

# German

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## College of Arts & Sciences

The general goal of graduate work in German is to provide students with a critical understanding of German culture, its language and literature and its relationship to western civilization as a whole. Specific courses are designed to acquaint students with the aims and methods of research in the fields of language pedagogy, literary and cultural history, literary theory, and historical linguistics. Students working as teaching assistants under faculty supervision have ample opportunity to develop effective teaching skills in a controlled setting.

The Department of Modern and Classical Languages, Literatures and Cultures offers a graduate program leading to the M.A. (Plan A or B) degree in German. Competence in another foreign language, normally French, in addition to German is required for graduate degrees.

### Admission Requirements

Admission requirements include an acceptable undergraduate major in German, a satisfactory score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), and three letters of recommendation. Applicants lacking more comprehensive knowledge of German language and literature may be admitted with the understanding that their program must include some advanced undergraduate work in addition to those courses normally required for the M.A.

Individual programs of study are planned with consideration of the student's competencies and interests. The Department endeavors to be flexible and to accommodate career goals in teaching, government service, or research. Areas of specialization of the graduate faculty of the department afford flexible coverage in breadth and depth, with particular strength in early modern studies, the Age of Goethe, Wilhelmine and Weimar culture, contemporary literature and culture, literary theory, intellectual history, gender studies, and foreign language pedagogy. The Department serves as the editorial center for the international journal, *Colloquia Germanica*. The University Library has substantial holdings in all areas of German language, linguistics and literature and in supporting fields.

### Course Descriptions

#### GER 507 ADVANCED GERMAN COMPOSITION AND CONVERSATION. (3)

Further development of conversational skill and practice in writing stylistically appropriate German. Study of finer points of grammar. Discussion of special topics and theme writing. Prereq: GER 308 or equivalent.

#### GER 515 STUDIES IN MAJOR AUTHORS. (3)

Explorations into one or several major figures of German literature. Reading of primary texts and pertinent scholarship together with an investigation of the authors' literary, social, or political significance during contemporary or later periods. May be repeated to a maximum of 12 credits. Prereq: GER 311 or GER 312, or equivalent. Instructor consent.

#### GER 516 STUDIES IN GENRE. (3)

One major genre or a group of related genres. Readings in genre theory and in the key texts from various periods; study of the development of forms, techniques, and ideas. May be repeated to a maximum of 12 credits. Prereq: GER 311 or GER 312, or equivalent. Instructor consent.

#### GER 520 SPECIAL TOPICS SEMINAR. (3)

Investigation of a topic pertinent to the advanced study of German language, literature and culture. May be

repeated once with new topic. Prereq: GER 415G, 416G, 420G or equivalent.

**GER 550 MULTIDISCIPLINARY GERMAN STUDIES SEMINAR (Subtitle required). (3)**

A team-taught, multidisciplinary exploration of a set of issues that effect cultural, literary, geographical, historical, political, philosophical or social developments in Germany in relation to surrounding geographical areas. The seminar will foster multidisciplinary perspectives in the study of Germany, its inhabitants, and cultural traditions, in historical, contemporary, and comparative contexts. Seminar readings in German, discussion in English. Seminar foci will vary year to year, including such topics as “Individual and Collective Identity Formations in post-Enlightenment Germany,” “Constructions of German Heimat,” and “Freud, Culture, Society.” May be repeated to a maximum of six credits under different subtitles. Prereq: Senior standing or consent of instructor.

**GER 553 THE TEACHING OF GERMAN. (3)**

The course is designed for teachers and prospective teachers of modern foreign languages, with emphasis on German. Modern methodology, theory and practice of language pedagogy. Prereq: Permission of instructor required.

**GER 612 STUDIES IN LITERARY THEORY. (3)**

Course will explore such fundamental issues as the definition of literature, interpretation and evaluation, the reading process, and literary life from the perspective of competing theoretical systems.

**GER 615 STUDIES IN MAJOR AUTHORS. (3)**

Explorations into one or several major figures of German literature. Reading of primary texts and pertinent scholarship together with an investigation of the authors’ literary, social, or political significance during contemporary or later periods. May be repeated to a maximum of 12 credits.

**GER 616 STUDIES IN GENRE. (3)**

One major genre or a group of related genres. Readings in genre theory and in the key texts from various periods; study of the development of forms, techniques, and ideas. May be repeated to a maximum of nine credits.

Note: The series of courses GER 620-630 provides a general framework for the systematic study of German literature in its cultural setting and delimits various issues to be investigated further in corresponding 700-level courses. Readings and discussions focus on documents central to the literary life of a given period and to the understanding of its institutional and biographical basis as well as its regional, sociopolitical, motivational, poetological, and ideological diversity. Each course also emphasizes critical methodology and tools of scholarship and identifies new directions for basic research.

**GER 625 STUDIES IN THE 18TH CENTURY. (3)**

Enlightenment to Classicism.

**GER 629 STUDIES IN THE 19TH CENTURY. (3)**

Romanticism to Naturalism.

**GER 630 STUDIES IN THE 20TH CENTURY. (3)**

Turn-of-the-century Modernism to the present.

**GER 650 MULTIDISCIPLINARY GERMAN STUDIES SEMINAR (Subtitle required). (3)**

A team-taught, multidisciplinary exploration of a set of issues that effect cultural, literary, geographical, historical, political, philosophical or social developments in Germany in relation to surrounding

geographical areas. The seminar will foster multidisciplinary perspectives in the study of Germany, its inhabitants, and cultural traditions, in historical, contemporary, and comparative contexts. Seminar readings in German, discussion in English. Seminar foci will vary year to year, including such topics as “Individual and Collective Identity Formations in post-Enlightenment Germany,” “Constructions of German Heimat,” and “Freud, Culture, Society.” May be repeated to a maximum of six credits.

#### GER 653 RESEARCH AND ISSUES IN TEACHING GERMAN. (1)

This course builds on GER 553, Methods of Teaching German. The course will address a range of educational issues beyond the teaching of foreign language skills as well as acquaint students with research methods in both a theoretical and practical manner. May be repeated to a maximum of four semesters. Coreq: GER 553.

Note: The course series 720-730 offers the opportunity for the more specialized and greater in-depth investigation of various topics encountered in the corresponding, but more broadly conceived, period courses of the 620-630 series. With changes in topic, each course number of the 720-730 series can be repeated a total of three times - thus enabling the student at the more advanced level to specialize within a particular period or periods.

#### GER 721 SPECIAL TOPICS IN GERMAN LITERARY AND CULTURAL HISTORY. (3)

This course allows for the in-depth study of specific topics in German literary and cultural history encountered in the broadly conceived period courses of the 620-630 series. With changes in topic the course may be repeated to a maximum of nine credits. Prereq: Permission of Director of Graduate Studies.

#### GER 748 MASTER'S THESIS RESEARCH. (0)

Half-time to full-time work on thesis. May be repeated to a maximum of six semesters. Prereq: All course work toward the degree must be completed.

#### GER 768 RESIDENCE CREDIT FOR THE MASTER'S DEGREE. (1-6)

May be repeated to a maximum of 12 hours.

#### GER 781 INDEPENDENT STUDIES IN GERMAN. (1-3)

Course allows individual students to pursue independent research on a selected aspect of German linguistic, literary or cultural history. May be repeated once if topic changes. Prereq: Permission of Director of Graduate Studies.

#### SCANDINAVIAN

(Offered as required)

#### GER 610 OLD ICELANDIC. (3)

Rapid coverage of morphology, phonology and syntax of Old Icelandic, with some attention to linguistic affinities within the Indo-European and Germanic groups of languages. Prereq: Reading knowledge of German; consent of instructor.