**GER 1101: Introductory German I**
Staff, MWF 10:05-10:55 | 11:10-12:00 | 1:10-2:00

This introductory course will provide the fundamental linguistic environment you need to develop German language skills for meaningful communication and to understand the cultural context of the Federal Republic of Germany, Austria, and the German-speaking regions of Switzerland. Here, we will learn about language and culture as sources of cultural difference, and we will examine how the multicultural nature of contemporary Germany has permanently changed the concept of what is German. Within this cultural web, this course will emphasize the traditional four language skills: speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing. No prerequisite (for beginners).

**GER 1102: Introductory German II**
Staff, MWF 10:10-12:00 | 12:00-1:00

This course will provide the linguistic environment you need to further develop your German language skills and to understand the cultural context of the Federal Republic of Germany, Austria, and the German-speaking regions of Switzerland. You will acquire and practice the fundamentals of German for meaningful communication. Here, we will learn about language and culture as sources of cultural difference, and we will examine how the multicultural nature of contemporary Germany has permanently changed the concept of what is German. Within this cultural web, this course will emphasize the traditional four language skills: speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing. Prerequisite GER 1101 or equivalent.

**GER 1111-03: Pioneers of Literary Modernism**
TAB, MWF 10:10-11:00 a.m.

Pioneers of Literary Modernism: Brecht, Kafka, Rilke. Various literary movements arose in German-speaking countries in the early twentieth century, including Symbolism, Expressionism, and Surrealism. While Hermann Hesse and Thomas Mann preferred to write in the traditional style of the nineteenth century, others favored literary experiments that have become influential for later writers: Franz Kafka with his enigmatic tales of modern man's battles against incomprehensible forces, Bertolt Brecht with his epic plays addressing their audiences' political
consciousness, and Rainer Maria Rilke with his symbolist poems reflecting the complexity of existence. Knowledge of German is not required. [3] (HCA)

**GER 2201: Intermediate German I: Mass Media and Power Relations (Massenmedien und Machtverhältnisse)**
Staff, MWF 10:10-11:00 | 12:10-1:00

In this course, we will examine media prevalent in the German-speaking world that will help us to encounter cultural difference, learn to navigate a foreign language, and develop a critical understanding of contemporary society. The role of social media in political revolutions and the foundation of entire corporations based on ad revenue are a few examples of how the control of information impacts every level of organization in society. We will discuss how medial institutions shape and are shaped by the power structures of society and the role of the Internet in structuring people’s attitudes, opinions, values, and beliefs. The course includes a comprehensive review of German grammar, with emphasis on more difficult structures that students may not have mastered at the 101 [1101] and 102 [1102] levels. Prerequisite GER 1102 or equivalent.

**GER 2202: Intermediate German II: Short German Prose after 1945 (Deutsche Kurzprosa nach 1945)**
Staff, MWF 11:10-12:00

This course provides a transition between the introductory language sequence and the upper-level courses by focusing on expanding reading skills and providing an introduction to German literature. Although the genre of Erzählung has long been part of the German-speaking literary tradition, the short story (Kurzgeschichte) is a relatively recent addition that gained popularity after 1945. In readings of short prose texts from the postwar period to the present, we will encounter important German-speaking authors from different time periods and a variety of historical realities, and we will trace the development of thought since World War II. The course will further develop speaking and listening abilities in discussions of issues raised by a text and review structures that proved difficult at the 103-level. Prerequisite GER 2201 or equivalent.

**GER 2320: Conversation and Composition: Current Events**
TBA, MWF 1:10-2:00

This course has two main goals. It introduces students to contemporary German culture, current debates in politics, and social issues through a variety of different media. We will address issues such as migration and Leitkultur, social media and surveillance, gender and environmentalism. To gain familiarity with these topics, we will read across literary and journalistic genres, delve into German film and television, and listen to music. In addition to the thematic emphasis on current topics and debates, the course will also focus on language
production. Conducted in German, the course is designed to aid you in acquiring advanced German language skills in both written and oral communication.

**GER 2341: German Culture and Literature**  
Lydia Tang, MWF 11:10-12:00 pm

In this course students will explore ideas and materials from the earliest records of German culture through Romanticism at the beginning of the 19th century. We will combine close readings of texts with broader discussions of social and political history in overview form. Worksheets due after each reading, midterm, final exam, and final oral presentation. The course will be conducted in German. Prerequisites: GER 2320 or the equivalent (not recommended directly after GER 2202).

**GER 2441: Great German Works in English**  
Lilla Balint, MWF 2:10-3:00

What are “great works?” Why do they endure over centuries? What is their contemporary relevance? These are some of the questions that will inform our readings of German authors from 1750 to the present. We will explore changing notions of the subject and its relations to community; the foundations of modern society; the relationship of culture and history; and shifting ideas of the nation and national identity. Our focus will be on close readings of texts as well as on the historical and social context. Readings will include works by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Heinrich von Kleist, Franz Kafka, Thomas Mann, Christa Wolf, and Herta Müller. Knowledge of German is not required; all texts will be available in English translation.

**GER 4537: Women and Modernity**  
Lilla Balint, MWF 12:00-1:00

What is modernity? Reading seminal works of German literature, philosophy, and intellectual history, we will explore narratives of modernity through the lens of gender. We will focus on texts written both by female and male authors to examine the idea of bourgeois morality; the interrelations between gender and genre; women as objects of study; and women as political subjects. Reading will include works by Friedrich Schiller, Rahel Varnhagen, Theodor Fontane, Rosa Luxemburg, Sigmund Freud, Georg Simmel, Hannah Arendt, Christa Wolf, and Yoko Tawada. Knowledge of German is not required; readings, papers, and discussions in English.
GER 4576: Tales of Travel  
Lutz Koepnick, TR 1:10-2:25

German artists, poets, filmmakers, and intellectuals have always exhibited great curiosity about other cultures. The figure of traveling, of crossing boundaries and exploring distant realities, is both a persistent motif and a creative engine of German aesthetic production. This seminar examines German culture’s preoccupation with traveling and border crossings over the past 250 years. We will study the work of roaming poets and wandering visual artists, of itinerant filmmakers and inquisitive philosophers, in order to get a better grasp of what drives Germans beyond what is familiar, known, and homely. As importantly, and in response to the recent refugee crisis in Europe, we will also discuss various texts and images addressing the role of migrants and asylum seekers in Germany today and the way in which German culture has welcomed those fleeing their respective homelands in search of survival and exile. All readings and discussions in German.

German Courses (graduate)

GER 7101: Foundations I: Transition Points of Modern German Culture  
Lydia Tang, T 3:10-5:30

This course offers an overview of major historical, intellectual, and aesthetic transition points in Germany from 1750 to the present. Students focus on political ideas, aesthetic representations, and social history that shaped and transformed culture. Students will discuss Enlightenment concepts such as “nation,” “reason,” and “tradition” that were part of a program of an “aesthetic education,” for example, the emerging “Nationaltheater” or Friedrich Schiller’s On the Aesthetic Education of Men (1795) that provided the ethical foundation for the rising middle class’s turn to art and literature. The turn from cosmopolitanism to nationalism during the nineteenth century anticipated a “dialectic of Enlightenment” (Horkheimer and Adorno) that put an end to the naïve principle of reason during World War I and II as well as the Holocaust. Students familiarize themselves with the repercussions of the Enlightenment tradition, its societal impact (political shifts of power), its material manifestation (technological progress and the invention of new media), and its continuation to the present (multiculturalism and inclusion and its challenges during the European migration crisis). This is one of three mandatory foundation courses for Ph.D. candidates in the German Ph.D. program and a prerequisite for taking the Preliminary Exam.

GER 8205: Media and the Senses  
Lutz Koepnick, W 7:00-10:00
This seminar provides a rigorous introduction to modern media theory. Special attention is given to the way in which contemporary media address and reshape the human sensorium. Students will engage with different theories of vision, hearing, touch, smell, taste, and locomotion and with how media technologies such as phonography, photography, cinema, and digital imaging have captured and reworked human sensory perception. Additional attention will be paid to the question of how the human body and brain have been theorized and mapped as media, as the primary medium of sensation. Readings will include the work of canonical media theorists such as Arnheim, Benjamin, Crary, Helmholtz, Manovich, McLuhan, and Panofsky as well as more recent writing from fields and disciplines as diverse as the neurosciences, medical imaging, gaming theory, cultural anthropology, and musicology. Various campus experts from different disciplines will offer their perspectives throughout the semester and engage participants in interdisciplinary discussions of how media and human body interact with each other.

**GER 8207: Nature: History of an Illusion**  
Christoph Zeller, T 3:10-5:30

Nature is a notion of political dimension. Its antagonism to culture was the ideological foundation of the rising middle class in eighteenth century Germany. Nature meant genuineness, purity, and truth during the era of Enlightenment. Used as a polemic catchword, nature signaled the opposite of an aristocratic way of life that was seen as false, sick, and depraved. However, the increasing commodification of natural resources and the predominance of consumerism today unveil nature as a simulacrum. The illusion of nature calls upon our longing for a holistic, balanced, and ethically justified life in sync with our environment, although little doubt remains about its utopian character. In this course, we will attempt to clarify the meaning and function of the precarious notion of nature as a foundation of eco-critical debates. Alongside philosophical texts we will read poems, essays, and prose by Theokritos, Vergil, Gessner, Klopstock, Goethe, Schiller, Novalis, Kleist, Stifter, Ransmayr, Jelinek, Kehlmann, and Sebald.

**Courses in Other Departments of Interest to Students of German**

**HIST 2300: Twentieth-Century Germany** (Identical to HIST 5300 for Graduate Students)  
Blackbourn, TR 11:00-12:15

The turbulent history of Germany, as it went from authoritarian state to volatile democracy, to National Socialist dictatorship, to divided country, and to reunification. Special emphasis placed on the Nazi dictatorship, its origins and legacy.
JS 2340: Jewish Philosophy after Auschwitz
Dobbs-Weinstein, MWF 2:10-3:00

Critical responses to social and political institutions and the corresponding modes of thought that made Auschwitz possible and continue to sustain the barbarism that many leading philosophers have identified at the heart of culture.

JS 3100: The Holocaust
Smith, TR 2:35-3:50

The history of the Holocaust: its origins, development, and its legacy in the context of Germany and European history.

PHIL 3103: Immanuel Kant
Wuerth, MWF 12:10-1:00

Kant's revolutionary critique of the foundations of human knowledge, moral obligation, and religious faith, with readings from his three Critiques and lesser works.

Russian Courses

RUSS 1101: First-Year Russian I
Strudler; Johnson, MTWRF 11:10-12:00

This is the first part of a two-semester sequence designed to teach beginning students the language and cultural skills necessary for everyday situations in Russian-speaking society. The course will focus on the basics of grammar, elementary conversation and reading. The textbook Golosa I will be augmented by music, movies, and internet materials.

RUSS 1111: First-Year Writing Seminar: Classic Short Works of Russian Literature
TBA, MWF 4:10-5:00

This course will explore the “eternal themes” of Russian literature—such as life, death, love, madness and morality—through exemplary short texts. Among the authors we will read are Chekhov, the unparalleled master of the short form; Tolstoy, whose Death of Ivan Ilyich equals the achievements of his greatest novels; and Dostoevsky, whose Notes from the Underground would become one of the founding texts of nineteenth- and twentieth-century existentialism. Beginning with the seminal writers Pushkin, Gogol and Lermontov, we will
explore a tradition that has had a remarkable and lasting effect on short fiction across the world. Knowledge of Russian is not required.

**RUSS 2201: Second-Year Russian I**
TBA; Johnson, MTWR 12:10-1:00

This is the first part of a two-semester sequence designed to teach intermediate students the language and cultural skills necessary for everyday situations in Russian-speaking society. The course will focus on further development of grammar, conversation and reading. The textbook *Golosa 2* will be augmented by music, movies, and internet materials. Prerequisite: 1102 or equivalent.

**RUSS 1910W: 19th Century Russian Literature**
TBA, MWF 2:10-3:00

In this course, we will analyze classic works of Russian literature of the nineteenth century by writers such as Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Turgenev, and Chekhov. We will look at these texts in the context of the conflict between Russia’s traditional lifestyle and the emphasis on rationalism brought about by industrialization and modernity, as well as the attendant rise of radical thought. The advent of the modern era affected all aspects of Russian life, such as gender relations and the “woman question,” the role of religion, the social status of art, and the rise of radical political movements. Literature became a battlefield where such ideas and “accursed questions” in vogue at the time were explained, discussed, and evaluated. This seminar will focus on political and philosophical ideas, as well as on the ways Russian authors embedded discussions of the “accursed questions” in the fictional fabric of their works.

**RUSS 2745: Art After Zero: The Russian Avant-Garde**
Strudler, TR 4:00-5:15

From the 1910s through the 1930s, Russian poets, prose writers, artists, architects, directors and composers sought to create art and political culture *ex nihilo* (“out of nothing”), thwarting the influence of traditional aesthetics. In this course, we will examine some of the most exciting products of the period referred to as the “Russian Avant-Garde,” discussing masterpieces such as the abstract painting of Kandinsky and Malevich, the poetry of Pasternak, the theatrical productions of Stanislavsky and Meyerhold, the music of Stravinsky, Prokofiev and Shostakovich, and the films of Eisenstein and Vertov. Knowledge of Russian is not required.

**RUSS 3301: Advanced Conversation and Composition**
Johnson, TR 1:10-2:25; W 10:10-11

This is part of a four-semester sequence designed to teach advanced students the language and cultural skills necessary for everyday situations in Russian-speaking society. The course will focus specifically on developing the skills of conversation and composition. Prerequisite: 2202 or equivalent.