

# 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 that engage with German thought.

## Department Learning Goals

The Bi-College German Department aims, through the study of German language, culture, and literature, to foster:

- a thorough knowledge of German language
- critical thinking
- expository writing skills
- the mastery of critical theories and methodologies, crucial for the analysis of cultural artifacts and media

- the ability to respond intellectually and creatively to the challenges posed by cultural difference in an increasingly multicultural and global world
- interdisciplinary connections that reflect breadth and depth of the study of German

Haverford's Institutional Learning Goals are available on the President's website, at <http://hav.to/learninggoals>.

## Curriculum

A thorough knowledge of German is a goal for both major concentrations. The objective of our language instruction is to teach students communicative skills that enable them to function effectively in authentic conditions of language use and to speak and write in idiomatic German. A major component of all German courses is the examination of issues that underline the cosmopolitanism as well as the specificity and complexity of contemporary German culture. German majors can and are encouraged to take courses in interdisciplinary areas, such as comparative literature, film, gender and sexuality studies, growth and structure of cities, 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 H400) 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:

1. A senior thesis (around 40 pages) in German.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.

## Faculty

### Imke Brust

Associate Professor and Chair of German

### Ulrich Schönherr

Professor Emeritus of German and German Studies

## Faculty at Bryn Mawr

### Michael Burri

Lecturer in German

### Azade Seyhan

Fairbank Professor Emeritus in the Humanities and Research Professor

### Qinna Shen

Chair and Associate Professor of German

## Courses at Haverford

### GERM H001 ELEMENTARY GERMAN (1.0 Credit)

*Imke Brust*

**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 2020)

### GERM H002 ELEMENTARY GERMAN: INTENSIVE (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 2021)

### GERM H101 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN (1.0 Credit)

*Staff*

**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 2020)

### 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 2021)

### GERM H201 ADVANCED TRAINING: LANGUAGE, TEXT, AND CONTEXT (1.0 Credit)

*Imke Brust*

**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.

**(Offered:** Fall 2020)

**GERM H215 SURVEY OF LITERATURE IN GERMAN: INTRODUCTION TO POSTWAR LITERATURE (1.0 Credit)**

**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.

**GERM H220B 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 H224 GERMANY/BERLIN FROM A TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE (1.0 Credit)**

*Imke Brust*

**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

This course focuses primarily on the ways in which Germany/Berlin has influenced the visual imagination of American and other foreign artists, as well as a German immigrant artists, and Germans in the diaspora. While Germany without doubt has profoundly affected other countries worldwide, Germany and in particular the city of Berlin have also been shaped significantly by foreign influences, most recently during the recent refugee crisis in Europe. This course explores a variety of different visual media from film to the creation of museums.

Taught in English with an extra session in German. Crosslisted: German, Comparative Literature, Visual Studies

**GERM H245 APPROACHES TO GERM LIT/ CULTURE: FREUD'S VIENNA & KAFKA'S PRAGUE (1.0 Credit)**

**Division:** Humanities

**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

This is a topics course. Taught in German. Course content varies. Previous topics include, Women’s Narratives on Modern Migrancy, Exile, and Diasporas; Nation and Identity in Post-War Austria. Current topic: Crime, Justice and the Courtroom. This is a film-based course about political trials at critical junctures of German history.

**GERM H262 TOP GERMAN CINEMA: #METOO WOMEN AND FILM (1.0 Credit)**

*Imke Brust*

**Division:** Humanities

**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

This course meets twice a week and will either be taught in English with an extra-session in German or in German if all registered students speak German. It is the aim of this course to contextualize the #MeToo Movement in a transnational U.S. - European context. We will read a variety of texts and watch selected European/U.S. films that impacted the historical relationship between and representation of women in film. While this course focuses primarily on female directors, our discussion will also include the works of some male directors. Crosslisted: German, Comparative Literature  
(Offered: Spring 2021)

**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

### **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 2021)

## **Courses at Bryn Mawr**

### **GERM B001 ELEMENTARY GERMAN (1.0 Credit)**

*Staff*

**Division:** Humanities

**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

Meets five hours a week with the individual class instructor, an additional one hour with a TA. Strong emphasis on communicative competence both in spoken and written German in a larger cultural context.

**(Offered:** Fall 2020)

### **GERM B002 ELEMENTARY GERMAN (1.0 Credit)**

*Qinna Shen*

**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 2021)

### **GERM B101 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN (1.0 Credit)**

*Qinna Shen*

**Division:** Humanities

**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

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. 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 2020)

### **GERM B102 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN (1.0 Credit)**

*Staff*

**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 2021)

### **GERM B201 ADVANCED TRAINING: LANGUAGE, TEXT, CONTEXT (1.0 Credit)**

*Qinna Shen*

**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.

### **GERM B212 MARX, NIETZSCHE, FREUD, AND THE RHETORIC OF MODERNITY (1.0 Credit)**

*Azade Seyhan*

**Division:** Humanities

**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This course examines selected writings by Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud as pre-texts for a critique of cultural reason and underlines their contribution to questions of language, representation, history, ethics, and art. These three visionaries of modernity have translated the abstract metaphysics of 'the

history of the subject' into a concrete analysis of human experience. Their work has been a major influence on the Frankfurt School of critical theory and has also led to a revolutionary shift in the understanding and writing of history and literature now associated with the work of modern French philosophers Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, Julia Kristeva, and Jacques Lacan. Our readings will, therefore, also include short selections from these philosophers in order to analyze the contested history of modernity and its intellectual and moral consequences. Special attention will be paid to the relation between rhetoric and philosophy and the narrative forms of "the philosophical discourse(s) of modernity" (e.g., sermon and myth in Marx; aphorism and oratory in Nietzsche, myth, fairy tale, case hi/story in Freud). Course is taught in English. One additional hour will be added for those students wanting German credit. Course counts toward Philosophy.

**GERM B231 CULTURAL PROFILES IN MODERN EXILE (1.0 Credit)**

*Azade Seyhan*

**Division:** Humanities

**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This course investigates the anthropological, philosophical, psychological, cultural, and literary aspects of modern exile. It studies exile as experience and metaphor in the context of modernity, and examines the structure of the relationship between imagined/remembered homelands and transnational identities, and the dialectics of language loss and bi- and multi-lingualism. Particular attention is given to the psychocultural dimensions of linguistic exclusion and loss. Readings of works by Julia Alvarez, Albert Camus, Ana Castillo, Sigmund Freud, Eva Hoffman, Maxine Hong Kingston, Milan Kundera, Friedrich Nietzsche, Salman Rushdie, W. G. Sebald, Kurban Said, and others.

**GERM B262 TOPICS: FILM AND THE GERMAN LITERARY IMAGINATION (1.0 Credit)**

*Michael Burri*

**Division:** Humanities

**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This is a topics course. Course content varies.

**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 metropolises 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 2020)

**GERM B320 TOPICS IN GERMAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE (1.0 Credit)**

*Staff*

**Division:** Humanities

**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This is a topics course. Course content varies. Taught in German.

(**Offered:** Spring 2021)

**GERM B321 ADVANCED TOPICS IN GERMAN CULTURAL STUDIES (1.0 Credit)**

*Qinna Shen*

**Division:** Humanities

**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This is a topics course. Course content varies. Course is taught in English. There will be an additional hour in German for those students taking the course for German credit.

**GERM B400 SENIOR SEMINAR (1.0 Credit)**

**Division:** Humanities

Senior Seminar. Students are required to write a long research paper with an annotated bibliography.

(**Offered:** Fall 2020, Spring 2021)

**GERM B403 SUPERVISED WORK (1.0 Credit)**

*Qinna Shen*

**Division:** Humanities

(**Offered:** Fall 2020, Spring 2021)

**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 2020)