

# GERMANIC STUDIES

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Department Website: <http://german.uchicago.edu>

## PROGRAM OF STUDY

The program for the BA degree in Germanic Studies is intended to provide students with a wide ranging and highly personalized introduction to the language, literature, and culture of German-speaking countries.

Our program trains students to read closely, think critically, and develop historical perspective. Germanic Studies students gain strong communication skills and global literacy, learning how to engage with cultures different from their own. German thinkers, artists, and scientists helped shape the Western tradition, and Germany has been a major force within the European concert of powers. Today with the largest economy in Europe and the third largest in the world, Germany is the United States' largest European trading partner. Our program provides students with the linguistic skills and cultural competency necessary to function in German-speaking countries and to succeed in a variety of private and professional contexts.

Students who elect to major in Germanic Studies choose one of three concentrations: (1) Literature and Culture, (2) Comparative Germanics, and (3) Germanic Studies and Allied Fields.

The department also offers two options for a minor in German: (1) Germanic Studies and (2) Business German, in addition to minors in Yiddish and Norwegian.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

### Concentration in Literature and Culture

This concentration is designed for students who want to focus on the literary, philosophical, artistic, and cultural history of German-speaking countries, and hone their linguistic proficiency by doing upper-level work in German.

**Prerequisite:** Second-Year German

**Requirements:**

- Three Third-Year German courses (GRMN 2XX03)
- GRMN 22124 The Cultural History and Politics of Postwar Germany
- Three courses in literature or culture taken in German\*
- Three additional courses in German literature and culture\*\*
- Complete the Practical and/or Advanced Proficiency Assessment through the Office of Language Assessment

\* One may be a course with a Languages Across the Curriculum (LxC) session taught within the Department of Germanic Studies; one may be an additional third-year course.

\*\* Two may be relevant Germanic Studies-oriented courses in other departments.

### Concentration in Comparative Germanics

This concentration is designed for students who want reach intermediate to advanced proficiency in another Germanic language besides German (i.e., German and either Yiddish or Norwegian) and develop fluency with their cultures.

**Requirements:**

- Second-Year German sequence (GRMN 20100-20201-20301 Deutsche Maerchen; Grünes Deutschland; Kunst und Kultur) or Intensive German sequence (GRMN 12001-12002-12003 Intensive German I-II-III)
- Three courses in first-year Norwegian or Yiddish, or above
- GRMN 22124 The Cultural History and Politics of Postwar Germany
- Three additional Germanic language, literature, and/or culture courses\*
- Complete the Practical and/or Advanced Proficiency Assessment through the Office of Language Assessment

\* One may be a relevant Germanic Studies-oriented course in another department.

### Concentration in Germanic Studies and Allied Fields

This concentration combines German Studies with another discipline in a coherent program of study. The course of study is designed individually by the student with the Director of Undergraduate Studies (or departmental advisor) and must be approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

**Prerequisite:** Second-Year German

**Requirements:**

- Two Third-Year German courses (GRMN 2XX03)
- GRMN 22124 The Cultural History and Politics of Postwar Germany
- A minimum of three courses in the Department of Germanic Studies (GRMN 211XX and above)
  - At least two courses must be taught in German (this may include one additional third-year-level language course)
    - A maximum of four cognate courses in a related field such as Philosophy, History, Music, Cinema and Media Studies, Art History, Linguistics, Jewish Studies, Religious Studies, Political Science, etc. Students must demonstrate these courses have a significant German dimension and have them approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies.
- Complete the Practical and/or Advanced Proficiency Assessment through the Office of Language Assessment

**Honors Track**

Germanic Studies majors who wish to pursue a BA with honors must complete the following requirements in addition to the requirements for one of the three concentrations:

- IRHU 20100 Introduction to Humanistic Inquiry and Research Design (Winter Quarter of second or third year); or, in exceptional cases, if students miss IRHU 20100, then IRHU 29600 Research Proposal Colloquium (Spring Quarter of third year).
- GRMN 29900 Capstone Project (Autumn or Winter Quarter of fourth year)
- Completion of Capstone Project
- Have a major GPA of at least 3.5 and cumulative GPA of 3.3 at the time of graduation

Students interested in pursuing honors should take IRHU 20100 in the Winter Quarter of their third year. They should be in contact with the Director of Undergraduate Studies at the beginning of the Winter Quarter about their plans of pursuing honors, as they must file a petition with the Department of Germanic Studies by the first week of the Spring Quarter of their third year. With the help of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, students will then secure the consent of a Germanic Studies faculty member to serve as their adviser. Students' Capstone Project proposals (minimum of five pages) must be approved by their advisers by the end of Spring Quarter. Students are expected to begin research for the Capstone Project during the summer between their third and fourth years. The department will assist them in obtaining support for their research over the summer if necessary.

Please note that completion of the Capstone Project does not, in itself, guarantee honors in the major. Honors are awarded by the College on the basis of a departmental nomination of exceptional Capstone Projects.

**Details of the Capstone Project**

The Capstone Project may consist of a BA Paper or a creative project. Examples of such projects include (but are not limited to) an original translation, a creative writing text, an app or a podcast, an online exhibit, a website, or a documentary film. For these undertakings, students need to have sufficient previous experience with the relevant medium (e.g., artistic, digital, etc.), either through previous course work or independent practice. For the Capstone Project, students will have the opportunity to pursue their own individual intellectual interests, cultivate new skills and modes of communication and presentation, and potentially engage wider audiences for their scholarship. Projects must demonstrate substantial engagement with German-language culture(s), including the use of German-language sources, and they must include a written summary and reflection (at least five to seven pages). The written component of the creative inquiry project must contain a clear statement on the issue or problem the student is tackling, and it must provide background information on the chosen field (e.g., other translations, alternative digital designs that exist, etc.). Furthermore, the written component must include a critical self-analysis of the undertaking, and it must reflect on methodologies employed and contributions to the chosen area of inquiry.

A BA Paper typically is a research paper of at least 25 pages. While the paper may be written in either English or German, it must include a bibliography that makes significant use of Germanic-language sources.

A first draft of the paper or the written reflection is due by Week 5 of Winter Quarter, and the completed Capstone Project must be submitted by Week 2 of Spring Quarter. Each student needs at least one adviser from within the Department of Germanic Studies.

Germanic Studies will accept a Capstone Project used to meet the BA requirement in another major, under the condition that original Germanic language sources are used. Students should consult with both chairs by the earliest BA proposal deadline. A consent form, to be signed by both chairs, is available from the College adviser.

It must be completed and returned to the College adviser by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student's year of graduation.

Outstanding Capstone Projects are eligible for the department's McKenzie Prize.

#### SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS: LITERATURE AND CULTURE CONCENTRATION

**Prerequisite:** Second-Year German

Third-Year German: Any three of the following courses: **	300
GRMN 21103 Erzaehlen	
GRMN 21303 Gedicht	
GRMN 21403 Philosophie	
GRMN 21503 Film	
GRMN 21603 Drama	
GRMN 21703 Medien und Gesellschaft	
GRMN 21803 Arbeitskulturen: Trends in the German-Speaking Working World	
GRMN 21903 Business German	
GRMN 22103 Architektur	
The Cultural History and Politics of Postwar German	100
GRMN 22124 The Cultural History and Politics of Postwar Germany	
Three courses in literature or culture taken in German †	300
Three courses in German literature and culture §	300
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>1000</b>

\* Or credit for the equivalent as determined by petition.

\*\* With approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, one third-year course can be replaced by the Advanced German course in Vienna.

† One may be a course with a Languages Across the Curriculum (LxC) session taught within the Department of Germanic Studies; one may be an additional third-year course.

§ Two may be relevant Germanic Studies-oriented courses in other departments.

#### SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS: COMPARATIVE GERMANICS CONCENTRATION

Second-Year German: One of the following three-course sequences:*	300
GRMN 20100-20201-20301 Deutsche Maerchen; Grünes Deutschland; Kunst und Kultur	
GRMN 12001-12002-12003 Intensive German I-II-III	
GRMN 22124 The Cultural History and Politics of Postwar Germany	100
Three courses in first-year Norwegian or Yiddish, or above*	300
Three additional Germanic language, literature, and/or culture courses, of which at least three must be literature and culture courses †	300
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>1000</b>

\* Or credit for the equivalent as determined by petition.

† Two may be relevant Germanic Studies-oriented courses in another department.

#### SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS: CONCENTRATION IN GERMANIC STUDIES AND ALLIED FIELDS

**Prerequisite:** Second-Year German

Third-Year German: Any two of the following courses: **	200
GRMN 21103 Erzaehlen	
GRMN 21203 Drama und Film	
GRMN 21303 Gedicht	
GRMN 21403 Philosophie	
GRMN 21503 Film	
GRMN 21603 Drama	
GRMN 21703 Medien und Gesellschaft	
GRMN 21803 Arbeitskulturen: Trends in the German-Speaking Working World	

GRMN 21903	Business German	
GRMN 22103	Architektur	
GRMN 22124	The Cultural History and Politics of Postwar Germany	100
A minimum of three courses in the Department of Germanic Studies (211XX and above), two of which must be taught in German		300
A maximum of four cognate courses in a related field such as Philosophy, History, Music, Cinema and Media Studies, Art History, Linguistics, Jewish Studies, Religious Studies, Political Science, etc. Students must demonstrate these courses have a significant German dimension and have them approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies.		400
Total Units		1000

\*\* With approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, one third-year course can be replaced by the Advanced German course in Vienna.

## GRADING

Students who are majoring in Germanic Studies must receive a quality grade in all courses taken to meet requirements in the major. Non-majors have the option of taking courses for Pass/Fail grading (except for language courses, which must be taken for quality grades). More than half of the requirements for the major must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

## STUDY ABROAD

Studying abroad not only allows students to deepen their engagement with German culture and strengthen their linguistic abilities, but it can also be a personally and educationally transformative experience. From Berlin to Vienna, the College offers a range of exciting opportunities to go abroad. As early in their course of study as possible, interested students are encouraged to take advantage of one or more of these options:

1. The **Vienna Program in Autumn Quarter**, which includes three courses of European Civilization, as well as German language instruction on several levels.

- Autumn Vienna program: contact Eric Benjaminson, [ebenjaminson@uchicago.edu](mailto:ebenjaminson@uchicago.edu) and consult [study-abroad.uchicago.edu/programs/vienna-western-civilization](https://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/programs/vienna-western-civilization/) (<https://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/programs/vienna-western-civilization/>)

- Students may count the Vienna Program's European Civilization course towards the major or minor if they are not using it to meet the general education requirement.

- Students with advanced proficiency in German may also count the German language course taken in Vienna toward the major or minor, as the equivalent of a third-year language course.

2. The **Vienna Program in Spring Quarter**, which alternates between Music in Western Civilization and Jewish Civilization. Both of these programs include German language instruction on several levels.

- Spring Vienna program: contact Eric Benjaminson, [ebenjaminson@uchicago.edu](mailto:ebenjaminson@uchicago.edu) and consult [study-abroad.uchicago.edu/vienna-music-western-civilization](https://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/programs/vienna-music-western-civilization/) ([https://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/vienna-music-western-civilization/](https://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/programs/vienna-music-western-civilization/)) and [study-abroad.uchicago.edu/vienna-jewish-civilization](https://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/programs/vienna-jewish-civilization/) (<https://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/vienna-jewish-civilization/>)

- (<https://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/vienna-jewish-civilization/>) Students may count the Vienna Program's Music and Jewish Civilization courses towards the major or minor if they are not using them to meet the general education requirement.

- Students with advanced proficiency in German may also count the German language course taken in Vienna toward the major or minor, as the equivalent of a third-year language course.

3. The College also co-sponsors, with the Berlin Consortium for German Studies, a yearlong program at the **Freie Universität Berlin**. Students register for regular classes at the Freie Universität and/or at other Berlin universities. To be eligible, students must have completed the second year of German language courses or an equivalent and should have completed all general education requirements.

- Berlin Consortium: contact Elana Kranz, [ekranz@uchicago.edu](mailto:ekranz@uchicago.edu) and consult [study-abroad.uchicago.edu/programs/berlin-freie-universitaet-berlin/](https://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/programs/berlin-freie-universitaet-berlin/) (<https://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/programs/berlin-freie-universitaet-%C3%A4t-berlin/>)

4. Third-year majors can apply for a **Romberg Summer Research Grant** to do preparatory work for the Capstone Project.

- Send your application, a *two-page, single-spaced* description of your research project, and a budget description, to the Director of Undergraduate Studies by March 1.

5. Students who wish to do a summer study abroad program can apply for a Foreign Language Acquisition Grant (FLAG) (<https://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/summer-grant/foreign-language-acquisition-grant-flag/>) that

is administered by the College and provides support for a minimum of eight weeks of study at a recognized summer program abroad. Students must have completed GRMN 10300 (<http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/search/?P=GRMN%2010300>) Elementary German For Beginners-3 or its equivalent to be eligible for FLAG support for the study of German. For more information, visit [study-abroad.uchicago.edu/sitg](http://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/sitg) (<http://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/sitg/>).

- FLAG program: consult [study-abroad.uchicago.edu/programs/foreign-language-acquisition-grant-flag](http://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/programs/foreign-language-acquisition-grant-flag) (<https://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/programs/foreign-language-acquisition-grant-flag/>). Please contact Maeve Hooper at [hooperm@uchicago.edu](mailto:hooperm@uchicago.edu) for information on dates and costs of summer language programs in Germany and Austria.

#### 6. DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Programs

- *DAAD German Studies Research Grant*: Supports third- or fourth-year students seeking a one-to-two-month research experience in Germany
- *DAAD Research Internships in Science and Engineering (RISE)*: Offers a stipend of 650 Euros per month for up to three months to conduct research in Germany over the summer
- *DAAD Undergraduate Scholarship*: Supports second- and third-year students who wish to study and conduct research in Germany for four to ten months
- *DAAD University Summer Course Grant*: Summer courses at German universities to help build your language skills while studying anything from film to politics to engineering
- *UA7 Study and Internship Program (SIP) in Germany*: Provides support for study at a German university, followed by an internship (including applied science research)

For these and other opportunities, details, and updates, visit [ccrf.uchicago.edu/scholarships-and-fellowships/daad-german-academic-exchange-programs](https://ccrf.uchicago.edu/scholarships-and-fellowships/daad-german-academic-exchange-programs) (<https://ccrf.uchicago.edu/scholarships-and-fellowships/daad-german-academic-exchange-programs/>) or contact Arthur Salvo at [aksalvo@uchicago.edu](mailto:aksalvo@uchicago.edu).

More than half of the requirements for the major must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

#### FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATES

Majors in Germanic Studies are required to complete one of the College's Language Proficiency Assessments (Practical or Advanced). These examinations are offered every Autumn and Spring Quarter. Students who successfully pass a University of Chicago oral and written proficiency test will receive a certificate of proficiency in a foreign language and will have this proficiency noted on their transcripts.

Students are eligible to take the Practical examination after completing the second year of the German language sequence; students are eligible to take the Advanced examination after they have completed courses *beyond* the second year of language study and subsequently have spent a minimum of one quarter abroad in an approved program. FLAG students are also eligible. For more information, please contact the Director of the German Language Program, Maeve Hooper, at [hooperm@uchicago.edu](mailto:hooperm@uchicago.edu) and consult [languageassessment.uchicago.edu](https://languageassessment.uchicago.edu) (<https://languageassessment.uchicago.edu/>).

#### PLACEMENT TESTING

The German Placement Test is offered online to students registered at the University. Students may only take the Placement Test once. A score on the test does not confer credit, rather, it provides students with an entry point into the German language program. For questions or issues regarding placement, please contact the Director of the German Language Program, Maeve Hooper, [hooperm@uchicago.edu](mailto:hooperm@uchicago.edu).

#### ACCREDITATION TESTING

For issues regarding accreditation, please contact the Director of the German Language Program, Maeve Hooper, [hooperm@uchicago.edu](mailto:hooperm@uchicago.edu).

#### MINOR PROGRAMS IN GERMANIC STUDIES

##### Minor in Germanic Studies

The Minor in Germanic Studies is designed for students who wish to reach advanced language proficiency in German and deepen their knowledge and understanding of German culture and literature.

Courses in the minor (1) may not be double counted with the student's major(s) or with other minors and (2) may not be counted toward general education requirements. Courses in the minor must be taken for quality grades, and more than half of the requirements for the minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

##### Prerequisite:

Second-Year German: One of the following three-course sequences:

- GRMN 12001-12002-12003 Intensive German I-II-III
- GRMN 20100-20201-20301 Deutsche Maerchen; Grünes Deutschland; Kunst und Kultur

**Requirements:**

- Three Third-Year German courses (GRMN 2XX03)
- GRMN 22124 The Cultural History and Politics of Postwar Germany
- Two courses in German literature and culture, one of which must be taught in German

**Minor in Business German**

The new Minor in Business German will teach students not only the linguistic proficiency but also the cultural literacy necessary to succeed in a German business environment. Cultural context matters in communication, and it is important for students to understand the history, literature, and social codes of native speakers of German in order to function successfully in a variety of professional and private situations.

Courses in the minor (1) may not be double counted with the student's major(s) or with other minors and (2) may not be counted toward general education requirements. Courses in the minor must be taken for quality grades, and more than half of the requirements for the minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

**Prerequisite:**

Second-Year German: One of the following three-course sequences:

- GRMN 12001-12002-12003 Intensive German I-II-III
- GRMN 20100-20201-20301 Deutsche Maerchen; Grünes Deutschland; Kunst und Kultur

**Requirements:**

1. For students NOT majoring in Economics/Business Economics:

- GRMN 21803 Arbeitskulturen: Trends in the German-Speaking Working World
- GRMN 21903 Business German
- ECON 10000 Principles of Microeconomics and ECON 10200 Principles of Macroeconomics
- GRMN 22124 The Cultural History and Politics of Postwar Germany
- One upper-level German course taught in German\*

2. For students majoring in Economics/Business Economics:

- GRMN 21803 Arbeitskulturen: Trends in the German-Speaking Working World
- GRMN 21903 Business German
- GRMN 22124 The Cultural History and Politics of Postwar Germany
- Three additional upper-level courses within the Department of Germanic Studies (of which at least one course must be taught in German)\*

\*This may be a seminar, an additional third-year-level course, or may be fulfilled through an internship abroad + GRMN 21204 German in Practice. For this course, in addition to pursuing an internship, students will write three substantive reports, in German, on their internship experience and make an oral presentation on the experience in an upper-level Business German course.

**Summary of Requirements: Germanic Studies Minor**

Prerequisite: Second-Year German three-course sequence

Third-Year German: Any three of the following courses: †	300
GRMN 21103	Erzaehlen
GRMN 21303	Gedicht
GRMN 21403	Philosophie
GRMN 21503	Film
GRMN 21603	Drama
GRMN 21703	Medien und Gesellschaft
GRMN 21803	Arbeitskulturen: Trends in the German-Speaking Working World
GRMN 22103	Architektur
GRMN 22124	The Cultural History and Politics of Postwar Germany
	100

Two courses in German literature and culture *	200
Total Units	600

† With approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, one third-year course can be replaced by the independent project in Vienna.

\* At least two must be taken in German. Of these one may be a departmental course with a Languages Across the Curriculum (LxC) session, and one may be an additional third-year course.

#### SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS: MINOR IN BUSINESS GERMAN

Prerequisite: Second-Year German three-course sequence

For students NOT majoring in Economics/Business Economics:

GRMN 21803	Arbeitskulturen: Trends in the German-Speaking Working World	100
GRMN 21903	Business German	100
ECON 10000	Principles of Microeconomics	100
ECON 10200	Principles of Macroeconomics	100
GRMN 22124	The Cultural History and Politics of Postwar Germany	100
One upper-level German course taught in German *		100
Total Units		600

\* This may be a seminar, an additional third-year-level course, or may be fulfilled through an internship abroad + GRMN 21204 German in Practice. For this course, in addition to pursuing an internship, students will write three substantive reports, in German, on their internship experience; and make an oral presentation on the experience in an upper-level Business German course.

For students majoring in Economics/Business Economics

GRMN 21803	Arbeitskulturen: Trends in the German-Speaking Working World	100
GRMN 21903	Business German	100
GRMN 22124	The Cultural History and Politics of Postwar Germany	100
Three additional upper-level courses within the Germanic Studies Department (of which at least one course must be taught in German) *		300
Total Units		600

\* This may be a seminar, an additional third-year level course, or may be fulfilled through an internship abroad + GRMN 21204 German in Practice. For this course, in addition to pursuing an internship, students will write three substantive reports, in German, on their internship experience; and make an oral presentation on the experience in an upper-level Business German course.

#### MINOR PROGRAM IN NORWEGIAN STUDIES

See the Norwegian Studies (<http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/norwegianstudies/>) page in this catalog for program requirements and courses for the minor in Norwegian Studies.

#### YIDDISH STUDIES

Students may enroll in the beginning language sequence (YDDH 10100-10200-10300 Elementary Yiddish for Beginners I-II-III) as well as the intermediate sequence (YDDH 20100 Intermediate Yiddish I and YDDH 20200 Intermediate Yiddish II: Archival Skills). There are opportunities for independent study for students whose Yiddish is above the intermediate level. Courses in Yiddish literature taught in English are offered biannually through the Department of Germanic Studies and may also be available in the Department of Comparative Literature. Courses in Yiddish may also be applied to the major or minor in Jewish Studies. Students interested in pursuing these degrees should consult Nancy Pardee ([npardee@uchicago.edu](mailto:npardee@uchicago.edu)). Students who study in the Yiddish program may be eligible for funding for supplemental Yiddish language study in the summers or for internships.

Undergraduates are eligible to apply for the Vladimir and Pearl Heifetz Memorial Fellowship and the Vivian Lefsky Hort Memorial Fellowship (for East European Jewish literature), and the Joseph Kremen Memorial Fellowship (for East European Jewish Arts, Music, and Theater) at the YIVO institute for Jewish Research. These are two–three-month in-residence (in New York) research grants: [www.yivo.org/List-of-Fellowships](http://www.yivo.org/List-of-Fellowships) (<https://www.yivo.org/List-of-Fellowships/>). Furthermore, the Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies offers undergraduate summer research grants: [ccjs.uchicago.edu/undergraduate-summer-research-grants](http://ccjs.uchicago.edu/undergraduate-summer-research-grants) (<https://ccjs.uchicago.edu/undergraduate-summer-research-grants/>).

For further information on the Yiddish program and on opportunities, please contact Jessica Kirzane, Lecturer in Yiddish, [jkirzane@uchicago.edu](mailto:jkirzane@uchicago.edu).

## MINOR PROGRAM IN YIDDISH STUDIES

See the Yiddish Studies (<http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/yiddish/>) page in this catalog for program requirements and courses for the minor in Yiddish Studies.

## YIDDISH PROGRAM INTERNSHIP

Career Advancement and the Greenberg Center co-sponsor an undergraduate intern from the University of Chicago to work for *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*.

## GERMAN COURSES (LANGUAGE)

### FIRST-YEAR SEQUENCE

#### GRMN 10100-10200-10300. Elementary German for Beginners I-II-III.

This sequence develops proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking for use in everyday communication. Knowledge and awareness of the different cultures of the German speaking countries is also a goal.

##### GRMN 10100. Elementary German For Beginners-1. 100 Units.

Over the course of the academic year, students develop proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking for use in everyday communication. Upon completion of the German for Beginners sequence students can navigate the basics of living in German-speaking countries, including study abroad experiences to fulfill civilization or art core requirements in Vienna, Austria (see [study-abroad.uchicago.edu](http://study-abroad.uchicago.edu)).

Knowledge and awareness of the different cultures of the German speaking countries is developed in each class session of this course. The textbook utilized is called *der-die-das* and it is free for registered students of the UChicago German language program. Get to know our innovative grading system that supports students as they take the plunge to express themselves in a new language: come to the first day of class to learn more!

Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): This sequence is specifically designed for students with no previous experience learning German. Students with previous experience with the German language should contact Prof. M. Hooper ([hooperm@uchicago.edu](mailto:hooperm@uchicago.edu)) to discuss the German language course that would fit them best. No auditors permitted. Course may not be taken pass/fail.

##### GRMN 10200. Elementary German For Beginners-2. 100 Units.

Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): GRMN 10100 or placement

Note(s): No auditors permitted. Must be taken for quality grade.

##### GRMN 10300. Elementary German For Beginners-3. 100 Units.

This sequence develops proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking for use in everyday communication. Knowledge and awareness of the different cultures of the German speaking countries is also a goal. Prerequisite(s): GRMN 10200 or 10201, or placement. No auditors permitted. Must be taken for quality grade.

Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter, Spring

Prerequisite(s): GRMN 10200 or 10201, or placement

Note(s): No auditors permitted. Must be taken for quality grade.

#### GRMN 10123. Summer Intensive Introductory German. 300 Units.

Summer Introductory German is a 7-week course designed for students wishing to develop intermediate proficiency in reading, writing, listening and speaking for use in everyday communication. Students will work with authentic materials as well as gain familiarity with the different cultures of the German-speaking countries. The course meets Monday through Thursday for three hours per day, with additional 90-minute meeting times in the afternoon. Summer Introductory German is the equivalent of the 10100-10200-10300 sequence offered during the regular academic year at the University of Chicago and satisfies the university competency requirement. During Summer 2020, this course will be offered online and it will be adjusted accordingly.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Summer

#### GRMN 10201. Elementary German 2. 100 Units.

This is an accelerated version of the GRMN 10100-10200 sequence intended for students with previous knowledge of the language. Prerequisite(s): Placement or consent of language coordinator. No auditors permitted. Must be taken for a quality grade.

Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter

Prerequisite(s): Placement or consent of language coordinator

Note(s): No auditors permitted. Must be taken for a quality grade.

#### GRMN 12001-12002-12003. Intensive German I-II-III.

This intensive, three-quarter sequence brings students to high-intermediate levels in all four skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening so that students can enter third-year level courses in German. Learners who are starting German late in their College careers or who wish to move forward swiftly will gain skills corresponding to two full years of study. NOTE: Each course is 200 units and corresponds in workload to taking two courses.

**GRMN 12001. Intensive German I. 200 Units.**

This intensive, three-quarter sequence brings students to high-intermediate levels in all four skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening so that students can enter third-year level courses in German. Learners who are starting German late in their College careers or who wish to move forward swiftly will gain skills corresponding to two full years of study. NOTE: Each course is 200 units and corresponds in workload to taking two courses.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: TBD

**GRMN 12002. Intensive German II. 200 Units.**

This intensive, three-quarter sequence brings students to high-intermediate levels in all four skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening so that students can enter third-year level courses in German. Learners who are starting German late in their College careers or who wish to move forward swiftly will gain skills corresponding to two full years of study. NOTE: Each course is 200 units and corresponds in workload to taking two courses.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: TBD

**GRMN 12003. Intensive German III. 200 Units.**

This intensive, three-quarter sequence brings students to high-intermediate levels in all four skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening so that students can enter third-year level courses in German. Learners who are starting German late in their College careers or who wish to move forward swiftly will gain skills corresponding to two full years of study. NOTE: Each course is 200 units and corresponds in workload to taking two courses.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: TBD

**GRMN 13100. Reading German. 100 Units.**

This course prepares students to read a variety of German texts. By the end of the quarter, students should have a fundamental knowledge of German grammar and a basic vocabulary. While the course does not teach conversational German, the basic elements of pronunciation are introduced.

Terms Offered: Spring

Note(s): Prior knowledge of German not required. No auditors permitted. This course does not prepare students for the competency exam. Must be taken for a quality grade.

**SECOND-YEAR SEQUENCE****GRMN 20100-20201-20301. Deutsche Maerchen; Grünes Deutschland; Kunst und Kultur.**

Second-Year Sequence

**GRMN 20100. Deutsche Maerchen. 100 Units.**

This intermediate course moves students with German-language competency towards a content-based seminar in German. Class time is devoted to discussion of assigned reading in German and a review and expansion of basic German grammar. Assigned reading is primarily fairy tales written by the Brothers Grimm, some well known like "Little Red Riding Hood" and some less well known, like "Frau Holle." We will identify and discuss the most common structural elements of fairy tales, such as character types and plot elements, in order to compare the fairy tales. We will cover two modern adaptations of Grimms' fairy tales to explore the political and social commentary fairy tales can provide. We will use these two adaptations from 1971 and 1996 to discuss class conflict and immigration, respectively. Finally, we read excerpts of a novella from the Romantic era to explore how fairy tale elements are used beyond the genre usually associated with children. Students complete writing assignments in German beginning with a paragraph and ending with a 1-page analytic essay and a 2-page fairy tale of their own creation. A system of drafts and regular grammar assignments help students to identify and correct their errors, improving language acuity. While students may satisfy the college language requirement with just an examination, this course is an important step in our content-based German language program at UChicago and study abroad opportunities.

Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter

Prerequisite(s): GRMN 10300 or placement using the online language assessment Canvas site.

Note(s): No auditors permitted. Must be taken for a quality grade. Please contact Prof. Hooper at hooperm@uchicago.edu with questions.

**GRMN 20201. Grünes Deutschland. 100 Units.**

Over the past three decades Germany has become a global leader in environmentalism and sustainability practices. This course develops students' proficiency in all four skills (speaking, listening, reading, writing) and reviews basic grammar while exploring various aspects of "Green Germany," from recycling and transportation to renewable energies (die Energiewende) to the history of the green movement. We investigate environmental practices and attitudes in German-speaking countries while comparing them with those in the US and other countries. In doing so, we consider whether environmental practices in German-speaking countries represent positive and feasible models for other countries. Students work with authentic and current materials (articles, websites, videos) and pursue a variety of independent projects (research, creative), including a final project on how to make the university campus more sustainable.

Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter

Prerequisite(s): Prerequisite(s): GRMN 20100 or placement exam

Equivalent Course(s): CEGU 20201

**GRMN 20301. Kunst und Kultur. 100 Units.**

This course is designed to provide students with the tools to analyze and discuss works of art in their historical and cultural contexts, and to prepare them for more advanced coursework in German. Though the syllabus may differ based on the instructor, the course typically includes units on film, short fiction, poetry, and the visual arts. Driving questions include the role of art in society and politics, the construction of German identity through art, and the relationship between art and history. By the end of the quarter, students will have improved their reading, writing, speaking, and listening abilities, and will have solidified their understanding of select grammatical concepts.

Instructor(s): Maeve Hooper Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): Prerequisite: GRMN 20201 or placement exam.

**GRMN 20102. Deutsch im Alltag. 100 Units.**

This intermediate-level course is designed to help students bring their German language skills out of the classroom and into the real world. Students will practice navigating everyday situations like finding housing, handling transactions, and using public transportation, while developing the active vocabulary and cultural knowledge to engage with native German-speakers on relevant topics. Authentic materials are used to improve not only reading and listening proficiency, but also cultural literacy. A system of scaffolded writing tasks and regular grammar assignments help students identify and correct errors, improving language acuity. Note: Students may take either this course or GRMN 20100: Deutsche Maerchen as the first course in the second-year German language sequence.

Instructor(s): Maeve Hooper, Nicole Burgoyne Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): Prerequisite(s): GRMN 10300 or placement exam

**THIRD-YEAR SEQUENCE****GRMN 21103-21303-21403. Erzählen; Gedichte; Philosophie.**

It is not necessary to take these courses in sequence. These courses serve as preparation for seminar-style classes. Students work with a variety of texts and learn to present and participate in instructor- and student-led discussions of relevant issues and topics. Student also write short essays and longer research papers. Work in grammar, structure, and vocabulary moves students toward more idiomatic use of German.

**GRMN 21103. Erzaehlen. 100 Units.**

This course develops advanced German skills through the study of prose. The topic, authors, and reading for the course change on a yearly basis. For this year's course descriptions see the German language program's website. All advanced German courses serve to prepare students for seminar-style classes conducted entirely in German, both those offered in the Germanic Studies department at UChicago (see undergraduate courses) and those included in study abroad opportunities (see <https://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/>). Students will learn to participate and present in instructor- and student-led discussions. Assignments specifically related to grammar, structure, and vocabulary move students toward more idiomatic use of German. Writing paragraph-length responses and short research papers are also part of these courses. Questions? Please contact Prof. N. Burgoyne ([burgoyne\\_at\\_uchicago.edu](mailto:burgoyne_at_uchicago.edu))

Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): GRMN 20300 or placement using UChicago's online exam

Note(s): Advanced German courses do not need to be taken in numerical order. No auditors permitted.

Course may not be taken pass/fail

**GRMN 21303. Gedicht. 100 Units.**

This course develops advanced German skills through the study of lyric. The topic, authors, and reading for the course change on a yearly basis. For this year's course descriptions see the German language program's website. All advanced German courses serve to prepare students for seminar-style classes conducted entirely in German, both those offered in the Germanic Studies department at UChicago (see undergraduate courses) and those included in study abroad opportunities (see <https://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/>). Students will learn to participate and present in instructor- and student-led discussions. Assignments specifically related to grammar, structure, and vocabulary move students toward more idiomatic use of German. Writing paragraph-length responses and short research papers are also part of these courses. Questions? Please contact Prof. N. Burgoyne ([burgoyne\\_at\\_uchicago.edu](mailto:burgoyne_at_uchicago.edu))

Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): GRMN 20300 or placement using UChicago's online exam

Note(s): Advanced German courses do not need to be taken in numerical order. No auditors permitted.

Course may not be taken pass/fail.

**GRMN 21403. Philosophie. 100 Units.**

This course develops advanced German skills through the study of philosophical texts of various authors from different periods. Marx, Nietzsche, Freud It would be hard to overestimate the influence which Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Sigmund Freud have exercised over intellectual modernity. Perhaps no other three figures have cast such a long shadow. For better or worse, they've left significant traces which persist in concepts like class struggle or ideology, nihilism or value-judgments, and subconscious complexes or repression, as well as infamously critical views of religion. Paul Ricœur once grouped them under the label of "masters of suspicion", referring to a method of interpretation which searches for deeper, hidden meanings and regards the rest as mere illusions. But why should they be grouped together as such a

trio or unholy alliance, as they so often are? What, if anything, do they really have in common? Why are their ideas so controversial and contested? And why might they continue to have such lasting power? In Spring 2025, students will gain an insight into the works of these three giants of intellectual modernity by focusing on accessible excerpts from their most influential texts: *Das Kapital*, *Zur Genealogie der Moral*, and *Vorlesungen*.

Terms Offered: Spring. Offered in even-numbered years.

Prerequisite(s): GRMN 20300 or placement

Note(s): No auditors permitted. Must be taken for a quality grade.

**GRMN 21503. Film. 100 Units.**

The New German Cinema The 1960s and 70s saw a radical turning point in German filmmaking. Younger auteurs, dissatisfied with what they saw as the mediocrity and escapism of much post-war cinema, began making aesthetically radical and politically and socially engaged works that challenged the status quo and achieved international success. This course examines this movement in its historical context. In addition to engaging with films by some of the most prominent representatives of the NGC- Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Margarethe von Trotta, Werner Herzog, and Wim Wenders, among others-we will read key theoretical and historical texts, such as the famous "Oberhausen Manifesto" and Theodor Adorno's critique of mass culture to develop our own understanding of how these films fit together and how they relate to the political and social concerns of their time. As an advanced German course, the seminar will also be using these materials to allow students to practice and improve their reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension skills. All discussion, reading, and assignments in German.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: TBD Winter

**GRMN 21603. Drama. 100 Units.**

This course develops advanced German skill through the study of dramas and/or films of various authors/directors from different eras.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: TBD

**GRMN 21703. Medien und Gesellschaft. 100 Units.**

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: TBD

**GRMN 21803. Arbeitskulturen: Trends in the German-Speaking Working World. 100 Units.**

In this course we explore contemporary issues in German culture and society through the lens of working life. We examine the issues surrounding the notoriously high taxes that workers pay in German-speaking countries and the social services that these taxes fund, including socialized health care, unemployment insurance, and pensions. After a brief introduction to the post-war history of the democratic socialism as a governmental type in German-speaking countries, students will explore the issues surrounding working life by reading texts from online newspapers, journals, social media and other sources. Students will also practice listening skills using a variety of streaming media: newscasts, talk shows, comedy shows, and narrative television series. In our examinations and discussions of these materials, we will focus not only on the issues surrounding working life itself, but especially the balance that arises in regards to such personal choices as holidays, hobbies, and family choices. The American corporate world will be our primary basis of comparison. We will also review the current political landscape in German-speaking Europe to contextualize the existing cultural norms. Students will choose the topic and reading for the final week of class. Assignments for this course are designed to practice skills such as effective digital communication, presenting one's professional biography and opinion, as well as interviewing strategies. All readings & assignments in German.

Instructor(s): Nicole Burgoyne Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): Prerequisite(s): GRMN 20300 or 20301 or placement using the online language assessment Canvas site.

Note(s): Note(s): No auditors permitted. Must be taken for a quality grade. Please contact Prof. Burgoyne at [burgoyne@uchicago.edu](mailto:burgoyne@uchicago.edu) with questions.

**GRMN 23227. The Risks of Theater: Ethics and Music on the French and German Stage. 100 Units.**

For as long as there has been art, there have been social critics worried about its potential for negative moral effects on its audience, from Plato's banishment of the poets from his ideal city to conservative critics of Hollywood today. This course will examine such controversies in the context of theater, and will ask what role music plays in connection to spectators' affective, aesthetic, and ethical experiences and responses. Does adding music to theater, as in an opera, heighten moral risk to the spectator? Or, instead, does music make theater more capable of operating as a social good? How does music (instrumental and/or vocal) relate to spoken theater? What are the pleasures and purposes of music? We will explore these questions across a wide range of time periods, reading and/or watching works by authors such as Plato, Aristotle, Racine, Boileau, Lully, Rameau, Rousseau, Goethe, Wagner and Brecht. In doing so, we will confront some of the (often strange and fascinating) criticisms that some observers have leveled at theater - as well as the ways in which playwrights and musicians have sought to redeem it.

Instructor(s): Matthew Stahlman Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): FREN 23227

**LANGUAGES ACROSS THE CURRICULUM (LXC)**

LxC courses have two possible formats: (1) an additional course meeting during which students read and discuss authentic source material and primary texts in German; or (2) a course in another discipline (such as

history) that is taught entirely in German. Prerequisite German language skills depend on the course format and content. LxC courses maintain or improve students' German language skills while giving them a unique and broadened perspective into the regular course content.

#### GERMAN COURSES (LITERATURE AND CULTURE)

Students who are majoring or minoring in German and take courses taught in English are expected to do the majority of their course work in German. In such cases, students must work out with the instructor a reasonable set of assignments based on German-language texts.

##### **GRMN 12603. Modern German History, 1740-Present. 100 Units.**

This course introduces students to topics in German history from the nineteenth century to the present. Beginning with the fade of the Holy Roman Empire and ending with the Federal Republic in contemporary Europe, we will follow the transformation of the German lands from a loose federation of small and provincial states into a unified nation and a global power. Wednesday lectures will engage visual, material, and audio sources to explore events and themes including nation-building, the colonial empire, the World Wars, National Socialism, the Holocaust, the Cold War, and re-unification. Friday discussions will center on close readings of primary source texts and films that document the ruptures and discontinuities that define German history in the modern period: the successes and failures of revolution; the construction and destruction of walls; the formation of mass politics; the trauma of genocide; the construction of plural German identities in and beyond the German nation state. We will approach these subjects from a variety of registers of experience, keeping open two fundamental questions: What is German? What is history? A Languages Across the Curriculum (LxC) section will be available pending interest. Assignments: short creative writing assignments throughout the quarter and a final exam.

Instructor(s): A. Goff Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): No background in German or European history is required.

Equivalent Course(s): HIST 12603

##### **GRMN 21204. German in Practice. 100 Units.**

Internship in a German-speaking country. Students will write three substantive reports, in German, on their internship experience; and may be asked an oral presentation on the experience in GRMN 21803 Arbeitskulturen or GRMN21903 Business German."

Terms Offered: TBD

##### **GRMN 21903. Business German. 100 Units.**

Students in this course acquire the language knowledge, skills and abilities that they will need to succeed in a German-language business environment. Students practice all four skills - speaking, listening, reading and writing - as they gain mastery of the various types, genres and contexts of German business communications.

Instructor(s): Colin Benert Terms Offered: Spring

##### **GRMN 22103. Architektur. 100 Units.**

This course develops advanced German skills through the study of architecture. The theme, readings, and architectural era for the course change on a yearly basis. For this year's course description, see the German language program's website. All advanced German courses serve to prepare students for seminar-style classes conducted entirely in German, both those offered in the Germanic Studies department at UChicago (see undergraduate courses) and those included in study abroad opportunities (see <https://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/>). Students will learn to participate and present in instructor- and student-led discussions. Assignments specifically related to grammar, structure, and vocabulary move students toward more idiomatic use of German. Writing paragraph-length responses and short research papers are also part of these courses.

Instructor(s): Bryson Tedford Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): Prerequisite(s): GRMN 20300 or placement using UChicago's online exam Note(s): No auditors permitted. Must be taken for a quality grade.

Equivalent Course(s): ARCH 22103, CHST 22103

##### **GRMN 22124. The Cultural History and Politics of Postwar Germany. 100 Units.**

The premier demand upon all education is that Auschwitz not happen again," announced the critic Theodor Adorno on German radio in 1966. By this he meant not only the education of children, but also the re-education of the German people. After World War II, with the Third Reich in ruins and confronted with the horrors of the Holocaust, Germans were forced to reckon with their past as they attempted to build the country anew, entering into a period of dramatic political and cultural reorientation. This course traces the history of "rebuilding" Germany after 1945, from the immediate postwar period through the East/West division to reunification to today. Drawing on a broad range of source material, including film, literature, government documents, art, and architecture, this interdisciplinary seminar studies the limits and possibilities of conceiving of Germany as a post-war Wirtschaftswunder (economic miracle), and its implications for German cultural production. We will pay special attention to the way that debates from the postwar era still reverberate today, for instance in racial discrimination and the rise of the German far-right. This course is required for all Germanic Studies majors and minors. Readings and discussion in English.

Instructor(s): Sophie Salvo Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): GRMN 32124, DEMS 22124, HIST 23100

**GRMN 22203. Kafkas Erzählungen. 100 Units.**

Franz Kafka's short stories are read and interpreted in a dizzying array of contexts. For some readers, universal questions of justice, fear, and other aspects of the human condition can be accessed in Kafka's abstractions and applied to their diverse communities. For others, the sheer creative genius of Kafka's prose makes it timeless and universally appealing. Scholarship on Kafka has approached his work using the author's individual and intersectional identities as a failed artist and lover, a multilingual speaker of German and Czech, and a Jewish person in a predominantly Christian multi-ethnic empire to offer allegorical reading of his work. Most recently, Kafka's doodles have been used to suggest additional layers of meaning for his written oeuvre. In this course, we will closely read nine short stories by Kafka. In-class activities will include additional reading and videos that supply context for the approaches to interpreting these short stories mentioned above. Assignments will include analyzing the original German language of the assigned reading based on guided reading questions and social annotation activities. In addition to the reading, all assignments and class discussion will be in German. By the end of the course, students will be able to assert their opinions in German and English on whether additional information on Kafka's biography and historical context of the Austro-Hungarian Empire are important to interpreting his short stories.

Instructor(s): Nicole Burgoyne Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): PQ: GRMN 203 or placement using the German Dept. online exam.

Equivalent Course(s): FNDL 22223

**GRMN 23126. Arendt, Strauss, Levinas: The Philosopher as Public Thinker. 100 Units.**

What does it mean to do philosophy in public? Is it different from doing philosophy in private, or only for other philosophers? Is the philosopher inherently a political actor, and should they be? In this course we will look at a series of case studies of philosophers who have adopted a range of approaches to both the philosophy and practice of thinking in public. Among the questions we will consider are: Is it desirable for philosophers to align themselves with social and political movements or do they have some other role that renders such alignments unwise or even dangerous? Does the philosopher have a responsibility to be accessible? To persuade? To explain? Or to resist the jargon of a false society? On whose behalf does the philosopher speak when they speak in public? And to whom? Students will also analyze examples of contemporary philosophers who are making interventions into today's cultural landscape, and work on a public intervention of their own. This year's readings include: Heidegger, Arendt, Strauss, Levinas, Adorno, Foucault, Greif, Callard, Srinivasan and others.

Instructor(s): Michael Lipkin Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): PUBT 10100

**GRMN 23324. The Human Form in Contemporary Art. 100 Units.**

In a present where humanity faces planetary challenges with an unprecedented urgency, the human form - what Marx calls our "genus-being" (Gattungswesen) - has become a focus for artistic production of all sorts. The thesis of the class is this: Contemporary art is an actualization of the human form that doesn't presuppose the form, doesn't take it for granted, but instead troubles the form and poses it as a question. The class considers presentations of the form in performance art (Tino Sehgal, Anne Imhof, Wu Tsang), sculpture (Kara Walker, Cai Guo-Qiang, Cecilia Vicuña), writing (Friederike Mayröcker, Layli Long Soldier, Tracie Morris), sound (Maria Chavez, Christina Kubisch, Samson Young), and painting (Michael Armitage, Tammy Nguyen, Mark Bradford). The class contextualizes these artists with theoretical work by Sylvia Wynter, Donna Haraway, Bruno Latour, Peter Sloterdijk, Dipesh Chakrabarty, Jane Bennett, Achille Mbembe, Eva Horn, and Emanuele Coccia. Readings and discussion in English.

Instructor(s): Florian Klinger Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 23324, ARTH 33324, MUSI 23324, CMLT 23324, CMLT 33324, GRMN 32324

**GRMN 23595. Nietzsche: The Will to Truth. 100 Units.**

The will to truth - Nietzsche first uses the phrase in a notebook entry written in late 1882: "Will to truth!" Let us stop speaking so simplistically and bombastically!" From then on, the critique of this will would preoccupy him for the rest of his career. In this seminar we will study this critique as it develops in Nietzsche's middle and later writings. We will read closely his published works as well as recently translated notebook entries. What exactly is the will to truth? Why critique it? Can philosophy and/or thinking resist it or somehow do without it? What is the status of the discourse that contests it? In asking these questions, we will examine a still underappreciated aspect of Nietzsche's post-Zarathustra writings: the gap separating his polemic against metaphysics qua Platonism from his polemic against the so-called Judeo-Christian, i.e. the inheritance of the Biblical tradition.

Instructor(s): Ryan Coyne Terms Offered: Winter

Note(s): This course meets the CS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.

Equivalent Course(s): RLST 23595, GRMN 33595, DVPR 33595, FNDL 23595, THEO 33595

**GRMN 23623. Evil: Myth, Symbol and Reality. 100 Units.**

From the horrors of the Shoah to violence suffered by individuals, the question of the origin, meaning, and reality of evil done by humans has vexed thinkers throughout the ages. This seminar is an inquiry into the problem of evil on three registers of reflection: myth, symbol, and reality. We will be exploring important philosophical, Jewish, and Christian texts. These include Martin Buber, Good and Evil, Hannah Arendt, Eichmann in Jerusalem, Immanuel Kant, Religion within the Limits of Reason Alone, Paul Ricoeur, The Symbolism of Evil, Edward Farley, Good and Evil, Hans Jonas, Mortality and Morality and Claudia Card, The Atrocity Paradigm. There will also be a viewing of the movie *Seven* (1995) directed by David Fincher and written

by Andrew Kevin Walker. Accordingly, the seminar probes the reality of evil and the symbolic and mythic resources of religious traditions to articulate the meaning and origin of human evil. The question of "theodicy" is then not the primary focus given the seminar's inquiry into the fact and reality of human evil. Each student will submit a 5-7 page critical review of either Jonathan Glover's *Humanity: A Moral History of the 20th Century* or Susan Neiman's, *Evil in Modern Thought*. Each Student also will write a 15 page (double spaced; 12pt font) paper on one or more of the texts read in the course with respect to her or his own research interests.

Instructor(s): William Schweiker Terms Offered: Autumn. Not offered 2025–26

Note(s): This course meets the HS or CS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.

Equivalent Course(s): RLST 23600, FNDL 23600, JWSC 23600, THEO 33600, RETH 33600, GRMN 33623

**GRMN 23683. What is Nature? - 20th-Century Continental Philosophy. 100 Units.**

In this course, we follow the topic of the meaning of nature in philosophy, beginning our exploration right around the point when explicit discussion of nature becomes less prominent. We intend to develop a coherent narrative about major philosophical developments from Nietzsche through Derrida through the lens offered by this question, examining existentialism, phenomenology, and deconstruction along the way. Students should come away from this course with a grounded sense of what each term means, resulting in foundational knowledge of Continental philosophy after Nietzsche. We will take an interdisciplinary approach, as the question of nature often emerges for our authors in engagement with art, whether drama, poetry, or painting, all of which will be addressed. This course's starting point for our reflections on nature is Nietzsche's notion of the death of God, a theme to which we will return with all three of our main authors, Nietzsche, Heidegger, and Derrida. Recurrent themes will be: nature and eros, nature and human finitude, the human being as (un)natural, and the very viability of the concept of nature. Additional authors include Aristotle, Plato, Sappho, Sophocles, Friedrich Hölderlin, Leo Strauss, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, and Judith Butler, and discuss paintings by Paul Cézanne and Vincent van Gogh. An interesting question to pose along the way will be the relationship (or lack thereof) between the views of nature on offer to our ecological concerns today.

Instructor(s): Mat Messerschmidt Terms Offered: Winter. Winter 2024

Equivalent Course(s): SETH 20683, SETH 30683, RLST 23503

**GRMN 24109. Claude Lanzmann's Shoah Project. 100 Units.**

Claude Lanzmann's *Shoah* (1985) is a 9 ½ hour film comprised of Holocaust testimonies - by survivors, perpetrators, and bystanders. It represents the streamlining of 150 hours of film footage collected over the course of nearly a decade all over the world. In this class, we will explore the film and the discourses that have grown up around it, such as the nature of Holocaust representation, the ontology of Holocaust testimonies, and the limits of translation in understanding the history of the Holocaust. We will work with the outtakes from the film at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to better understand the narrative Lanzmann constructed not only through what he chose to include in the final cut, but also what he chose to exclude. As we analyze Lanzmann's magnum opus, we will also explore associated films - by Lanzmann and by others - that grew out of *Shoah* and that shed further light on it. A final "Outtakes" project will give students the opportunity to suggest their own version of the film, with materials from the archive.

Instructor(s): Sheila Jelen Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): RLVC 34109, JTAC 34109, JWSC 24109, RLST 24109, CMST 24119, FNDL 24109

**GRMN 24400. The Theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. 100 Units.**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) is widely admired for his part in the movement to resist Hitler and National Socialism. This course will investigate the biographical and especially the theological underpinnings of his resistance. In addition to key texts such as *Discipleship*, *Ethics*, and *Letters and Papers from Prison*, therefore, we will also consider Bonhoeffer's connection to larger movements as well as the importance of his time in Harlem.

Instructor(s): Kevin Hector Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): RLST 24400, FNDL 24440

**GRMN 24606. Spinoza and German Thought. 100 Units.**

This course provides an introduction to Spinoza's philosophy and his relation to German thought, both prior to and within German idealism. In addition to carefully reading Spinoza's own writings, we will consider rationalist alternatives to Spinoza's metaphysics, the Pantheism controversy, and the acosmism charge. Beyond Spinoza, authors to be read include Leibniz, Moses Mendelssohn, and Hegel.

Instructor(s): Andrea Ray Terms Offered: Winter. Winter 2025. Not offered in AY 2025–26

Prerequisite(s): Undergrads Only

Equivalent Course(s): SETH 30606, FNDL 20606, PHIL 20606, SETH 20606, JWSC 20606

**GRMN 24614. Public Art, Land Art in Europe-Gold Gorvy Traveling Seminar. 100 Units.**

This class examines the intersections of two categories of sculpture traditionally understood separately: land art and public art. If the former term typically captures artworks made in remote locations, the latter concept is associated with objects conceived in relation to architecture for dense urban contexts. Land Art usually features ephemeral earthen or other natural ingredients, whereas public art tends to be made from durable industrial and other man-made materials. In the context of postwar Europe and in the wake of the continent's reconstruction, however, artists often worked across these categories, problematizing dichotomies of nature and civilization, landscape and urbanism, artwork and context, figure and ground. We will read foundational texts on postwar sculpture; test the relevance of theories of the public; consider the roles of context, site-specificity, commemoration, architecture, and photography; and examine questions of materials and conservation. This is a

Gold-Gorvy Traveling Seminar and students will travel to relevant artworks, sites, and exhibitions, including the 2027 iteration of Skulptur Projekte Münster and documenta 16 in Kassel, Germany. Students must be available for two weeks of department-sponsored travel following June 5 convocation and prepare guided reading and research during spring quarter leading up to the traveling seminar itself.

Instructor(s): C. Mehring Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): Consent note: Students should email instructor explaining relevant background and interest by January 10, 2027. This course fulfills the following requirements in the ARTH major and minor: European and American post-1800

Equivalent Course(s): CEGU 24614, GRMN 34614, ARTH 24614, ARTV 30461, ARTV 20461, ARTH 34614, CEGU 34614, ARCH 24614

**GRMN 24621. Do You Read Me? Curating Postwar Artists's Books. 100 Units.**

This course is a combined research seminar and curatorial practicum with students co-curating an exhibition of artists' books. Following World War II, visual artists took up the book as an artistic medium, experimenting with and expanding the essential components of a medium that had remained unchanged for centuries. The results defied all expectations about traditional understandings of what constitutes a book, including the primacy of text and the use of paper, pages, and binding. This class will consider how books became visual and material objects to be viewed rather than read; made from modern materials such as plastics, concrete, or newspaper and in sizes as small as a square inch or as large as an over-life-sized wood construction; featuring unusual objects such as a sack of flour, a display shelf, or a comic book with stenciled holes; or prompting readers to actions with urban performance instructions or do-it-yourself watercolor kits. Drawing on (U)Chicago collections and a recently gifted private collection, students will work on a fall 2027 exhibition in the Regenstein Library's gallery, including researching artists, visiting local collections, selecting artists' books, assessing conservation needs, writing object and section labels, and designing layout.

Instructor(s): Christine Mehring Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): Students should email instructor explaining relevant background and interest. This course fulfills the following requirements in the ARTH major and minor: European and American post-1800

Equivalent Course(s): GRMN 34621, ARTV 30642, ARTH 24621, FNLD 24621, ARTH 34621, ARTV 20642

**GRMN 24801. Being and Time. 100 Units.**

It has been almost one hundred years since Martin Heidegger published his magnum opus, *Being and Time* (1927). One of the greatest philosophical works of the twentieth century, it continues to inspire and disturb. To inspire: few books have had such a powerful influence or have been so generative in so many fields of inquiry. To disturb: few have been so forcefully denounced, in no small part because of Heidegger's notorious involvement in National Socialism. In this class, we will revisit this unsettling classic and gauge its impact. What does it mean to read *Being and Time* today? What difference does today make in our reading? What future, if any, awaits this book? In asking these questions, our primary focus will be Heidegger's analysis of futurity (*Zukunftigkeit*) and its link with anxiety, death, conscience, tradition, and history.

Instructor(s): Ryan Coyne Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): This class counts as a Gateway course for the Fundamentals program. This course meets the CS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.

Equivalent Course(s): DVPR 31801, FNLD 24805, GRMN 31801, THEO 31801, RLST 24801

**GRMN 24810. Devotion-Dissent-Disenchantment: Art in the Age of the Reformation. 100 Units.**

In the years leading up to Martin Luther's radical transformation of the political-religious landscape, late medieval and early modern Europeans were inundated with a flood of "alternative facts" that called into question the intellectual, ethical, and religious values governing their lives. With the advent of new media technologies, images became important vehicles of commentary and disputation for Reformers, leading to the formation of a public sphere of discourse to which the image was central; yet, at the same time, the image itself and its role in daily life came increasingly under attack. This course provides an introduction to artistic production in northern Europe from the late fourteenth century through the sixteenth century through the lens of the productive, if tumultuous, relationship between art and the epistemological challenges of the Reformation. Particular attention will be paid to the shifting status of the artist, focusing on the historical and cultural circumstances that led to the elevation of artists such as Albrecht Dürer, Hans Baldung, and Pieter Bruegel the Elder, as well as their relationship to the world outside the Alps, including Italy, Spain, and the New World. This course will also examine topics such as the relationship between word and image, iconoclasm and iconophilia, public and private spheres of patronage, and strategies of visual polemics. Readings will include primary sources in translation and selected works of modern scholarship.

Instructor(s): T. Golan Terms Offered: Spring

Note(s): Students must attend the first class to confirm enrollment. If a student is not yet enrolled in this course, s/he must fill out the online consent form and attend the first class. This course meets the general education requirement in the arts.

Equivalent Course(s): RLST 28810, ARTH 14810

**GRMN 25120. Nietzsche: Culture, Critique, Self-Transcendence. 100 Units.**

This course is conceived as a pathway to the Humanities and an introduction to the work of Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900). A range of Nietzsche's work will be considered, but the focus will be on three themes to which Nietzsche recurred throughout his writing career: Culture: Nietzsche's thought on the anthropological roots and the expressive forms of human meaning-making: Apollo/Dionysus; Gesture; Music; Metaphor Critique: the

vacuous character of modern culture; romanticism, decadence, nihilism. Self-Transcendence: individual self-realization and freedom. The selection of these themes is motivated by the fact that they may be considered as fundamental dimensions of humanistic inquiry. Students will develop a sound understanding of a writer whose intellectual influence continues to grow, but at the same time they will become acquainted with such core concepts of humanistic/interpretive inquiry as form, expression, ideology, genealogy, discourse, self-fashioning, individuality, and value.

Instructor(s): David Wellbery Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): FNDL 25121, SIGN 26013

**GRMN 25627. The Self as Other: Introduction to Freud. 100 Units.**

This course is an introduction to one of the most influential and controversial thinkers of the twentieth century: Sigmund Freud. With his theory of the unconscious, Freud revolutionized how we understand what it means to be human. We do not act as rational, willful agents, he suggested, but are compelled through life by complexly organized desires and drives, much of which we are not aware of. Many of Freud's terms—such as "Oedipus complex" or "superego"—have become so popularized that they are now part of common parlance, yet they are rarely understood as Freud meant. This course will take seriously the therapeutic imperative of Freud's work and cover his major texts, including his early case studies on hysteria, his theories of psychosexual development and pathology, and his master narratives about the rise of civilization. We will read Freud in his context, learning about the history of psychoanalysis and life in early twentieth-century Vienna. No prerequisites required; this course is open to all students. Readings and discussions in English.

Instructor(s): Sophie Salvo Terms Offered: Spring

**GRMN 26522. Hegel's Aesthetics. 100 Units.**

An intensive study of Hegel's lectures on aesthetics. The aim is a grasp of Hegel's conception through a discussion of core sections from the expansive text. To mark our engagement, we ask what to make of the conception for our own thinking about the aesthetic today, with a look to examples from contemporary art. Reading in English or German, discussion in English. Please use Hegel's *Aesthetics*. Lectures on Fine Arts, 2 vols., trans. T.M.Knox, Oxford University Press. For the German text, use *Vorlesungen über die Ästhetik I-III*, Suhrkamp Verlag.

Instructor(s): Florian Klingner Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): GRMN 36522

**GRMN 26526. Intro to Critical Theory: The Frankfurt School. 100 Units.**

This course studies the contemporary significance and influence of the group of Marxist scholars who came together in the 1920s to found the Institute for Social Research in Frankfurt. The Frankfurt School, as it came to be known, brought together social theory, psychoanalysis, aesthetics, and anthropology to analyze questions as disparate as popular culture, authoritarianism, philosophical reason, democracy, and modernist art. By pairing the thinkers' general audience texts with contemporary authors influenced by them, we will consider the school's complicated relationship to the social movements of the mid-century, while also exploring the example they set as "public intellectuals" and what light their approach, as thinkers and stylists, can shed on the political and cultural problems of the present.

Instructor(s): Michael Lipkin Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): FNDL 20211, PUBT 20211

**GRMN 26527. Walter Benjamin and the Critique of Culture. 100 Units.**

This seminar aims to introduce students to the work of Walter Benjamin, one of the most important literary theorists and cultural critics of the twentieth century. More than any other member of the so-called Frankfurt School, Benjamin was committed to bringing German letters into dialogue with other national literary traditions and literature itself into contact with the newly emergent media of his time. He fundamentally changed the way we study both literature and culture to this day. While we will be reading most of his best known works, we will be organizing our syllabus around four major topics: 1) Benjamin's studies of media and technology, especially photography and film, and their impact on literature and culture; 2) his writings on allegory in early modern drama; 3) his essays on modern literature and culture and, more generally, his theorization of modernity; and 4) his theoretical essays on language and history. Reading and discussions in English. A reading knowledge of German is helpful.

Instructor(s): Christopher Wild Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): GRMN 36527

**GRMN 28500. Comparative Fairy Tales. 100 Units.**

How do we account for the allure of fairy tales? For some, fairy tales count as sacred tales meant to enchant rather than edify. For others, they are cautionary tales, replete with obvious moral lessons. For the purposes of the course, we will assume that these critics are correct in their contention that fairy tales contain essential underlying meanings. We will conduct our own readings of fairy tales from the German Brothers Grimm, the Norwegians, Asbjørnsen and Moe and the Dane, Hans Christian Andersen, relying on our own critical skills as well as selected secondary readings.

Instructor(s): Kimberly Kenny Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): HUMA 28400, NORW 28500, CMLT 21600

**GRMN 28626. Literature as Therapy: The Poetry of Rilke. 100 Units.**

Lady Gaga has a Rilke quote tattooed on her arm; Jimin of the band BTS showed off a temporary tattoo of a Rilke poem in 2023; Gwyneth Paltrow cited Rilke when asked what gave her "spiritual sustenance"; Oprah Winfrey's website features the volume *Rilke on Love and Other Difficulties* on her website. This list could go on and on. Rilke's writing is famous for its lyrical intensity. The pathos of his poetic language appears to "move" and "touch" readers in an unparalleled way. Soldiers going to fight in WWII carried volumes of Rilke's poetry in their knapsacks and letters of fallen soldiers contained quotes from his verse ("Who talks of victory? To endure is all.") Editions of his writings, such as *Rilke for the Stressed*, *Words of Consolation*, *Letters on Loss*, *Grief*, and *Transformation* attest to Rilke being viewed as someone who can provide *The Poet's Guide to Life*. This course introduces students to Rilke's poetry and correspondence as well as excerpts from his writings on art to critically examine his language's ability to express our innermost feelings and to offer solace. Along the way, we will also situate his work in the context of "modernism," and we will consider it in the framework of bibliotherapy (reading therapy, poetry therapy). Readings and discussions in English. All students welcome!

Instructor(s): Ingrid Christian Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): GRMN 38626, MAPH 38626, FNDL 28626

**GRMN 28872. Jews in Nazi Germany: Lion Feuchtwanger's novel The Oppermanns in historical context. 100 Units.**

Recently republished in 2022, Lion Feuchtwanger's 1933 best-seller *The Oppermanns* depicts a Jewish family who grapple with the Nazi seizure of power in Germany. Like many at the time, the Oppemanns think that the regime will be short-lived, but Feuchtwanger's prescient novel anticipates the entrenchment of Nazi power and the creeping curtailment of Jewish life in Germany with uncanny accuracy—from the thugs attacking individuals to the Ministry of Propaganda's demonization of Jewish Germans in mass media, via the enforced "Aryanization" of businesses required to employ non-Jewish managers. Discussion will focus on Feuchtwanger's nuanced portrayal of the distinct ways in which family members react to these assaults, supplemented by historical texts, including the analysis of Nazi language (1946) by Victor Klemperer, a Jewish-German survivor, and documents in the Weimar Republic Sourcebook.

Instructor(s): Loren Kruger Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): Required: Complete HUM core

Equivalent Course(s): JWSC 28872, FNDL 28872, CMLT 28872, ENGL 28872

**GRMN 29005. From Vienna to Hamburg: Theories of Art in the 20th Century--Historiography, Religion, and Crisis. 100 Units.**

This course lays out the background to the historiographic complexities of studying visual culture and art history now in relation to the ways the dominant theories and methods of the discipline involved in the context of 20th-century history and ideologies. It is impossible in 9 sessions to cover the entire historiography of an ancient discipline. The course will therefore take a selective approach by focusing on the foundations of the art historical approaches in Germany in the Twentieth century that have proved most formative for the development of the discipline in Anglo-American contexts after the Second World War. This may be seen as a narrowing of focus, but it has the benefit of offering a coherent if highly complex and conflictive story to uncover: effectively the most philosophically intense moment in art history from 1900 to the 1950's, the relation of the discipline and its exiles to the rise, triumph and demise of the Third Reich, and the beginnings of its development in the post-War period.

Instructor(s): Jaś Elsner Terms Offered: Spring

Note(s): This course will be taught virtually for the last two weeks of the quarter. This course meets the LMCS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.

Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 29005, RLST 29005, RLVC 41205, GRMN 39005, ARTH 41305

**GRMN 29700. Reading and Research Course in German. 100 Units.**

No description available. Prerequisite(s): Consent of instructor and director of undergraduate studies Note(s): Students must consult with the instructor by the eighth week of the preceding quarter to determine the subject of the course and the work to be done. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form.

Terms Offered: Autumn, Winter, Spring

Prerequisite(s): Consent of instructor and director of undergraduate studies

Note(s): Students must consult with the instructor by the eighth week of the preceding quarter to determine the subject of the course and the work to be done. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form.

**GRMN 29900. Capstone Project. 100 Units.**

A culminating senior project. This can be either a traditional BA Paper, or a project of creative inquiry.

Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter

Prerequisite(s): Fourth-year standing. Consent of instructor and director of undergraduate studies.

Note(s): Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form.

