GERMAN AND GERMAN STUDIES (BI-CO)

Department Website:
https://www.haverford.edu/german

The Bryn Mawr Department of German and German Studies is the Bryn Mawr section of the Bi-College German Department and offers a fully coordinated program of courses with the Haverford College Department of German. By drawing upon the expertise of the German faculty at both colleges, the Department has established a broadly conceived German Studies program, incorporating a variety of courses that lay the foundation for a critical understanding of German-speaking cultures in their contemporary global context and their larger political, social, and intellectual history.

The program aims, by means of various methodological approaches to the study of foreign languages and cultures, to foster critical thinking, expository and analytical writing skills, understanding of the diversity of cultures, and the ability to respond creatively to the challenges posed by cultural difference in an increasingly global world.

A thorough knowledge of German is required for our majors and minors. Our language instruction challenges students from the elementary level to become critical consumers of authentic media and skilled in all modes of communication. Cross-disciplinary course offerings reflect both the breadth and depth of our curriculum and support the academic and professional goals of our students. German majors can and are encouraged to take courses and cultivate interests in interdisciplinary areas, such as comparative literature, film, gender and sexuality studies, growth and structure of cities, health studies, history, history of art, music, philosophy, and political science, where they read works of criticism in these areas in the original German. Courses relating to any aspect of German culture, history, and politics given in other departments can count toward requirements for the major or minor.

Major Requirements

The Department of German and German Studies offers a major and a minor. A German major consists of 10 credits. After completing GERM H002 (or its equivalent), the German major normally requires:

- two intermediate German courses (GERM H101 and GERM H102);
- seven courses at the 200 and 300 level
- either one semester of Senior Conference (GERM H399) for majors opting to write a German senior thesis or an additional 300 level seminar in German for double majors writing a senior essay instead of a senior thesis.

Students who place out of 101 and 102 and begin their studies at the 200 level are still required to take 10 credits to fulfill the major requirements. Two of the seven courses at the 200 or 300 level could be non-German credit in the broader area of German Studies with the approval of the department.

The Department of German and German Studies offers writing attentive and writing intensive courses. Majors are required to take two writing attentive courses to help them develop critical writing skills and the ability to analyze literary texts in their historical and cultural contexts.

All German majors must take at least one 200 and one 300 level course in the Bi-Co German Department. For students studying abroad for one semester, up to four courses may count toward the major. For students studying abroad for an entire academic year, up to six courses may count toward the major. Approval from the department is required for awarding credits from abroad.

Senior Thesis Project

A senior thesis project is required for all German majors. There are four options available to German majors and double majors to serve as meaningful capstones to their studies:
a. A senior thesis (around 40 pages) in German.

b. A combined thesis (40 + pages) written in English for double majors in a related discipline with a strong German Studies component. A combined thesis has to be approved by the department.

c. A senior essay (20 pages) for double majors, which grows out of a research paper produced in a 300 level seminar. Students pursuing this option will not take the Senior Conference and instead will take an additional 300 level seminar.

d. A project, which may be either a 15-20-minute film or an exhibition with a portfolio and summary in German. The content of the project and portfolio should be equivalent to a 40-page research paper in German.

**Senior Thesis Presentation**

At the conclusion of their senior year, all majors are expected to participate in a public presentation of their thesis projects. Minors are invited and encouraged to present on a project they have done in their upper-level German coursework.

**Senior Project Learning Goals**

In writing the senior thesis, the student should:

- conceive a theoretically informed and well-designed research project
- apply the language skills to research and evaluate primary and secondary materials
- utilize the analytical and methodological skills to produce an innovative and critically astute thesis
- hone analytical and expository writing skills through all stages of composing the thesis project

**Assessment of Senior Thesis**

The quality of the thesis is evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- originality of topic
- mastery of analysis (ability to perform a critical analysis of texts or cultural phenomena)
- familiarity with primary and secondary literature
- creative application of relevant theoretical discourses
- clarity of writing

**Honors**

Any student whose grade point average in the major at the end of their senior year is 3.8 or higher qualifies for departmental honors. Students who have completed a thesis and whose major grade point average at the end of the senior year is 3.6 or higher, but not 3.8, are eligible to be discussed as candidates for departmental honors. A student in this range of eligibility must be sponsored by at least one faculty member with whom she has done coursework, and at least one other faculty member must read some of the student’s advanced work and agree on the excellence of the work in order for departmental honors to be awarded. If there is a sharp difference of opinion, additional readers will serve as needed.

**Minor Requirements**

A minor in German and German Studies consists of six credits. To minor, students are normally required to take:

- two Intermediate German courses (GERM H101 and GERM H102)
- four German courses at the 200 and 300 level

If students are placed at the 200 level, they must take additional German courses at and above 200 level to fulfill the 6-credit requirement.

**Concentrations and Interdisciplinary Minors**

The German department with its cross-disciplinary curriculum is a regular contributor to the Comparative Literature program, Gender and Sexuality Studies, the Cities program, as well as African and Africana Studies.

**College Foreign Language Requirement**

The College’s foreign language requirement may be satisfied by the completion of two courses in German with an average grade of at least 2.0.

**Study Abroad**

Students majoring in German are encouraged to spend some time in German-speaking countries over the course of their undergraduate studies. Various possibilities include:

- summer intensive German language programs
- summer courses at German universities funded by DAAD (German Academic Exchange) scholarships and the Thomas Raeburn White Scholarship
- select semester and year-long study abroad programs including the Junior Year Abroad in Munich or IES Programs in Berlin and Freiburg.

**Affiliated Faculty**

**Imke Brust**
Associate Professor and Chair of German

**Michael Burri**
Visiting Assistant Professor of German

**Faculty at Bryn Mawr**
Michael Burri
Visiting Assistant Professor of German

Margaret Reif
Visiting Assistant Professor

Qinna Shen
Associate Professor and Chair of German

Margaret Strair
Visiting Assistant Professor

Courses at Haverford

GERM H001 ELEMENTARY GERMAN (1.0 Credit)
Michael Burri
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
Meets five hours a week with the individual class instructor, one hour with student drill instructors. Strong emphasis on communicative competence both in spoken and written German in a larger cultural context. This is a year-long course; both semesters (001 and 002) are required for credit.
(Offered: Fall 2022)

GERM H002 ELEMENTARY GERMAN (1.0 Credit)
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
Meets five hours a week with the individual class instructor, one hour with student drill instructors. Strong emphasis on communicative competence both in spoken and written German in a larger cultural context. This is a year-long course; both semesters (001 and 002) are required for credit.
(Offered: Spring 2023)

GERM H101 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN (1.0 Credit)
Imke Brust
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
Meets three hours a week with the individual class instructor, one hour with student drill instructor. Thorough review of grammar, exercises in composition and conversation. Enforcement of correct grammatical patterns and idiomatic use of language. Study of selected literary and cultural texts and films from German-speaking countries. Two semesters.
(Offered: Fall 2022)

GERM H102 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN (1.0 Credit)
Imke Brust
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
Meets three hours a week with the individual class instructor, one hour with student drill instructor. Thorough review of grammar, exercises in composition and conversation. Enforcement of correct grammatical patterns and idiomatic use of language. Study of selected literary and cultural texts and films from German-speaking countries. Two semesters.
(Offered: Spring 2023)

GERM H201 ADVANCED TRAINING: LANGUAGE, TEXT, AND CONTEXT (1.0 Credit)
Margaret Strair
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World
This course is intended for students who wish to refine their speaking, writing, and reading skills beyond the Intermediate level. Designed as a comprehensive introduction to modern German culture, we will discuss a variety of literary, political, historical and philosophical texts, including feature films and video materials. Weekly grammar reviews will complement these activities.

GERM H202 ADVANCED TRAINING: INTRO. TO GERMAN STUDIES (1.0 Credit)
Margaret Reif
Division: Humanities
This course is intended for students who wish to refine their speaking, writing, and reading skills beyond the Intermediate level. Designed as a comprehensive introduction to modern German culture, we will discuss a variety of literary, political, historical and philosophical texts, including feature films and video materials. Weekly grammar reviews will complement these activities.

GERM H210 THE CITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE - IMMIGRATION AND IMAGES OF A CHANGING CITY (1.0 Credit)
Imke Brust
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
The course will engage with the history of Philadelphia as an immigrant city and look at the ways in which the different neighborhoods have changed over time. More specifically, it will highlight aspects of Philadelphia’s early German-speaking community, which made up about 45% of the city’s total residents in 1760 and about 33% in 1800 (Minardi). For example, Germantown, Brewerytown, and Olney were at some point primarily German-speaking neighborhoods, which then became primarily African-American, and in the case of Olney, Asian-American. Our analysis would scrutinize how the city demographically and visually transformed by looking at different maps, images, paintings etc. Furthermore, the course would touch on how the different populations perceived each other at different historic times. In collaboration with HIAS, StoriesthatLive and Puentes de Salud, we would study how European Jews and Latin-Americans found refuge in the city of brotherly love. Initially, the Pennsylvania German Society of Philadelphia was also created in 1764, to help German speaking immigrants in need. Students will create a short film project about a person, who chose to immigrate to and found home in Philadelphia. Moreover, the course would touch on how the different populations perceived each other at different historic times.
will explore issues of race and gender and draw on a variety of relations between Germany / Europe and Africa. Our discussions over time. Furthermore, we will briefly touch on contemporary and how their perception, reception, and representation changed ourselves with the presence of Afro-Germans and Afro-Europeans, called “Scramble for Africa”. In addition, we will also familiarize the 1884/1885 Berlin Conference that sought to regulate the so-Imperial Germany. In particular, we will focus on the time after of Germany in 1871, and then investigate the colonialism of efforts by individual German states before the first unification processes, and outcomes. We will first scrutinize colonial history in Africa, and critically engage with its origins, this course will provide a historical overview of the Holocaust, its origins, process, and outcomes, and how it has served as a mental map for the construction of contemporary German national identity. In this context, we will explore such topics as notions of memory, collective guilt, trauma, and mourning. In addition, the course will critically engage issues of portrayal and representation of historical memory within the context of Holocaust commemoration by discussing several different plays and films that can be contextualized within the German Vergangenheitsaufarbeitung (working through the past) and more recently ‘memory contests’. Lastly, this course will also explore the tragedy and remembrance of the Holocaust as a transnational phenomenon in the contemporary world. The course is taught in English with an extra session in German. Cross-listed: German, Comparative Literature (Offered: Spring 2023)

GERM H215 SINF UND WAHNSINFN: LITERATUR, KUNST UND MEDIZIN IM 18. UND 19. JAHRHUNDERT (1.0 Credit)
Margaret Strair
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World
The seminar is designed to give a broad overview of the various aesthetic trends which have shaped contemporary German-speaking literature. Focusing on representative works–including prose, drama, and poetry–this course will retrace and engage with the historical role of literature in the German speaking world over time, and access the importance of German literature in the current era of globalization and mass communication. Taught in German. (Offered: Fall 2022)

GERM H220 GERMAN COLONIAL HISTORY IN AFRICA & AFRO-GERMANS/EUROPEANS (1.0 Credit)
Imke Brust
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World
This course will provide a historical overview of German colonial history in Africa, and critically engage with its origins, processes, and outcomes. We will first scrutinize colonial efforts by individual German states before the first unification of Germany in 1871, and then investigate the colonialism of Imperial Germany. In particular, we will focus on the time after the 1884/1885 Berlin Conference that sought to regulate the so-called “Scramble for Africa”. In addition, we will also familiarize ourselves with the presence of Afro-Germans and Afro-Europeans, and how their perception, reception, and representation changed over time. Furthermore, we will briefly touch on contemporary relations between Germany / Europe and Africa. Our discussions will explore issues of race and gender and draw on a variety of different materials such as historical, political, economic, medical, sociological, and literary texts and visual media.

GERM H320 IMPOSSIBLE REPRESENTATIONS OF THE HOLOCAUST IN GERMAN DRAMA AND FILM (1.0 Credit)
Imke Brust
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World
This course will provide a historical overview of the Holocaust, its origins, process, and outcomes, and how it has served as a mental map for the construction of contemporary German national identity. In this context, we will explore such topics as notions of memory, collective guilt, trauma, and mourning. In addition, the course will critically engage issues of portrayal and representation of historical memory within the context of Holocaust commemoration by discussing several different plays and films that can be contextualized within the German Vergangenheitsaufarbeitung (working through the past) and more recently ‘memory contests’. Lastly, this course will also explore the tragedy and remembrance of the Holocaust as a transnational phenomenon in the contemporary world. The course is taught in English with an extra session in German. Cross-listed: German, Comparative Literature (Offered: Spring 2023)

GERM H321 TOPICS GERM LIT: GHOSTS AND SPIRIT SEERS: GERMAN IDEALISM AND 19TH CENTURY LITERATURE (1.0 Credit)
Margaret Strair
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
Crosslisted: German, Comparative Literature (Offered: Spring 2023)

GERM H399 SENIOR CONFERENCE (1.0 Credit)
Imke Brust
Division: Humanities
All of our majors are required to write a senior thesis in German, or—if they are double majors—to produce a thesis in a related discipline that has significant overlap with their work in German. They typically take a 300-level seminar in fall and write a research term paper which often becomes the foundation for their senior project. In the spring semester they take the mandatory senior conference consisting of weekly meetings and discussions of thesis proposals and drafts with their advisor(s). In writing the senior thesis, the student should demonstrate a) the capacity to conceive a theoretically informed and well designed research project b) the language skills to research and evaluate primary and secondary materials and to effectively synthesize these, and c) the analytical and methodological skills to produce an innovative and critically astute thesis. (Offered: Spring 2023)
Courses at Bryn Mawr

GERM B001 ELEMENTARY GERMAN (1.0 Credit)
Margaret Strair
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
Meets five hours a week with the individual class instructor, and an additional one hour with a TA. This course is designed for students with no previous knowledge of German and will provide them with ample training across all modes of communication to develop their language competence in speaking, reading, and writing. This course will cover an overview of German grammar and vocabulary that will allow students to talk about themselves and a variety of familiar and everyday topics, hold basic conversations, and describe events in the past. Course does not meet an Approach
(Offered: Fall 2022)

GERM B002 ELEMENTARY GERMAN (1.0 Credit)
Margaret Strair
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
Meets five hours a week with the individual class instructor, and one additional hour with a TA. Strong emphasis on communicative competence both in spoken and written German in a larger cultural context. Prerequisite: GERM 001 or its equivalent or permission of instructor.
(Offered: Spring 2023)

GERM B101 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN (1.0 Credit)
Margaret Reif
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
Thorough review of grammar, exercises in composition and conversation. Enfocement of correct grammatical patterns and idiomatic use of language. Study of selected literary and cultural texts and films from German-speaking countries. Class will meet for an additional hour with a TA. Prerequisite: Completion of GERM 002 or its equivalent as decided by the department and/or placement test.
(Offered: Fall 2022)

GERM B102 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN (1.0 Credit)
Margaret Reif
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
This course is the continuation of GERM 101 (Intermediate German). We will concentrate on all four language skills--speaking, reading, writing, and listening comprehension. We will build on the knowledge that students gained in the elementary-level courses and then honed in GERM 101. Class will meet for an additional hour with a TA. This course will also provide students with an introduction to selected aspects of German culture. Prerequisite: GERM 101 or its equivalent as decided by the department.
(Offered: Spring 2023)

GERM B201 ADVANCED TRAINING: LANGUAGE, TEXT, CONTEXT (1.0 Credit)
Margaret Reif
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
Emphasis on the development of conversational, writing and interpretive skills through an introductory study of German political, cultural and intellectual life and history, including public debate, institutional practices, mass media, cross-cultural currents, folklore, fashion and advertising. Taught in German. Course content may vary. Current topic description: This course considers German-language works that focus on women’s experiences and recollections of major historical events of the 20th- and 21st centuries, such as the turn of the century, the post-war period, division of Germany and multiculturalism. Selected works include television, film, dramas and short stories such as the Netflix series Charité (2017), Friedrich Dürrenmatt's Der Besuch der alten Dame (1956), Claudia Rusch’s collection of short stories Meine freie deutsche Jugend (2005), and works from May Ayim, Yoko Tawada and Emine Özdamar.
(Offered: Fall 2022)

GERM B202 INTRODUCTION TO GERMAN STUDIES (1.0 Credit)
Margaret Reif
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
This is a topics course. Topics may vary.
(Offered: Spring 2023)

GERM B217 REPRESENTING DIVERSITY IN GERMAN CINEMA (1.0 Credit)
Qinna Shen
German society has undergone drastic changes as a result of immigration. Traditional notions of Germanness have been and are still being challenged and subverted. This course uses films and visual media to examine the experiences of various minority groups living in Germany. Students will learn about the history of immigration of different ethnic groups, including Turkish Germans, Afro-Germans, Asian Germans, Arab Germans, German Jews, and ethnic Germans from Eastern Europe. We will explore discourses on migration, racism, xenophobia, integration, and citizenship. We will seek to understand not only the historical and contemporary contexts for these films but also their relevance for reshaping German society. Students will be introduced to modern German cinema from the silent era to the present. They will acquire terminology and methods for reading films as fictional and aesthetic representations of history and politics, and analyze identity construction in the worlds of the real and the reel. This course is taught in English.

GERM B223 TOPICS IN GERMAN CULTURAL STUDIES (1.0 Credit)
Margaret Strair
Division: Humanities
This is a topics course. Course content varies. Recent topics include Remembered Violence, Global Masculinities, and Crime and Detection in German. Current topic description (spring 2023):
Taught in English. This course investigates different cultures of hyper-visibility and shifting notions of the power of the gaze and spectatorship as tied to techniques of social observation and control. It explores their connections to different modes of artistic and literary production before and after the rise of modern authoritarian states and technologies of mass surveillance. Starting in the eighteenth century, physiognomy emerges not only as a technique of reading faces, but as a popular pastime whose sinister afterlife becomes a foundation for Nazi racial science. Haunting tales from Romantic and Gothic authors invoke a supernatural surveillance that give rise to compelling genres and allow readers to visualize a modern, uncertain depth of subjectivity and nature of reality. Towards the beginning of the twentieth century, the flaneur's ambulatory gaze mobilizes a new experience of city life as other visual technologies like photography and film become more ubiquitous. Around the same time, the hyper-visibility of hysterical women inspire innovative forms of narration that intertwine exhibitionism, voyeurism, and a gendered critique of the gaze. And finally, the mass surveillance by the state - both real and imagined - prompts us to look more carefully at the powers afforded to visibility and invisibility, and the literary representations of those powers. (Offered: Spring 2023)

GERM B316 BERLIN IN GERMAN LITERATURE AND FILM (1.0 Credit)
Qinna Shen
Taught in German. The major focus of this course is the spatialization of memory and history in exemplary novels and films on Berlin. These works analyze the palimpsestic sites of the city as a quasi-archive of political upheavals, public life, fine arts, the star-crossed German-Jewish symbiosis, World War II, and the cultures of the two postwar German states. Berlin underwent a tumultuous history in the twentieth century and encapsulates a kaleidoscope of modern German history, culture, and social life. Having served as the capital city of the Kingdom of Prussia (1701-1871), the German Empire (1871-1918), the Weimar Republic (1919-1933), the Third Reich (1933-1945), East Germany during the Cold War (1945-1990), and the reunified Germany, Berlin has captured different strata of history in its architecture, art, music, literature, and film. Since reunification, Berlin has been thriving and has become one of the most vibrant metropoles of the world, at once commemorating its past and addressing the constant challenges of an ever-changing world. Prerequisites: Placed at the advanced level in placement test; a 200-level course taught in German or with permission of instructor. (Offered: Fall 2022)

GERM B320 TOPICS IN GERMAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE (1.0 Credit)
Margaret Reif
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
Section 001 (Fall 2022): Die Erzählkunst des Krimis; Section 001 (Fall 2021): Funny Germans; Fall 2022. This is a topics course. Course content varies. Taught in German. Current topic description: This is a course on television, film, graphic novels and literature, taught in German, about mysteries and narratives of crime. Students will study German history, politics, society, and culture through the lens of mysteries, drawing on texts such as the television series Tatort (since 1970), Fritz Lang's film M- die Stadt sucht einen Mörder (1931), and Arne Jysch's graphic novel adaptation of Volker Kutscher's Der nasse Fisch (2008), which was adapted to the Netflix series Babylon Berlin (2017). Through studying these texts, students will gain a richer understanding of how the genre is transformed with regard to media-specificities and interrogate how narratives of transgression affirm or challenge social order through its interruption and restoration. (Offered: Fall 2022)

GERM B400 SENIOR SEMINAR (1.0 Credit)
Staff
Division: Humanities
Senior Seminar. Students are required to write a long research paper with an annotated bibliography. (Offered: Fall 2022, Spring 2023)

GERM B403 SUPERVISED WORK (1.0 Credit)
Qinna Shen
Division: Humanities
(Offered: Fall 2022, Spring 2023)

GERM B421 GERMAN FOR READING KNOWLEDGE (1.0 Credit)
Michael Burri
Division: Humanities
This course is designed to prepare students to read and translate challenging academic texts from German into English. It presents an intensive examination of basic German grammar and syntax, together with strategies that will enable students to read and understand German texts essential for advanced study or learning in disciplines across the arts, social sciences, and humanities. Previous experience in German is an asset, but is not a class prerequisite. This course does not fulfill the Language Requirement. (Offered: Fall 2022)