

GERMAN ELECTIVES

Course Descriptions

GER 101 Beginning in German I

These courses provide the basis for communication in German and for understanding the cultures of the German-speaking world. Through first elements of the language, students learn aspects of history, geography, and culture. Structures and patterns are introduced and practiced.

GER 102 Beginning in German II

These courses provide the basis for communication in German and for understanding the cultures of the German-speaking world. Through first elements of the language, students learn aspects of history, geography, and culture. Structures and patterns are introduced and practiced.

Prerequisite(s): GER 101, equivalent, or departmental placement test.

GER 150 German Conv & Culture

GER 201 Continuing in German I

Communication on personal topics is fostered through continuing study of the structural and lexical features of the language. Emphasis is on the encounters of daily life—employment, leisure activities, living situations, family and friends. Prerequisite(s): German 102, equivalent, or departmental placement.

GER 202 Continuing in German II

Communication on personal topics is fostered through continuing study of the structural and lexical features of the language. Emphasis is on the encounters of daily life—employment, leisure activities, living situations, family and friends. Prerequisite(s): German 201, equivalent, or departmental placement.

GER 205 Divided City: Art & Crisis

GER 209 Special Topics

Emphasis on developing competency in German as used in the public forum. Issues of politics and history could be included, but two more particular topics are readily subsumed under this heading. Two sample descriptions follow; these are aligned with best practices at other institutions. Prerequisite: German 101 and 102 or permission of the instructor. An Economic Powerhouse: German for Business The strongest economy in Europe is highly international but still calls for employees, consultants, and visitors familiar with the fundamentals of business communication in German. Emphasis on four areas: job search; the stock market; the German economy; and marketing strategies. Reading of weekly magazines, relevant newspapers, and business publications. Prerequisite: German 101 and 102 or permission of the instructor. The Greening of Germany: Environmental German Taking the lead in the movement toward renewable and sustainable energy, Germany plans on elimination by 2050 all sources of energy that rely on fossil fuels or nuclear power. Germany leads the world in particular, in-place "green" initiatives, and much of the literature exists only in German. Areas include wind, water, geothermal, and solar power. Readings include position papers from government and industry, articles in popular science publications, and newsletters from research centers in universities and industry. Prerequisite: German 101 and 102 or permission of the instructor. Many other topics and German language specialties are possible.

GER 270 Special Topics

GER 272 Special Topics

GER 301 Convers & Comp I

Skill in communication on public topics and issues is gained through continuing in-depth study of German in its lexical, structural, and grammatical features. Conversations and written assignments draw on areas of public discourse—politics, social issues, religion, family, Germany, and the EU in a rapidly changing Europe. Prerequisite: German 201 and 202 or permission of the instructor.

GER 302 Convers & Comp II

Skill in communication on public topics and issues is gained through continuing in-depth study of German in its lexical, structural, and grammatical features. Conversations and written assignments draw on areas of public discourse—politics, social issues, religion, family, Germany, and the EU in a rapidly changing Europe. Prerequisite: German 201 and 202 or permission of the instructor.

GER 311 Themes German Lit I

Major themes of conflict and upheaval in German-language literature will be considered thematically. Examples include mental and physical illness; journeys into the unknown; Romanticism and its mystique; youthful rebellion and compliance; lyric poetry; the shock of Expressionism. Readings and discussions in German. Prerequisite: German 201 and 202 or permission of the instructor.

GER 312 Themes German Lit II

Major themes of conflict and upheaval in German-language literature will be considered thematically. Examples include mental and physical illness; journeys into the unknown; Romanticism and its mystique; youthful rebellion and compliance; lyric poetry; the shock of Expressionism. Readings and discussions in German. Prerequisite: German 201 and 202 or permission of the instructor.

GER 320 Studies German Culture

The roles of perception and consciousness emerge in these courses dealing with cultural topics in the German-speaking world. Topics can include; film; music; drama; the visual arts; Freud and his followers; the fairy tale; the Golem and other hauntings. Prerequisite: German 201 and 202 or permission of the instructor.

GER 321 Cultural History

The roles of perception and consciousness emerge in these courses dealing with cultural topics in the German-speaking world. Topics can include; film; music; drama; the visual arts; Freud and his followers; the fairy tale; the Golem and other hauntings. Prerequisite: German 201 and 202 or permission of the instructor.

GER 370 Special Topics

GER 371 Special Topics

GER 376 Special Topics

GER 401 Hist German Language

This course focuses on the German language from its beginning to the present; particularly, the development of sounds, vocabulary, and the formation of standard High German. Prerequisite: German 201 and 202 or permission of the instructor.

GER 402 German Script

This course examines the development of the ability to read texts in German Script from mid-20th-century Europe to 18th-century America. A brief history of German Script will be offered.

GER 405 Medieval Lit

Literature in German from its beginnings, with the heroic saga of the Song of Hildebrand, through the poetry of lyricists like Oswald von Wolkenstein and Walther von der Vogelweide and the great Arthurian cycles by Wolfram von Eschenbach and Goffried von Strasburg. Introduction to readings in Old and Middle High German. Prerequisite: German 201 and 202 or permission of the instructor.

GER 421 17th & 18th Cent Lit

The tensions of elaborate form in the Baroque age were succeeded by the simplifying impulse of the rational Enlightenment and the triumph of the scientific method, these in turn challenged by the embrace of impulse and emotion in the age of Storm and Stress. Readings in poetry, drama, and fiction with relevant critical studies. Prerequisite: German 201 and 202 or permission of the instructor.

GER 431 The Classical Age

Eric Blackall argues that German emerged as a fully literary language in the age of Goethe and Schiller, still the benchmarks of all literature in German. Their work will be studied separately and together, especially their writings on esthetics and their collaboration in the year of the Ballade, 1797. Individual projects and presentations. Prerequisite: German 201 and 202 or permission of the instructor.

GER 441 19th Century Lit

Polarities have dominated German culture since the religious wars of the seventeenth century. The major form of that struggle in the nineteenth century was the question of whether to accept the status quo or to rebel and reject social complacency. Biedermeier, Realism, Naturalism in an age of censorship and other progressive and regressive political currents. Prerequisite: German 201 and 202 or permission of the instructor,

GER 444 Independent Research

GER 445 Independent Study

GER 451 20th Century Lit

Well into the twenty-first century, literature and culture are torn between a need to belong, to find and maintain order in the larger society and a need to explore unfettered individuality, to strike out on new paths. Literature reflects the allure of both past-oriented traditionalism as renewal and resolute experimentalism in all forms of art. Authors can include Thomas Mann and Alfred Döblin; Rainer Maria Rilke and Goffried Benn; Odo von Horvath and Friedrich Dürrenmatt in the twentieth century, along with later generations of experimentalists like Ernst Jandl, Ingeborg Bachmann, Reinhard Priessnitz, Gert Jonke, and Elfriede Jelinek. Prerequisite: German 201 and 202 or permission of the instructor.

GER 470 Special Topics

GER 480 Seminar

Topics will vary from semester to semester. A single genre, movement, or author will be the focus of each seminar. Work on a seminar essay will be ongoing throughout the semester. Topics could include: the novella; Franz Kafka; experimental lyric poetry; Brecht and drama; the Romantic movement; Hugo von Hofmannsthal; Arthur Schnitzler; second-generation Holocaust survivors.

GER 481 Seminar

Topics of investigation vary from semester to semester. Readings, reports, and discussion in a selected genre (novel, drama, lyric, short story) will be offered. A seminar paper is expected.

GER 489 Independent Study