ERMAN (Div. I)

Chair, Professor JANNEKE VAN DE STADT

Professors: DRUXES, B. KIEFFER*, NEWMAN. Visiting Assistant Professor: KONÉ. Lecturer: E. KIEFFER$. Teaching Associates: KLANANT, THOM.

LANGUAGE STUDY

The department provides language instruction to enable the student to acquire all four linguistic skills: understanding, speaking, reading, and writing. German 101-W-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 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 Williams 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 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

GERM 101
GERM 102
GERM 103
GERM 104
GERM 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.

For 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 either 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
10:00-10:50 MTWRF Second Semester: NEWMAN

GERM 103(F) Intermediate German I

This course will provide a thorough grammar review at the intermediate level with plenty of reading, writing, and speaking practice and creative projects. Using materials provided by the instructor, students will watch and discuss contemporary German feature films and develop a deeper understanding of the German language and culture. Conducted in German.

Format: 4-skills language course. Requirements: extremely active class participation, midterm, homework assignments, short quizzes, compositions, and a written and oral final project.

Prerequisites: GERM 102 or the equivalent. Enrollment limit: 18 (expected: 15).

Hour: 12:00-12:50 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: GERM 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 Economics. First semester students learn vocabulary, 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 112.
Format: Intensive discussion. Prerequisites: 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 have taken or plan to take 101 and/or 102 may not take 111-112. Students who wish to continue their study of German after 111-112 should consult a departmental advisor.
Hour: 9:00-9:50 MWF  First Semester: KONÉ  Second Semester: KONÉ

GERM 201(F) Advanced German: Current Issues in the German Media Landscape
This course expands on the reading, writing, and speaking skills acquired at the intermediate level, via intensive work with texts of various sorts, including online newspapers, short fiction, articles from longer texts, audio and current feature documentaries. Format: seminar. Requirements: active class participation, frequent short writing assignments, 2 informal oral presentations, and a final project.
Prerequisites: GER 104 or the equivalent. Enrollment limit: 20 (expected: 12). Preference will be given to German majors.
Hour: 11:00-11:50 MWF  DRUXES

GERM 202(S) Schén Se, det is Berlin
In the history of Germany Berlin has been a very important cultural and political center: it was successively the capital of the Kingdom of Prussia, the German Empire, the Weimar Republic, the Third Reich, and the German Democratic Republic, before becoming the capital of a reunited Federal Republic of Germany in 1990. In order to understand the fascination held by this metropolis before and after WWII and its increasing popularity today, it is crucial to gain an insight into the cultural and historical aspects of the city, and the way it has changed in the last two decades. In order to do so, we will read texts by Erich Kästner, Kurt Tucholsky, Thomas Brussig, and Wladimir Kaminski. We will also examine, in paintings by Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Otto Dix and photographs by August Sander, watch movies by Fritz lang, Wolfgang Staudte, Hannes Stöhr, and Detlev Buck, and listen to cabaret songs by Marlene Dietrich and electronic music by Ellen Alien. Conducted in German.
Format: seminar. Requirements: midterm, final exam, several short papers.
Prerequisites: GER 201 or the equivalent. Enrollment limit: 12 (expected: 10). Preference given to German majors.
Hour: 9:55-11:10 TR  KONÉ

GERM 202 Vienna 1900-2000 and Beyond (Same as INST 202) (Not offered 2013-2014)
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 useful 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 population is remarkably multicultural, its language is German, its politics resemble the complex relationship to the north; 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 quirks 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/course. Requirements: active class participation, several 1- to 2-page writing assignments, final written/oral project.
Prerequisite: GER 201 or the equivalent. Enrollment limit: 16 (expected: 8). Preference given to German majors.

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

NEWMAN

GERM 202 Berlin—Multicultural Metropolis Between East and West (Not offered 2013-2014)
We will examine texts and films about Berlin as a center of cultural and social transformations in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with special emphasis on the post-wall period. We will tread from the turn of the century, when the 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: Berliner, Walter Benjamín, Berliner Kindheit um 1900, excerpts from Ulrich van der Heyden and Joachim Zeller's Kolonialmetropole Berlin, Walter Rüttmann, Sinfonie einer Großstadt, Irrgarten Keun's Das kunstseidene Mädchen, Nazi architects Albert Speer's plans for Berlin as the fascist capital "Germania," the 1956 East German youth protest film Einzelne (Sonnenallee), and West Germany's Goodbye, Lenin! Conducted in German.
Prerequisite: GER 201 or equivalent. Enrollment limit: 20 (expected: 15). Preference given to German majors.

DRUXES

GERM 277 Dangerous Minds/Endangered Minds in the German Tradition (Same as COMP 277) (Not offered 2013-2014)
“When we are missing ourselves, we are missing everything.” So spoke young Werther in Johann Wolfgang Goethe’s groundbreaking novel from 1774. The Sorrows of Young Werther exploded into high Enlightenment Germany, with its emphasis on rationality, on universal human values and on optimism about the future, a bestseller that instead like forbidden love, suicide, crime, war and revolution and with formal tendencies like poetic egotism, social realism, and radical expressionism. We’ll read plays, poems, novels, short stories, films, and visual art to examine the cultural and psychological effects of these ideas on the individuals who create them. 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/course. Requirements: active class participation, several 1- to 2-page writing assignments, final written/oral project.
Prerequisite: GER 201 or equivalent. Enrollment limit: 20 (expected: 15). Preference given to German majors.

NEWMAN

GERM 306T Enlightenment and its Discontents (Same as COMP 314T) (Not offered 2013-2014) (W)
“Sapere aude,” declared Immanuel Kant in his essay “What is Enlightenment?” (1784): “Have the courage to make use of your own capacity to reason.” Kant’s exhortation sums up the mood of the late Enlightenment, a trend in Western thought that gave rise to the intellectual ideals that we still hold dear: the primacy and universality of reason, the autonomy of the individual, the educative and restorative powers of the nuclear family. Today we are confronted daily with the tensions and gaps hidden inside Enlightenment thinking: in fact, the fissures in the edifice of the Enlightenment were subtly present from the beginning. This course will trace the development of Enlightenment assumptions through German literature. We will survey several strands of the development of Enlightenment thinking, from its most fervent proponents (Kant, Lessing), through those who put it to a severe test (Kleist, Hoffmann, Büchner) to the outright repudiation of its premises (Nietzsche, Freud, Kafka). Readings and discussion in German for those who know German, in English for those who do not.
Format: tutorial. Requirements: 5-page papers or 2-page written commentaries every other week.
Prerequisites: GER 111-112 or the equivalent; for German majors, one common literature course; not open to first-year students, except with permission of the instructor Enrollment limit: 10 (expected: 10). Preference given to German and Comparative Literature majors.
May not be taken on a pass/fail basis.

NEWMAN

GERM 310T Storm and Stress and More (Same as COMP 310T) (Not offered 2013-2014) (W)
The first half of the course will focus on the Sturm-und-Drang movement (1770-1785) that launched the literary careers of Goethe and Schiller; the second half will map the lasting influence of the movement’s extremist aesthetic by considering a variety of works by authors, artists and filmmakers of the 19th and 20th centuries. We’ll deal with themes like forbidden love, suicide, crime, war and revolution and with formal tendencies like poetic egotism, social realism, and radical expressionism. We’ll read plays, poems, manifestos and stories by Goethe, Klinger and Schiller, and then move on to texts by Büchner, Nietzsche, Hauptmann, Wedekind, Kafka and Benn, paintings by Marc, Schmidt-Rottluff, Kirchner, and films by Murnau, Lang and Herzog. All materials in German for those who take the course as GERM 310T; all materials in English for those who take it as COMP 310T.
Format: tutorial. Requirements: 5-page papers in 2-page written commentaries every other week.
Prerequisites: for German majors, GERM 306T, GERM 202 or the equivalent; for COMP 310T, at least one college-level course in literature. Enrollment limit: 10 (expected: 10). Preference given to German majors and Comparative Literature majors.
May not be taken on a pass/fail basis.

B. KIEFFER
GERM 316T "Wer ist wir?": Recent Debates over Multiculture in Germany (Not offered 2013-2014) (D) (W)

German chancellor Angela Merkel controversially claimed in 2010: “Multikulti ist gescheitert.” (Multiculturalism has failed in Germany). We will investigate different perspectives on Germany’s integration of minorities. In the 1960s, government labor contracts brought large numbers of foreign workers into the country and facilitated the “economic miracle.” How did the newcomers adapt to life in Germany and what did they hold on to from their home cultures? How did subsequent generations experience life in Germany? What were the major political shifts that took place regarding citizenship and participation in the public sphere? How do popular media portray minorities? How do members of minority groups portray themselves?

We will read texts by: Zafer Senocak, Hatice Akyiyn, Yoko Tawada, Marica Bodrozic, Navid Kermani, Wladimir Karnicer, view feature films and documentaries, and discuss a wide range of social commentary and analyses across the political spectrum from right wing populists to left liberals: Thilo Sarrazin, Kirsten Hesig, Astrid Gesler and Christoph Schultheis, Wilhelm Heitmeyer, Alexander Häusler, Freya Klier, Mark Terkessidis, Rita Süssmuth and others.

Format: tutorial. Requirements: bi-weekly 4- to 5-page papers.
Prerequisites: GERM 202 or equivalent. Enrollment limit: 10 (expected: 8). Preference given to German majors.
May not be taken on a pass/fail basis.

DRUXES

GERM 321(F) Lust, Liebe und Gewalt (W)

In the finale of Salome, an opera in German by Richard Strauss, a young Salome kisses the severed head of John the Baptist, while expressing her desire and declaring her love to him. No other opera makes the violence of love and lust more explicit; it brings the interplay of Eros and Thanatos to a climax. In this course, we will reflect on the intimate relationship between love, lust, and violence, examining how love and lust do not exclude violence, but rather include—if not provoke—it. In order to gain a better understanding of the dynamics formed by this fascinating triangle, we will read a collection of short stories by Bernhard Schlink, plays by Arthur Schnitzler and Frank Wedekind, poems by Johann Wolfgang Goethe, look at paintings by Gustav Klimt and Oskar Kokoschka, watch movies by Josef von Sternberg and Rainer Werner Fassbinder, and listen to pop songs by Nina Hagen and Rammstein. Conducted in German.

Format: tutorial. Requirements: 5-page papers every other week, 2-page critiques of the partner’s papers in alternate weeks.
Prerequisites: GERM 201 or the equivalent. Enrollment:10 (expected:10). Preference given to German majors.
May not be taken on a pass/fail basis.

KONE

GERM 323T(S) Reason, Unreason and Anti-Reason from the Enlightenment to the Third Reich (Same as COMP 323T) (W)

From its inception in the eighteenth century, modern German art and thought have probed the nature of human reason. At every turn, the celebration of rationality as triumphing over the irrational has brought with it a resistance to the rational: Lessing’s Enlightenment dramas find their counterpart in those of the Sturm und Drang movement; Kleist’s preoccupation with reliable justice and predictable happiness can’t hide an unblinking knowledge of life’s randomness; Freud’s search for ultimate knowledge is constantly shadowed by the unknowable; in the acts and “theories” of the Nazis, we see the ultimate horror of rationality reduced to rigid mechanics, in the service of the unthinkable. The course will involve reading closely and writing intensively about texts by, among others, Lessing, Goethe, Kleist, Büchner, Nietzsche, Freud, Katka, and the Nazi propagandists. Offered in English or German: Reading, discussion and writing will be in German for German-speakers, in English for non-German speakers.

Format: tutorial. Requirements: two seminar meetings with the entire group; five 5-page papers, five 2-page critiques of the partner’s papers.
Prerequisites: for students taking the tutorial in German: GERM 201 or the equivalent; for students taking the course in English: one college-level literature course. Enrollment limit:10 (expected: 10). Preference given to German majors and Comparative Literature majors.
May not be taken on a pass/fail basis.

Tutorial meetings to be arranged.

KONE

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

KONÉ

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

KONÉ

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.
Format: lecture and discussion. Principal requirements: written homework, quizzes, tests, active class participation.
No prerequisites.
Enrollment limit: 20 (expected: 15). Preference given to Graduate Program students, seniors and juniors.
Hour: 9:00-9:50 MWF
KONÉ

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.
Format: seminar. Evaluation will be based on written homework, quizzes, tests, and class participation.
Prerequisites: GERM 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