GERMAN AND GERMAN STUDIES (BI-CO)

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

The Bi-College Department of German draws upon the expertise of the German faculty at both Bryn Mawr and Haverford Colleges to offer a broadly conceived German Studies program, incorporating a variety of courses and major options. The purpose of the major in German is to lay the foundation for a critical understanding of German culture in its contemporary international context and its larger political, social, and intellectual history. To this end, we encourage a thorough and comparative study of the German language and culture through its linguistic and literary history, institutions, political systems, and arts and sciences.

The German program aims, by means of various methodological approaches to the study of another language, to foster critical thinking, expository writing skills, understanding of the diversity of culture(s), and the ability to respond creatively to the challenges posed by cultural difference in an increasingly global world. Course offerings are intended to serve both students with particular interests in German literature and literary theory and criticism, and those interested in studying German and German-speaking cultures from the perspective of communication arts, film, history, history of ideas, history of art and architecture, history of religion, institutions, linguistics, mass media, philosophy, politics, and urban anthropology and folklore.

Learning Goals
The German program aims, through the study of German language, culture, and literature, to foster:

- critical thinking.
- expository writing skills.
- the mastery of critical theories and methodologies, crucial for the analysis of cultural artifacts.
- the ability to respond intellectually and creatively to the challenges posed by cultural difference in an increasingly multicultural and global world.
- a thorough knowledge of German language.

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 underlie 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
After the completion of the GERM H101-GERM H102 sequence (or its equivalent) the German language and literature concentration normally follows the sequence GERM H201 and/or GERM H202 (or equivalents at Bryn Mawr); GERM B209 or GERM B212, or GERM B213; plus additional courses to complete the 10 units, two of them at the 300 level; and finally one semester of Senior Conference or either an additional 300-level seminar in German or GERM B403 (Supervised Work) for double majors.

A German Studies major normally includes GERM H201 or H202; GERM H223 or GERM B245; one 200- and one 300-level course in German literature; three courses (at least one at the 300 level) in subjects central to aspects of German culture, history, or politics; and one semester of GERM H321 (Advanced Topics in German Cultural Studies). Bryn Mawr equivalents may be substituted. Within each concentration, courses need to be selected so as to achieve a reasonable breadth, but also a degree of disciplinary coherence.

No more than four credits will be awarded for work done beyond the Tri-College Consortium and UPenn, whether abroad or in the U.S.

Senior Project
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 that often becomes the foundation for their senior project. In the spring semester they take the mandatory GERM H399/GERM B399 Senior Conference consisting of weekly meetings and
discussions of thesis proposals and drafts with their advisor(s).

**Senior Project Learning Goals**
In writing the senior thesis, the student should demonstrate
1. the capacity to conceive a theoretically informed and well designed research project
2. the language skills to research and evaluate primary and secondary materials and to effectively synthesize these, and
3. the analytical and methodological skills to produce an innovative and critically astute thesis.

**Senior Project Assessment**
The quality of the thesis is evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:
- Originality of topic.
- Mastery of analysis.
- Familiarity with primary and secondary literature.
- Creative application of relevant theoretical discourses.
- Clarity of writing.

**Requirements for Honors**
Any student whose grade point average in the major at the end of the 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 the student 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 units of work. To earn a minor, students are normally required to take GERM H201 or GERM H202, and five additional units covering a reasonable range of study topics, of which at least one unit is at the 300 level. One upper-level course may be chosen with the approval of the department from the recommended electives for German Studies majors. Bryn Mawr equivalents may be substituted.

No more than four credits will be awarded for work done beyond the Tri-College Consortium and UPenn, whether abroad or in the U.S..

**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.

**Study Abroad**
We encourage students majoring in German to spend time in German-speaking countries in the course of their undergraduate studies. Possibilities include summer work programs, DAAD (German Academic Exchange) scholarships for summer courses at German universities, and selected junior year abroad programs (Berlin, Freiburg, Vienna).

**Faculty**
- **Imke Brust**
  Associate Professor and Chair of German
- **David Kenosian**
  Visiting Assistant Professor of German and German Studies
- **Simone Schlichting-Artur**
  Visiting Associate Professor of German and German Studies
- **Ulrich Schonherr**
  Professor Emeritus of German and German Studies

**Faculty at Bryn Mawr**
- **Michael Burri**
  Lecturer in German
- **Azade Seyhan**
  Katharine E. McBride Professor
- **Qinna Shen**
  Chair and Associate Professor of German
- **Margaret Strair**
  Instructor

**Courses at Haverford**
- **GERM H001 ELEMENTARY GERMAN (1.0 Credit)**
  Simone Schlichting-Artur
  **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.
GERM H002 ELEMENTARY GERMAN: INTENSIVE (1.0 Credit)
Simone Schlichting-Artur
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.

GERM H101 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN (1.0 Credit)
David Kenosian
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.

GERM H102 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN (1.0 Credit)
David Kenosian
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.

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.

GERM H215 SURVEY OF LITERATURE IN GERMAN: INTRODUCTION TO POSTWAR LITERATURE (1.0 Credit)
Simone Schlichting-Artur
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 H223 VISUALIZING NATIONS: AFRICA AND EUROPE (1.0 Credit)
Imke Brust
Division: Humanities
This course will explore ideas of nation-building in regard to the transnational relations between Europe and Africa. We will discuss African and European experiences of nation-creation to distinguish between exclusionary and inclusionary visions of nation states, and focus in particular on literary texts from Great Britain, Germany, and France in
comparison with literary texts from Nigeria, South Africa, and Algeria.

**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)**
*David Kenosian*

**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. *(Offered: Fall 2019)*

**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

The emergence of new acoustic, visual, and electronic media since the late 19th-century has dramatically changed the status of writing, textuality, and literature. Focusing on modernist as well as contemporary texts, films, and radio plays the seminar will reconstruct the changing intermedial relationship between the book and its technologically advanced ‘other’ from the print-based medium to the latest digital ‘Hypertext’ novel. The challenges posed by photography, phonography, radio, film, and electronic media prompted writers to rethink and redefine their declining position vis-à-vis the new technologies which have successfully dethroned the book as the primary storage system of modern society. Excerpts from historical and contemporary theories of media (Benjamin, McLuhan, Baudrillard, watch a variety of different plays from Lessing to Jelinek, and engage with different theatrical genres: classical, epic, documentary, absurd, and feminist theater. In addition, we will discuss the function of the institutionalization of theater within the German national imaginary, with a particular focus on gender and race. This course is taught in German.

**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: Fall 2019)*

**GERM H321 TOPICS GERM LIT: FROM THE GUTENBERG-GALAXY TO CYBERSPACE (1.0 Credit)**
*Ulrich Schonherr*

**Division:** Humanities

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

The emergence of new acoustic, visual, and electronic media since the late 19th-century has dramatically changed the status of writing, textuality, and literature. Focusing on modernist as well as contemporary texts, films, and radio plays the seminar will reconstruct the changing intermedial relationship between the book and its technologically advanced ‘other’ from the print-based medium to the latest digital ‘Hypertext’ novel. The challenges posed by photography, phonography, radio, film, and electronic media prompted writers to rethink and redefine their declining position vis-à-vis the new technologies which have successfully dethroned the book as the primary storage system of modern society. Excerpts from historical and contemporary theories of media (Benjamin, McLuhan, Baudrillard,
Kittler, Adorno, Virillo et.al.) will provide the conceptual framework for the analysis of literary and filmic models. Crosslisted: 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: Fall 2019)

Courses at Bryn Mawr

GERM B001 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, 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 2019)

GERM B002 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, 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 2020)

GERM B101 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN (1.0 Credit)
Margaret Strair
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 B102 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN (1.0 Credit)
Qinna Shen
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

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 B245 INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO GERMAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE (1.0 Credit)**

*Qinna Shen*

**Division:** Humanities

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

*Qinna Shen*

**Division:** Humanities

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

This is a topics course. Course content varies. Taught in German.  
*(Offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2020)*

**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 an additional hour in German for those students taking the course for German credit.

**GERM B399 SENIOR SEMINAR (1.0 Credit)**

*Qinna Shen*

**Division:** Humanities

Senior Seminar. Students are required to write a long research paper with an annotated bibliography.  
*(Offered: Spring 2020)*

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

*Qinna Shen*

**Division:** Humanities

*(Offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2020)*

**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.