GERMAN (Div. I)

Chair, Professor JULIE CASSIDAY

Professors: DRUXES, B. KIEFFER, NEWMAN. Lecturer: E. KIEFFER §. Teaching Associates: ARMANN, KOEGELER.

LANGUAGE STUDY
The department provides language instruction to enable the student to acquire all four linguistic skills: understanding, speaking, reading, and writing. German 101-102 stresses communicative competence and covers German grammar in full. German 103 combines a review of grammar with extensive practice in reading and conversation. German 104 aims to develop facility in speaking, writing, and reading. German 111-112 offers an alternative introduction to German with a focus on reading competence. German 201 emphasizes accuracy and idiomatic expression in speaking and writing. German 202 combines advanced language study with the examination of topics in German-speaking cultures. Students who have studied German in secondary school should take the placement test given during First Days in September to determine which course to take.

STUDY ABROAD
The department strongly encourages students who wish to attain fluency in German to spend a semester or year studying in Germany or Austria, either independently or in conjunction with one of several approved foreign study programs. German 104 or the equivalent is the minimum requirement for junior-year abroad programs sponsored by American institutions. Students who wish to enroll directly in a German-speaking university should complete at least 201 or the equivalent. In any case, all students considering study-abroad should discuss their language preparation with a member of the department.

LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION
The department regularly offers courses on German literature in translation for students who have little or no knowledge of German, but who wish to become acquainted with the major achievements in German literary and intellectual history.

ADVANCED STUDIES
The department offers a variety of advanced courses for students who wish to investigate German literature, thought, and culture in the original. German 202 is given each year and is recommended as preparation for upper-level courses.

THE CERTIFICATE IN GERMAN
To enhance a student’s educational and professional profiles, the department offers the Certificate in German. It requires seven courses—three fewer than the major—and is especially appropriate for students who begin study of the language at Williams.

Students who enter with previous training in German may substitute more advanced courses for the 100-level courses; they can also be exempted from up to two of the required courses.

The student must achieve proficiency at the level of a B in German 104 or the equivalent.

Appropriate elective courses can usually be found among the offerings of German, Art History, History, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, and Theatre.

Required Courses
- German 101
- German 102
- German 103
- German 104
- German 201

Electives
- at least one course (in German or English) on German cultural history (literature, art, drama, music)
- at least one course (in German or English) on German intellectual, political, or social history

THE MAJOR
The German major offers students an interdisciplinary approach to German intellectual and cultural history by combining courses in German language and literature with courses in History, Philosophy, Music, and other appropriate fields.

Students who start German at Williams, the major requires a minimum of ten courses: German 101-102, 103, 104, 201 and 202; two 300-level German courses; and two electives from other German courses numbered above 202 or appropriate offerings in other departments.

For students who have acquired intermediate or greater proficiency in the language before coming to Williams, the minimum requirement is nine courses: German 202; two 300-level German courses; and six other courses selected from German courses numbered above 102 and appropriate offerings in other departments.

Examples of appropriate courses in other departments are:
- ArtH 267 Art in Germany: 1900 to the Present
- History 239 Modern German History
- History 338 The History of the Holocaust
- Music 108 The Symphony
- Music 117 Mozart
- Music 118 Bach
- Music 120 Beethoven
- Philosophy 309 Kant

Students may receive major credit for as many as four courses taken during study abroad in Germany or Austria in the junior year.

THE DEGREE WITH HONORS IN GERMAN
Students earn honors by completing a senior thesis (German 493-W31-494) of honors quality.

Students interested in honors should consult with the department chair no later than April 15 of their junior year. The usual qualifications for pursuing honors are: (1) an overall GPA of 3.33 or better, (2) a departmental GPA of 3.67 or better, (3) a strong interest in a specific topic for which an appropriate faculty advisor will be available in the senior year.

GERM 101(F)-WSS-102(S) Elementary German
German 101-102 is for students with no previous study of German whose ultimate aim is to gain comprehensive fluency in the language. The course employs a communicative approach involving all four language skills: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. We focus initially on practice in understanding the spoken language and then move rapidly to basic forms of dialogue and self-expression. In the second semester, reading and especially writing come increasingly into play. The course meets five days a week. Credit granted only on successful completion of 102. Students are required to attend and pass the sustaining program in Winter Study Period.

Format: lecture and discussion. Principal requirements: active class participation, written homework, short compositions, oral exercises and tests.


Hour: 10:00-10:50 MTWRF
First Semester: DRUXES
Second Semester: NEWMAN

GERM 103(F) Intermediate German I
This course will combine a thorough grammar review with plenty of reading, writing, and speaking practice. The first two-thirds of the course will focus on discussion of materials provided by the instructor; the last third of the course will be driven by creative student projects. Conducted in German.

Format: 4-skills language course. Requirements: extremely active class participation, midterm, several short grammar exercises and papers, and a written/oral final project.

Prerequisites: German 102 or the equivalent. Enrollment limit: 18 (expected: 12).

Hour: 10:00-10:50 MWF
NEWMAN

GERM 104(S) Intermediate German II
The prerequisite to all advanced courses in German. Practice in speaking and writing; reading in a variety of contemporary texts ranging from interviews to social documentary to short stories. Weekly film clips from a popular German TV series. Conducted in German.

Format: discussion, small group work. Requirements: daily short writing assignments, small group work, midterm, and final.

Prerequisites: German 103 or equivalent preparation. Enrollment limit: 20 (expected: 15).

Hour: 9:00-9:50 MWF
DRUXES
GERM 111(F)-112(S) Reading German for Beginners

German 111-112 is for students whose principal reason for acquiring German is to work with written materials. It is particularly appropriate for students majoring in fields in which the ability to read primary and secondary texts in German can be crucial, such as Art History, Classics, Comparative Literature, History, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, and Theatre. In the first semester students learn the elements of grammar and acquire a core vocabulary. In the second semester, while covering advanced grammatical topics, they practice reading in a variety of textual genres in the humanities and social sciences. They also learn how to work with secondary sources, such as encyclopedias, dictionaries, and other reference works, and to write short research papers. By the end of the course they will have a solid foundation for building proficiency in German, whether through self-study or further course work. Credit granted only on successful completion of 112.

Format: lecture and discussion. Requirement: written homework, quizzes, tests, active class participation.
No prerequisites. Enrollment limit: 20 (expected: 15). Preference given to art-history graduate students, seniors and juniors. Students who plan to take 101 and/or 112 must have a basic knowledge of German. Students who wish to continue their study of German after 112 should consult a member of the department.

Hour: 11:00-11:50 MWF

B. KIEFFER

GERM 201(F) Advanced German

This course expands on the reading, writing, and speaking skills acquired at the intermediate level, via extensive and intensive work with texts of various sorts, including web sites, newspapers, fiction, audio and video material. Conducted in German; Readings in German.

Format: lecture/discussion. Requirements: active class participation, frequent short writing assignments, oral presentations, final project.
Prerequisites: German 104 or the equivalent. No enrollment limit (expected: 12). Preference will be given to German majors.

Hour: 9:00-9:50 MW

B. KIEFFER

GERM 202(S) Vienna 1900-2000 and Beyond

Once the center of a vast empire, Austria has tended to be overlooked since the demise of that empire. In fact, though, its trajectory can usefully serve as a guide to the complex developments in Europe before, during, and after the Second World War; Contemporary Austria is indeed a laboratory of post-Cold War Europe: Its post-socialist politics, its ethnic, religious, and linguistic diversity, its cultural ferment, its conflict and accommodation, yet increasing social cohesiveness and cultural cosmopolitanism; its political attitudes encompass extreme nationalism, pan-Europeanism, and much in between. Austria’s capital, Vienna, will form the lens through which we examine the origins and quants of this fascinating, sometimes paradoxical, culture. The course will employ a variety of written, video, audio, and cyber-materials to explore some of the issues facing contemporary Austria, and to continue the development of advanced reading, writing, and speaking skills begun in German 201. Conducted in German.

Format: discussion/lecture. Requirements: active class participation, several 1- to 2-page writing assignments, final written/oral project.
Prerequisite: German 201 or the equivalent. Enrollment Limit: 16 (expected: 8). Preference given to German majors.

Hour: 1:10-2:25 MW

NEWMAN

GERM 202 T Berlin—Multicultural Metropolis Between East and West (Not offered 2009-2010)

We will examine texts and films about Berlin, a center of cultural and social transformations in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with special emphasis on the post-wall period. We will move from the turn of the century (when the city’s population had recently tripled in size) to the establishment of Berlin as a world capital in the 1920s, then through Nazi-era transformations, wartime destruction and the cold war division of the city. We will conclude with the reshaping of the city after the fall of the Berlin wall. Texts and films may include: Walter Benjamin, Berliner Kindheit um 1900, excerpts from Ulrich von der Heyden and Joachim Zell, Berliner Volksbücherei, Walter Ruttmann, Sinfonie einer Großstadt, Ecke Schönhauser, Good-bye, Lenin, Herr Lehmann, Geschwister, Kurz und schmerzlos, Gegen die Wand, Jeder schweigt von etwas anderem, Das Leben der Anderen, and Prison zuu. Some readings and films will be in English.

Enrollment limit: 10 (expected: 5). Preference given to German majors and by seniority.

B. KIEFFER

DRÜXES

GERM 210 From Voltaire to Nietzsche (Same as Comparative Literature 211) (Not offered 2009-2010)

The 130 years from Voltaire’s Candide to Nietzsche’s Anti-Christ were a period of astounding literary and philosophical development in Europe, with French and German writers not only playing leading roles but also intensely influencing one another. The course will examine French-German intellectual achievements and relations against the backdrop of the political and social metamorphoses of France and Germany from the reign of Louis XV to Bismarck’s creation of the Second Reich. Readings will be drawn from the works of Voltaire, Lessing, Rousseau, Kant, Goethe, Schiller, Schopenhauer, Condorcet, Schelling, Heine, Stirner, Bismarck, Lasalle, Nietzsche, Fontane, Hauptmann, and Schnitzler.

Enrollment limit: 25 (expected: 15-20). Preference given to German majors and by seniority.

B. KIEFFER

GERM 210 T German Studies, 1830-1900 (Same as Comparative Literature 304T) (W)

A survey of German intellectual life from the end of the Goethe era to the turn of the century, in the context of the political movements that culminated in the unification of Germany as the most powerful nation on the European continent. We will concentrate on the tension between continuing concerns for individual transcendence and new aspirations for social transformation. Readings of literary, theoretical, and polemical texts by Büchner, Marx, B. von Arnim, Lessing, Heine, Stirner, Bismarck, Lasalle, Nietzsche, Fontane, Hauptmann, and Schnitzler. All readings in German translation, but students with competence in French and/or German will have the opportunity to read some works in the original.

Format: lecture/discussion. Requirements: active class participation, two take-home essay exams. No enrollment limit (expected: 12). Preference given to German majors or the equivalent.

B. KIEFFER

GERM 210 T German Studies, 1900-1938 (Not offered 2009-2010) (W)

This survey of German intellectual life from the end of the Goethe era to the turn of the century, in the context of the political movements that culminated in the unification of Germany as the most powerful nation on the European continent. We will concentrate on the tension between continuing concerns for individual transcendence and new aspirations for social transformation. Readings of literary, theoretical, and polemical texts by Büchner, Marx, B. von Arnim, Wagner, Heine, Stirner, Bismarck, Lasalle, Nietzsche, Fontane, Hauptmann, and Schnitzler. All readings in German for those who take the course as GERM 301T, all readings in English for those who take it as COMP 302T.

Format: tutorial. Requirements: five or six 4-page presentations, five or six 2-page responses.
Prerequisite for GERM 302T: German 202 or the equivalent. Prerequisite for COMP 302T: at least one college-level course in literature or philosophy. Enrollment limit: 10 (expected: 10). Preference to students majoring in German, Comparative Literature, and Literary Studies. Tutorial meetings to be arranged.

B. KIEFFER

GERM 303 T German Studies, 1900-1938 (Not offered 2009-2010) (W)

This tutorial surveys the major social and literary movements of Germany from the turn of the century to the rise of the Nazis. We will study various phenomena associated with modernism: urban institutions like the department store and the cinema (Hessel, Benjamin), expressionist poetry (Traki, Lasker-Schüler), generational conflict via Kafka’s alienated sons, Jews in Germany (Klempner), the patriotic fervor of World War One and its aftermath (Toller, Jünger), Dadaism (Schröder), the Weimar Republic, and the rise of fascism (Stachura and others). We will also examine the big crash (Fallada), Nazi ideology, and propaganda tactics (Riefenstahl, Speer). Wherever possible, we will read journalism, diary entries, or letters that give us insight into daily life during this highly fractured period of tumultuous political and social changes. Readings in German or English.

Format: tutorial. Requirements: weekly 1-hour meetings, alternating 4-page tutorial papers, and 2-page responses.
Prerequisites: students taking the course in German, GERM 201 or German 202; for students taking the course in English, previous course in German or Comparative Literature. Enrollment limit: 10 (expected: 8).

DRÜXES

GERM 305(F) From the “Wende” til Today in Literature, Film, and Politics (Same as Comparative Literature 307 and Women’s and Gender Studies 305) (W)

The year 2009 marks the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. This course will investigate recent trends and developments in Germany. Even though they are now one political entity, East and West are still divided by economy, lived experience, and mentality. We will focus on recent memoirs and films that look back at growing up in the different cultures, or, in the art of Turkish-Germans, living with the contradictions of East and West. Women’s and youth issues, immigrant concerns and contemporary social issues will be foregrounded. Films and documentaries will include Berlin is in Germany, Die Unberührbare, Good-bye, Lenin, Herr Lehmann, Geschwister, Kurz und schmerzlos, Gegen die Wund. Jeder scheut von etwas anderem, Das Leben der Anderen, and Phineas and Ferb. Authors will include Julia Schoch, André Kubitzek, Claudia Rusch, Jana Hessell, Barbara Honigmann, Julia Franck, Yade Kara, Sven Regener,
and Ingo Schulze. For those taking the course in German, all readings will be in German; for those taking the course in English, all readings will be in English translation.

Format: tutorial; weekly one-hour meetings. Requirements: five alternating 4-page tutorial papers and 2-page responses. Prerequisites: For those taking the course in German, German 201 or German 202; for those taking the course in English, one previous course in English or Comparative Literature. Enrollment limit 10 (expected: 8). Preference given to students majoring in German, Comparative Literature, and Literary Studies.

Tutorial meetings to be arranged.

GERM 493(F)-W31-494(S) Senior Thesis

GERM 497(F), 498(S) Independent Study

GERM 511(F)-512(S) Reading German for Beginners
German 511-512 is for students whose principal reason for acquiring German is to work with written materials. It is particularly appropriate for students majoring in fields in which the ability to read primary and secondary texts in German can be crucial, such as Art History, Comparative Literature, History, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, and Theatre. In the first semester students learn the elements of grammar and acquire a core vocabulary. In the second semester, while covering advanced grammatical topics, they practice reading in a variety of textual genres in the humanities and social sciences. They also learn how to work with dictionaries, encyclopedias, and other reference works, in both printed and online forms. By the end of the course they will have a solid foundation for building proficiency in German, whether through self-study or further course work. Credit granted only on successful completion of 512.


Hour: 11:00-11:50 MWF B. KIEFFER

GERM 513(F) Readings in German Art History and Criticism
This is an advanced course in German reading, focused on the literature of Art History. Texts are selected from fundamental works of art history and criticism and from writings related to concurrent seminars in the Graduate Program in the History of Art. The course includes a grammar review.

Prerequisites: German 511-512 or equivalent preparation (a score of 500 or higher on the SAT II German Reading Test). Enrollment limited to Graduate Program students; others by permission of the instructor. Enrollment limit: 20 (expected: 12).

Hour: 9:00-9:50 MWF E. KIEFFER