GERMANIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

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FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GERMANIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

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Associate Professors  Paul North, Kirk Wetters

Lecturer  William Whobrey

Senior Lector II  Marion Gehlker

Senior Lector  Howard Stern

Lectors  Chrissy Hosea, Theresa Schenker

The major in German is a liberal arts major whose aim is to provide competence in the German language and an understanding of German literature and culture in the context of European civilization. Although by no means restricted to prospective teachers or graduate students in German, the major provides background for professional work in these pursuits.

Prerequisite  Students choosing the major should have completed GMAN 110 and 120 or have received equivalent credit through advanced placement or study abroad.

The major  The major consists of eleven term courses, for a total of twelve course credits, including GMAN 130, 140, and 150; one course from the German Modernities series, GMST 180–189; two introductory courses in German literature numbered GMAN 171–179 and conducted in German; and the senior essay. All courses in the major must be taken for a letter grade. The remaining courses to fulfill the major are chosen from Group B (conducted in German), up to two courses from Group C (conducted in English), one additional language course from Group A numbered 160 or above, and, with prior approval of the director of undergraduate studies, up to two term courses taken outside the department but bearing directly on the German cultural context.

Senior requirement for the standard major (one-term senior essay)  Seniors in the standard German major enroll in GMAN 492, a guided senior essay tutorial course. Students meet on a biweekly basis with the director of undergraduate studies and staff, and work under the direction of a faculty adviser. The culmination of the tutorial is an essay of approximately thirty pages that gives evidence of careful reading and substantial independent thought. The essay may be written in either English or German, although only native speakers are encouraged to write an essay in German. A preliminary statement indicating the general area to be dealt with and the choice of adviser should be submitted to the director of undergraduate studies by September 6; a three-page prospectus and bibliography are due by September 27. A rough draft must be submitted to the adviser by November 1. The completed essay, due on December 9, is graded jointly by the adviser and a designated faculty reader.

The intensive major (two-term senior essay)  The intensive major is designed for students who wish to undertake a more extensive project of research and writing during their senior year. Requirements for the intensive major are the same as for the standard major, except that the intensive major requires twelve term courses (totaling thirteen course credits) beyond the prerequisite, of which two are devoted to the preparation of the senior essay (GMAN 492 and 493). This essay, written under the direction of a faculty adviser, should be between sixty and seventy-five pages in length and should be presented no later than April 22 of the senior year. The second term of essay preparation is undertaken independently, without tutorial support. The essay is graded jointly by the adviser and a designated faculty reader.

Group A courses  Courses in Group A (GMAN 110–169) include elementary, intermediate, and advanced language courses. Only one advanced language course from Group A at the level of 160 and above may count toward the major.

Group B courses  Courses in Group B (GMAN 171 and above) are advanced courses and count toward the major. Readings are in German, and the language of instruction is usually German.

Group C courses  Courses in Group C are conducted in English with texts in translation. Only two term courses from this group may count toward the major.

Courses in the Graduate School are open to undergraduates with permission of the instructor and of the directors of undergraduate and graduate studies. Course descriptions may be obtained from the office of the director of undergraduate studies.

Candidates for the major in German should consult the director of undergraduate studies.

Summer study and study abroad  Students may take Intermediate German or German for Reading during the summer in New Haven and/or Berlin. For information, contact the director of undergraduate studies or the language coordinator. Students are urged to consider the Year or Term Abroad program, for which appropriate course credit toward the major is granted. Such study is valuable not only for achieving comfortable fluency in German, but also for gaining firsthand knowledge of the German cultural context. The department offers diverse opportunities for study abroad and a scholarship program for summer courses at German universities. Members of the
faculty advise and consult with all students wishing to plan study in Germany. Students who have been approved to study abroad and who receive financial aid from Yale are eligible for aid while abroad. For information about the Year or Term Abroad program, see under "Special Arrangements" in the Academic Regulations.

**German Studies** In addition to the major in German literature, there is also a major in German Studies, an interdisciplinary study of the cultural, historical, and political life of the German-speaking peoples. See under German Studies.

**Placement** A written placement examination will be administered before the first day of classes in the fall term, followed by a five-minute oral interview; see the Center for Language Study Web site (http://cls.yale.edu/placement-testing) for the time and location. Students wishing to take the placement exam in January should sign up with the language director by December 11, 2013. Students may also consult with the director of undergraduate studies or the language director for advice about placement and about language study. Regardless of previous German study, students without a score of 5 on the German Advanced Placement test must take the departmental placement exam in order to enroll in any course above GMAN 110 or 125.

**REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR**

**Prerequisites** GMAN 110 and 120, or equivalent

**Number of courses** 11 term courses, totaling 12 course credits, beyond prereq (incl senior essay) for letter grades

**Specific courses required** GMAN 130, 140, 150; 2 from Group B courses numbered 171–179; 1 from GMST 180–189

**Distribution of courses** No more than 1 advanced lang course; no more than 2 Group C courses; with DUS approval, 2 term courses outside dept

**Substitution permitted** With DUS approval, courses taken on Year or Term Abroad for other courses in major

**Senior requirement** Senior essay tutorial (GMAN 492)

**Intensive major** 12 term courses, totaling 13 course credits, beyond prereq for letter grades, incl two-term senior essay (GMAN 492 and 493)

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**Group A Courses**

*GMAN 110a or b, Elementary German I* Marion Gehlker

A beginning course in spoken and written German that combines oral practice and cultural awareness with a solid foundation in grammar and vocabulary. Listening comprehension through online audio exercises and in-class video clips. Topics include family and school life, German-speaking countries, short literary readings by Hesse, Goethe, and Wondratschek, popular music, and the feature film *Lola rennt*. Tutors are available for extra help or for advanced practice. To be followed by GMAN 120. Enrollment limited to 14 per section. Credit only on completion of GMAN 120. Students must preregister through Preference Selection during the online preregistration period, December 5, 2013, through January 9, 2014. Details and a link to Preference Selection are provided on the German department Web site (http://german.yale.edu). L1 RP 1½ Course cr

**GMAN 120a or b, Elementary German II** Marion Gehlker

Continuation of GMAN 110. Topics include German history, the environment, multicultural Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, popular music, a soap opera, and the feature film *Das schreckliche Mädchen*. Listening comprehension through online audio exercises and in-class video clips. Students read poems by Goethe and Jandl and short stories by Bichsel, Brecht, and Kafka. Tutors are available for extra help or for advanced practice. To be followed by GMAN 130. Enrollment limited to 14 per section. Students must preregister through Preference Selection during the online preregistration period, December 5, 2013, through January 9, 2014. Details and a link to Preference Selection are provided on the German department Web site (http://german.yale.edu). L2 RP 1½ Course cr

**GMAN 125a, Intensive German I** Howard Stern

Intensive training in speaking, reading, writing, and comprehending the language. Focus on the mastery of formal grammar. For beginning students of superior linguistic ability. L1, L2 RP 2 Course cr

**GMAN 130a or b, Intermediate German I** Marion Gehlker and staff

Builds on and expands knowledge acquired in GMAN 120. A content-based class that helps students improve their oral and written linguistic skills and their cultural awareness through texts and audiovisual materials relating to German literature, culture, history, and politics. Topics include German universities, Berlin or Frankfurt, Germany before and after the Berlin Wall, and interpersonal relationships. Course materials include online listening comprehension exercises, poems and short stories by Kafka, Brecht, Kästner, Schneider, and Kaschnitz, popular and classical music, and feature films. Tutors are available for extra help or for advanced practice. After GMAN 120 or according to placement examination. Followed by GMAN 140. Enrollment limited to 14 per section. Students must preregister through Preference Selection during the online preregistration period, December 5, 2013, through January 9, 2014. Details and a link to Preference Selection are provided on the German department Web site (http://german.yale.edu). L3 RP 1½ Course cr

**GMAN 140a or b, Intermediate German II** Marion Gehlker

Continuation of GMAN 130. Topics include multicultural Germany, globalization, pacifism, and music and politics. Readings include fiction and nonfiction texts by Celan, Kaminer, and Einstein and a full-length novel. Tutors are available for extra help or for advanced practice. After GMAN 130 or according to placement examination. Normally followed by GMAN 150 or, with permission of the director of undergraduate studies, by GMAN 171. Enrollment limited to 14 per section. Students must preregister through Preference Selection
during the online preregistration period, December 5, 2013, through January 9, 2014. Details and a link to Preference Selection are provided on the German department Web site (http://german.yale.edu).  L4  RP  1½ Course cr

*GMAN 150a or b, Advanced German I  Marion Gehlker
An advanced language course intended to improve students’ proficiency in aural and reading comprehension, as well as in speaking and writing. Discussion of literary texts by major German authors. Emphasis on vocabulary expansion with specialized grammatical review and a focus on stylistic development in students’ writing. Recommended for students planning to use the language practically and as preparation for higher-level courses in both language and literature. After GMAN 140 or 145. For entering students with a score of 5 on the German Advanced Placement test, or according to results of the placement examination. Students must preregister through Preference Selection during the online preregistration period, December 5, 2013, through January 9, 2014. Details and a link to Preference Selection are provided on the German department Web site (http://german.yale.edu).  L5

GMAN 160b, German Culture, History, and Politics in Text and Film  Marion Gehlker and Theresa Schenker
An advanced language course focusing on upper-level language skills through the discussion of selected aspects of post-1945 German culture, politics, and history in literary and nonliterary texts and film. Includes oral and written assignments with an emphasis on vocabulary building and increased cultural awareness. After GMAN 140, 145, or 150.  L5

Group B Courses

*GMAN 173a, Introduction to German Lyric Poetry  Paul North and Jan van Treck
The German lyric tradition, including classic works by Goethe, Schiller, Hölderlin, Eichendorff, Heine, Mörike, Droste-Hülshoff, Rilke, George, Brecht, Trakl, Celan, Bachmann, and Jandl. Attention to the German Lied (art song). Development of advanced reading, writing, speaking, and translation skills. Prerequisite: GMAN 150 or equivalent.  L5, HU

*GMAN 176b, Medieval German Romance and Epic  William Whobrey
Study of five great medieval works of Arthurian romance and courtey epic: Erec, Parzival, Tristan, the Rolandssiedlied, and the Nibelungenlied. Literary transmission in both oral and written cultures, curtey patronage and its historical context, moral and religious codes of knighthood, and development of a literary German language. Readings in modern verse translation. Prerequisite: GMAN 140 or permission of instructor.  L5

Group C Courses

Unless otherwise indicated, courses in this group are conducted in English with both readings and discussion in English. The courses are open to all students in Yale College.

*GMAN 192b / LITR 467b, The Prose Labyrinth  Howard Stern
Short prose (prismatic, encyclopedic, labyrinthine) considered as a characteristic genre of twentieth-century literature. Works by Benjamin, Shklovsky, Ponge, Queneau, Calvino, and Cortázar. All readings available in English.  HU

GMAN 209b / HIST 231b, War in Germany, 1648–2010  J. Adam Tooze
The rise and fall of modern militarism in Germany. Individual battles, soldiers, and weapons discussed within a broader context of the justification and regulation of state violence. Germany as a European battlefield, and as a nation that perhaps has come closest to drawing a final, concluding line under its military history.  HU

*GMAN 226a / GMST 226a / LITR 470a, Faust  Jan Hagens
The development of the Faust motif through time, from the legend’s origins in the Renaissance-Reformation period to twentieth-century variations. Readings from the English adaptation of the original German chapbook, Marlowe’s Doctor Faustus, Goethe’s Faust (Part I), and Thomas Mann’s Doctor Faustus; screenings of films with a Faustian theme.  HU

*GMAN 245a / GMST 201a, Postwar German Literature and Politics  Jason Groves
Introduction to the literature of East and West Germany from the 1950s to the present. Focus on the relationships between literature, history, and politics. Readings include works by Paul Celan, Heinrich Böll, Peter Handke, Heiner Müller, Christa Wolf, and W. G. Sebald. Conducted in English with readings in German or English.  HU  Tr

*GMAN 256b / FREN 352b / LITR 217b, Poetry and the Holocaust  Thomas C. Connolly
The relationship between poetry and the Holocaust, both in poetry’s attempts to remember and come to terms with the past, and in the ways that it predicts and warns about the future. Readings from French, German, Hebrew, Arabic, Yiddish, and Italian works in translation. Readings and discussion in English, with texts available in the original languages.  HU  Tr

*GMAN 274a / GMST 210a / HUMS 239a, Revolutionary German and Soviet Theater  Rainer Nägele and Joshua Alvizu
Theater as revolutionary process in German and Soviet plays and in theoretical and dramaturgical texts of the 1920s and early 1930s. Focus on the writings of Bertolt Brecht and Sergei Tretyakov, with some attention to works by Benjamin, Shklovsky, Eisenstein, and Meyerhold. Brief examination of set designs; musical excerpts from Hans Eisler. Reading knowledge of German or Russian desirable but not required.  HU  Tr
Comparative introduction to the central writings of Nietzsche and Emerson, with reference to the historical relationship between the two men. Overlap and antagonism on themes such as power, fate, nature, language, and writing; concepts that underwent radical shifts in each thinker’s work; ways in which philosophical style and ideas of style shaped and complicated the writers’ thinking. 

Examination of the frequently opposed human capacities of faith and knowledge through close reading of essays by Hegel and Derrida. Differences between conceptualizations of the two concepts and of human capacities at these two points in the history of philosophy. Some attention to contemporary background materials and to literary texts by Hölderlin and Kafka that offer strong counterpoints to the philosophical accounts. Discussion in English; readings in German or English.

Introduction to Germany’s “classical” period, from the 1790s to the 1830s, with attention to literature, philosophy, art, and culture. The close connection between literature and philosophy of the period; the theoretical foundations of European Romanticism and of later backlashes against it. Some attention to twentieth-century theory.

Fiction and related prose pieces in which the relationships between narration, fiction, understanding, and knowing play a critical role. Focus on works by Western writers of the nineteenth through the twenty-first century. The texts’ theoretical implications and implicit self-definitions; the import of concepts such as truth, fiction, self-consciousness, perception, science, and narrative. Readings and discussion in English; texts available in the original German or French.

Close study of the films of R. W. Fassbinder, Werner Herzog, and Michael Haneke. Questions of authorship, cultural politics, intermediarity, and cinematic modernism. Readings and discussion in English.

The end as a formal feature of narrative and temporal forms, and as an opening to an uncertain beyond. The complex relation between finality and transcendence in Goethe’s Faust II, Mahler’s symphonic works, twentieth-century German and Austrian literature (Broch, Ransmayr, Sebald), and Beckett’s Endgame. Discussion in English; readings in German or English.

The origins of the German novel. The historical and cultural context of the later eighteenth century, including the Enlightenment and revolutions; literary history of the period; the significance of the authors for the literary and intellectual currents of their time. Discussion in English; readings in German or English.

Historical dynamics of cultural transfer, translation, reinterpretation of religious revelations, and foundational narratives from antiquity to modernity. Readings from ancient scripture, modern literary works, and theoretical reflections.

The basic grammar of Dutch. Intensive practice in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in everyday contexts. Introduction to the society and culture of the Netherlands and Flanders (Belgium). Credit only on completion of DUTC 120. Course includes students from Cornell University via videoconference.

Continuation of DUTC 110, with a focus on improving the four language skills. Further study of Dutch grammar and vocabulary through a variety of media, including television and radio. The society, culture, and habits of Dutch-speaking peoples in the Netherlands and Belgium. To be followed by DUTC 130. Prerequisite: DUTC 120 or equivalent. Course includes students from Cornell University via videoconference.

Increased use of authentic Dutch texts to expand proficiency in the language and familiarity with the culture. Discussions, compositions, television shows, and contact with native speakers improve control of grammatical structures and vocabulary. Prerequisite: DUTC 120 or equivalent. Course includes students from Cornell University via videoconference.

Use of authentic Dutch texts to expand proficiency in the language and familiarity with the culture. Focus on Dutch cultural themes that reflect students’ interests and fields of study. Readings include a novel and news articles on current events. Prerequisite: DUTC 130. Course includes students from Cornell University via videoconference.
Reading Courses

*DUTC 100b, Dutch for Reading  Bonifacius Wassing
Students learn the skills with which to read Dutch-language texts in various fields. Some attention to structures of grammar and to pronunciation. Selection of readings determined by student interest. Conducted in English. Does not satisfy the language distributional requirement.

*GMAN 100a and GMAN 101b, German for Reading  Marion Gehlker and staff
Students learn the skills with which to read German-language texts of any difficulty with some fluency. Study of syntax and grammar; practice in close reading and translation of fiction and expository prose in the humanities and sciences. Conducted in English. Does not satisfy the language distributional requirement.

Senior Courses

*GMAN 478a or b, Directed Readings or Individual Research in Germanic Languages and Literatures  Paul North
Individual study under faculty supervision. Applicants must submit a prospectus and bibliography approved by the faculty adviser to the director of undergraduate studies. The student meets with the adviser at least one hour each week and takes a final examination or writes a term paper. No credit granted without prior approval of the director of undergraduate studies.

*GMAN 492a and GMAN 493b, The Senior Essay Tutorial  Paul North
Preparation of an original essay under the direction of a faculty adviser.