chair, *Associate Professor Arne Koch (German)*
Associate Professor Arne Koch; Assistant Professor Cyrus Shahan; Language Assistant Miriam Tuercke

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
  - 331 Art of the Renaissance in Northern Europe
  - 352 Modern Art, 1880-1914
  - 353 Contemporary Art, 1914 to the Present
- *Cinema Studies*
  - 142 Introduction to Cinema Studies
- *English*
  - 271 Critical Theory
  - 493 Seminar: Franz Kafka
- *Government*
  - 259 European Politics
  - 266 German Politics
  - 272 Modern Political Theory

    - 354 The European Union
    - 359 Political Ideologies and Revolutionary Movements in Europe
    - 435 Seminar: Memory and Politics
- *History*
    - 111 Europe from late Antiquity to 1618
    - 112 Survey of Modern Europe
    - 224 Germany and Europe, 1871-1945
    - 297 Radical Europe, 1789-1968
    - 321 The First World War
    - 322 Europe and the Second World War
    - 421 Debating the Nazi Past
- *Music*
    - 242 Music History II
    - 494 Seminar: The Theories of Heinrich Schenker
- *Philosophy*
    - 240 Ethics on the Continent: From Kant to Levinas
    - 314 Karl Marx and Marxist Philosophical Thought
    - 355 Kant and German Idealism
    - 359 19th-Century Philosophy
- *Religious Studies*
    - 182 Jews and Judaism in the Modern World
- *Sociology*
    - 215 Classical Sociological Theory

Course Offerings

GM125f Elementary German I Enables students to acquire a high degree of competence in German as a language and a culture through communicative learning and interaction. The initial focus is on speaking as one of four skills. Repetition, memorization, role playing, and creative communication tasks inside and outside class are designed to help students acquire vocabulary and grammar. Emphasizes comparisons between students' native language/culture and German. A quick progression through the areas of speaking, listening, reading, and writing helps students understand traditions and everyday practices from the German-speaking world. *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 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.* SHAHAN

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.* SHAHAN

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.* TUERCKE

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.* TUERCKE

GM151j 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 knightly 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. Formerly offered as German 197. *Three credit hours.* **L** H. KOCH

GM197f Business German An introduction to the language and practice of German business. Students study the economic geography of German-speaking Europe, advertising strategies, marketing, management, banking, personnel relations, trade, and other topics relevant to business in Germany. Emphasis on developing correspondence and communication skills in a German-speaking business environment. Students enrolled in this course will register for the WiDaF test administered at the end of the semester at Colby. *Prerequisite:* German 128 and concurrent enrollment in a 200- or 300-level German course. Nongraded. *Two credit hours.* A. KOCH

[GM231] Introduction to German Studies As the first beyond the language sequence, this course continues the emphasis on composition and conversation as well as on oral presentations of research. 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. *Prerequisite:* German 128. *Four credit hours.*

GM234f 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.* A. KOCH

[GM237] The German Fairy Tale in Popular Culture (in English) Fairy tales permeate our culture on every level. Our fascination with *Cinderella* and *Snow White* are but two cases that help us understand how we think about ourselves and the world around us. 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. Counts toward the German major. Open to first-year students. Conducted in English. *Four credit hours.* **L**

[GM252] Mission Impossible: Multicultural German Literature and Film (in English) Introduction to German-speaking literature and film by writers and filmmakers of African (Ayim, Oguntoye), Japanese (Tawada), Jewish (Celan, Honigmann), Romanian (Müller, Wagner), Russian (Kaminer), and Turkish (Özdamar, 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**

GM298s German Drama after *Woyzeck* Georg Büchner's drama *Woyzeck* is more than the sum of its insanely fragmented parts. We examine the aesthetic and thematic shift in German dramas incited by Büchner's *Woyzeck*. To this end, we will place Büchner in a continuum of dramas from the "Sturm und Drang" and Klassik to German Expressionism and beyond. Our readings will use *Woyzeck* as a foil for understanding the emergence and complication of ideas of a national theater, social criticism, and alienation. We will interpret these issues through discussions, essays, and performances of dramas. Conducted in German. *Prerequisite:* German 128. *Four credit hours.* SHAHAN

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.* TUERCKE

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.* TUERCKE

[GM358] Radio to Rave: 20th-Century German Literature What does a text sound like? How and why do texts repeatedly turn to songs, volume, tempo, remixing, and sampling? Examines the echoes of acoustic influence in German-language literature from Walter Benjamin and Bertolt Brecht's writings on radio through contemporary musical-literary moments in Rainald Goetz's *Rave* and Benjamin von Stuckrade-Baare's *Soloalbum*. As we listen or read tracks we will investigate sonic structures that purvey literary text. Is it just about listening to music while reading or is it about listening to music instead of reading? Most importantly, can I rock out to a book on my iPod? *Prerequisite:* A 200-level German course. *Four credit hours.* **L**

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. *Four credit hours.* **L** SHAHAN

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: Of Men and Mice: Figuring Animals in German Culture A look at animals in German culture by approaching them in their otherness. Questions focus on notions of subjectivity, the gaze and the face, language, constructions of the animal other in literature, film and the arts, problems of (anti-)anthropomorphism, dilemmas of realism in relation to representing the animal other, and other topics. Discussions based on representative readings (poetry, prose, and drama), forms of artistic expression (music, visual art, and film), theory and secondary literature from the Middle Ages 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 their research findings in a public symposium. *Prerequisite:* A 300-level German course and senior standing. *Four credit hours.* A. KOCH