GERMANIC LANG UAGES AND LITERATURES

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FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GERMANIC LANG UAGES AND LITERATURES

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The major in German Studies covers a broad tradition of more than five centuries in Switzerland, Austria, Germany, and neighboring lands. Students gain deep competence in the German language while also reading great literature, analyzing distinctive artworks in many media, deducing intensive theories, and exploring political, linguistic, and cultural history. The German faculty works closely with undergraduates to develop their special areas of interest within these rich currents of German culture.

German language courses emphasize listening, speaking, reading, and writing in interaction with authentic cultural materials. The curriculum also introduces students to the basic questions and methods of literary criticism, with a focus on rigorous reading practices for a wide range of works from different genres, disciplines, and historical moments.

German Studies courses are diverse in their topics and highly relevant to other fields of study today. Pioneers in philosophy, political theory, sociology, psychology, history, classical philology, the visual arts, architecture, and music wrote and thought in German, as did founders of the modern natural and practical sciences. Majors discover Kant, Goethe, Beethoven, Einstein, Freud, Kafka, Arendt, and many other thinkers and writers who laid the groundwork for modernity and still hold keys to understanding it.

Germany is the third-largest economy in the world, and German is spoken by over 80 million people worldwide. Students with a foundation in the language, literature, history, and intellectual revolutions of Germany are prepared to enter a wide variety of vocations. Majors have gone on to postgraduate study in Germany and the United States, and many have entered top-tier law schools and graduate programs. Recent graduates work in fields as diverse as environmental policy, journalism, arts management, consulting, and engineering, as well as in governmental and nongovernmental organizations and businesses.

Prerequisites Prerequisite to the major are first- and second-year German or the equivalent.

The major The major in German Studies consists of ten term courses, including three advanced language courses, four courses in an area of concentration, and the senior essay. Students in the Class of 2016 majoring in German or German Studies may complete the requirements of the major in place when they entered it, as described in previous editions of this bulletin (http://www.yale.edu/printer/bulletin/archivepdffiles/YCPS), or, with approval of the director of undergraduate studies, they may complete the requirements of the German Studies major as described below.

All majors must complete one GMAN course numbered in the 150s, one in the 160s, and one in the 170s, plus four additional advanced courses taught in German or in translation. Four courses in an area of concentration must be numbered above GMAN 170. With permission of the director of undergraduate studies, two courses related to German literature from other departments may be substituted for two required courses.

Areas of concentration Each German Studies major selects an area of concentration from five possible choices: (1) literature, (2) media and media theory, (3) history and politics, (4) critical thought, and (5) aesthetics and the arts. The literature concentration gives students access to worlds of thought and action. Students learn to read critically, poetry, novels, plays, short stories, aphorisms, songs, and other genres. Courses fulfilling the literature concentration include at least one course each in nineteenth- and twentieth-century literature and two advanced courses taught in German. The concentration in media and media theory explores a vibrant tradition of experimentation in new cultural forms and media in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Students investigate photography, radio, film, television, and computer media alongside landmark works in media theory. The history and politics concentration focuses on world-altering historical events and thought-altering theories of history from the Germanic tradition. Students become familiar with explosive political and social events, including the emancipation of the Jews and the Holocaust, the world wars, unification and reunification, and concepts and models for development in economy, social welfare, law, and environmental policies. The concentration in critical thought focuses on traditions of theoretical reflection on society, history, art, and language. Students become familiar with authors such as Kant, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, Freud, Benjamin, and Habermas. The aesthetics and the arts concentration surveys the rich Germanic traditions in the visual and musical arts, as well as the philosophical study of art beginning in eighteenth-century Germany.
Senior essay  Students in the standard German Studies major enroll in GMAN 492, a guided senior essay tutorial course. Students meet biweekly 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. Seniors typically write the essay during the fall term. A preliminary statement indicating the general area to be addressed and the choice of adviser should be submitted to the director of undergraduate studies by September 11, 2015; a three-page prospectus and a bibliography are due by September 25. A rough draft must be submitted to the adviser by November 6. The completed essay, due on December 11, is judged by the faculty adviser and a second reader.

Intensive major  Requirements for the intensive major are the same as for the standard major, except that the intensive major replaces one advanced seminar with a second term of the senior essay. In the fall term seniors in the intensive major enroll in GMAN 492 and begin work on their project under the guidance and supervision of a faculty adviser. A significant portion of the research for the essay should involve materials in German. The essay may be written in either English or German, although only native speakers are encouraged to write an essay in German. A detailed prospectus, no longer than three pages, and a bibliography must be submitted to the director of undergraduate studies by October 23, 2015. The student must submit a draft of at least fifteen pages of the essay by December 4 to receive credit for the first term of the course. The second term, GMAN 493, is devoted to completing the essay, which should be substantial (between fifty and sixty pages); the completed essay must be submitted by April 15, 2016. The senior essay is judged by the faculty adviser and a second reader.

Group A courses  Courses in Group A (GMAN 110–169) include elementary, intermediate, and advanced language courses.

Group B courses  Courses in Group B (GMAN 170 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.

Graduate courses  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 on the German department Web site (http://german.yale.edu) or from the director of graduate studies.

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

Study abroad  Students are strongly encouraged to study in Germany for a summer, or for one or two terms on the Year or Term Abroad program. Appropriate course credit toward the major is granted for work in approved programs in Germany. Study abroad 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 any 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 section K, Special Arrangements (http://catalog.yale.edu/ycps/academic-regulations/special-arrangements), in the Academic Regulations. Students who study abroad for one term may count up to two courses toward the major, with approval of the director of undergraduate studies. Students who study abroad for an academic year may count up to four courses toward the major, with approval of the director of undergraduate studies.

Placement  An online placement examination will be accessible July 1 through August 15, 2015. See the departmental Web site (http://german.yale.edu/academics/undergraduate-program/language-program/placement-test) for details. Students wishing to take the placement exam in January should sign up with the language director by December 4, 2015. 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  First- and second-year German or equivalent.

Number of courses  10 (incl senior req)

Distribution of courses  1 GMAN course in the 150s, 1 in the 160s, and 1 in the 170s; 4 courses in area of concentration numbered above GMAN 170; 4 addlt advanced courses taught in German or in translation; Literature concentration – at least 1 course each in 19th- and 20th-century literature; 2 advanced courses taught in German

Substitution permitted  With DUS approval, courses taken on Year or Term Abroad for other courses in major and up to 2 lit courses from other depts

Senior requirement  Senior essay tutorial (GMAN 492)

Intensive major  Two-term senior essay (GMAN 492 and 493)
Group A Courses

* DUTC 130a, Intermediate Dutch I  Staff
Continued development of reading, writing, and speaking proficiency in Dutch. Students review and improve grammar skills, expand their vocabulary, read newspaper articles, and watch and listen to Dutch newscasts. Prerequisite: DUTC 120 or equivalent. Course taught through distance learning using videoconferencing technology from Columbia University. Enrollment limited; interested students should e-mail minjin.hashbat@yale.edu for more information.  L3 RP 1½ Course cr

* DUTC 140b, Intermediate Dutch II  Staff
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.  L4 1½ Course cr

* DUTC 150a, Advanced Dutch  Staff
Continuation of DUTC 140. Focus on improvement of grammatical knowledge; proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking Dutch; and cultural insight and knowledge of Amsterdam and the Netherlands. Prerequisite: DUTC 140 or equivalent. Course taught through distance learning using videoconferencing technology from Columbia University. Enrollment limited; interested students should e-mail minjin.hashbat@yale.edu for more information.  L5

* GMAN 110a or b, Elementary German I  Staff
A beginning content- and task-based course that focuses on the acquisition of spoken and written communication skills, as well as on the development of cultural awareness and of foundations in grammar and vocabulary. Topics such as school, family life, and housing. Course materials include a variety of authentic readings, a feature film, and shorter video clips. Tutors are available for extra help. 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. Details and a link to Preference Selection are provided on the German department Web site at http://german.yale.edu.  L1 ½ Course cr

GMAN 120a or b, Elementary German II  Staff
Continuation of GMAN 110. A content- and task-based course that focuses on the acquisition of communicative competence in speaking and writing and on the development of strong cultural awareness. Topics such as multiculturalism, food, childhood, and travel; units on Switzerland and Austria. Course materials include a variety of authentic readings, a feature film, and shorter video clips. Tutors are available for extra help. To be followed by GMAN 130. Enrollment limited to 14 per section. Students must preregister through Preference Selection during the online preregistration period. Details and a link to Preference Selection are provided on the German department Web site at http://german.yale.edu.  L2 ½ 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 2 Course cr

GMAN 130a or b, Intermediate German I  Staff
Builds on and expands knowledge acquired in GMAN 120. A content- and task-based course that helps students improve their oral and written linguistic skills and their cultural awareness through a variety of materials related to German literature, culture, history, and politics. Course materials include authentic readings, a feature film, and shorter video clips. Tutors are available for extra help. 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. Details and a link to Preference Selection are provided on the German department Web site at http://german.yale.edu.  L3 ½ Course cr

GMAN 140a or b, Intermediate German II  Staff
Builds on and expands knowledge acquired in GMAN 130. A content- and task-based course that helps students improve their oral and written linguistic skills and their cultural awareness through a variety of materials related to German literature, culture, history, and politics. Course materials include authentic readings, a feature film, and shorter video clips. Tutors are available for extra help. 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. Details and a link to Preference Selection are provided on the German department Web site at http://german.yale.edu.  L4 ½ Course cr

GMAN 145b, Intensive German II  Howard Stern
Continuation of GMAN 125. Focus on speaking, writing, and the conversion of grammatical knowledge into reading competence for literary and scholarly purposes. Prerequisite: GMAN 125.  L3, L4 RP 2 Course cr

* GMAN 150a, Advanced German I  Staff
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. Details and a link to Preference Selection are provided on the German department Web site at http://german.yale.edu. 15

* GMAN 151b, Exploring Contemporary German Culture  Marion Gehlker
Advanced German course focusing on vocabulary expansion through reading practice; stylistic development in writing; and development of conversational German. Critical analysis of selected aspects of contemporary German culture, such as Green Germany, social movements from the 60s to today, the changing “Sozialstaat,” and current events. G140 or equivalent 15

* GMAN 160b, German Culture, History, and Politics in Text and Film  Theresa Schenker
An advanced language course focused on improving 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, or with permission of instructor. 15, HU

* GMAN 162a, Contemporary German Culture  Staff
Analysis and discussion of current social and cultural trends. Topics drawn from newspapers, films, TV series, cabaret, short literary texts, and talks. Focus on oral and written production to improve upper-level linguistic skills. 15, HU

Group B Courses

* GMAN 172b, Introduction to German Theater  Jason Kavett
An advanced language course that addresses key authors and works of the German theatrical tradition. Refinement of skills in reading comprehension, writing, and speaking. Authors include Lessing, Goethe, Schiller, Kleist, Büchner, Hebbel, Wedekind, Brecht, and Müller. 15, HU

* GMAN 173a, Introduction to German Lyric Poetry  Sophie Elisa Ronzheimer
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. 15, HU

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 191b / LITR 334b, Problems of Lyric  Howard Stern
Masterpieces of European and American lyric studied in relation to the various determinants of poetry: grammar and logic, meter and rhyme, self-consciousness and performativity, myth and theme. Poets include Brecht, Rilke, Goethe, Frost, and Elizabeth Bishop. Reading knowledge of German or French useful but not required. HU

GMAN 208b / HIST 254b, Germany from Unification to Refugee Crisis  Jennifer Allen
The history of Germany from its unification in 1871 through the present. Topics include German nationalism and national unification; the culture and politics of the Weimar Republic; National Socialism and the Holocaust; the division of Germany and the Cold War; the Student Movement and New Social Movements; reunification; and Germany’s place in contemporary Europe. HU

* GMAN 226a / LITR 218a, Faust  Jan Hagens
The development of the Faust motif through time, from the period of the Renaissance and the Reformation to the twentieth century. Readings from the English adaptation of the original German chapbook and from works by Marlowe, Ben Johnson, Goethe, Wilde, Bulgakov, and Thomas Mann. Screenings of films with a Faustian theme. HU

* GMAN 231a / JDST 338a / RLST 138, Twentieth-Century German-Jewish Thought  Yotam Hotam
Relations between secular and theological notions in the writings of twentieth-century German-Jewish thinkers, including Gershom Scholem, Leo Strauss, Hans Jonas, and Hannah Arendt. Focus on the scholars’ ongoing engagements with topics such as godly love, the conflict between reason and revelation, the relations between Judaism and Christianity, worldliness and transcendence, and mysticism. HU

* GMAN 240a / LITR 226a, German Modernism  Henry Sussman
Introduction to the radical innovations of modernism as it was forged, received, and revised in German-speaking Europe from c. 1880 to 1945. Literary experiments in dissonance and multifaceted suggestion; strategies in criticism and elucidation demanded by modernist works. Some attention to parallels in painting and music. Readings in English translation. Priority to German Studies majors. HU RP

* GMAN 276a / LITR 423a, Satire, Irony, and Parody  Paul North
The uses and abuses of satire, irony, and parody as literary modes for social critique. Examination of the historical claim that antiquity uses satire, the romantic period uses irony, and the modernist period to the present uses parody for the purposes of critique. Readings include German and Austrian literature written from the eighteenth to the twenty-first centuries and classic works in the ancient Greek, Roman, English, Spanish, and American traditions. HU
GMAN 311b / LITR 215b, The Age of Goethe  

Kirk Wetters
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.  WR, HU

* GMAN 314a / PHIL 472a / PLSC 309a, Contemporary Critical Theory  

Seyla Benhabib
An intensive examination of Hegel’s “Philosophy of Right,” and its subsequent interpretations by Jürgen Habermas and Axel Honneth. Prerequisite: Directed Studies or two or more advanced courses in modern political philosophy.  SO

* GMAN 317b / PHIL 414b / RLST 440b, Martin Heidegger  

Noreen Khawaja
A comprehensive introduction to the oeuvre of Martin Heidegger. Key texts from Being and Time to the essay on technology, including the "Rectoral Address" of 1933 and writings on poetry, art, and theology. Consideration of Heidegger’s work in systematic and historical terms. Focus on his attempt to use philosophy to incite an "essential transformation in the history of Western spirit" along with its stakes, limitations, and consequences.  HU

* GMAN 326a / LITR 248a, Franz Kafka and Thomas Mann  

Jan Hagens
Comparison of Kafka’s radical modernism and Mann’s neoclassical realism as fundamentally different modes of responding to the challenges of twentieth-century culture. Close reading of short stories by both writers, with attention to the authors’ themes, literary techniques, and worldviews. Discussion in English; readings in German or English.  HU

* GMAN 327b / LITR 229b, Around Kafka  

Henry Sussman
Franz Kafka’s writings viewed as a site for the radical questioning and dislocation of Western systems, institutions, and mores of the early twentieth century. Attention to the shorter fiction, the novels, the letters, and their strategic interrelations; examination of the fields of knowledge, ideological presumptions, and aesthetic and cultural experiments that Kafka touched, and to some degree deranged, with his writing.  HU TR

* GMAN 333b / LITR 198b, Medieval German Lyric  

Mary Paddock
Introduction to courtly poetry of the German High Middle Ages, from the twelfth through thirteenth centuries. Focus on the woman’s voice as a performance device in the lyric of major artists. The language and formal conventions of lyric subgenres; development of the woman’s role in the lyric of other European cultures. Readings and discussion in English; texts available in the original Middle High German.  HU

* GMAN 345b / LITR 344b, Fiction and Knowledge  

Carol Jacobs
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.  HU TR

* GMAN 357b / LITR 433b / PHIL 225b, Nietzsche and His Readers  

Paul North
Reading and discussion of Friedrich Nietzsche’s major texts, as well as critiques and interpretations by some of his most influential twentieth-century readers.  HU

* GMAN 358a / JDST 345a / LITR 416a, Georg Lukács: Literature and Politics  

Hannan Hever and Kirk Wetters
 Literary-critical, aesthetic, political, and theoretical writings of Georg Lukács. Lukács as a Jewish thinker and Marxist critic; the development of his thought against the backdrop of twentieth-century history; his influence and reception in Germany, Israel, Austria, the United States, and the Soviet Union.  HU

* GMAN 362a / LITR 468a, The Question of Form  

Carol Jacobs
The concept of art in relation to form and deformation. Study of Plato’s The Republic and its echoes in modern literature (Keats, Shelley, Hardy, Kleist, Kafka) and film (Godard, Egyoan, Dreyer, Sun Zhou, Wong Kar-Wai).  HU

* GMAN 364b / LITR 420b, Illegitimacy  

Kirk Wetters
Theoretical exploration of legitimacy as a fundamental historical, legal, and political concept; works by Weber, Schmitt, Blumenberg, and Luhmann. Literary readings on illegitimacy in the specific sense “born out of wedlock”; authors include Shakespeare, Goethe, Kleist, Dostoevsky, and Gide. Discussion in English; readings in German or English.  HU SO

* GMAN 369b / FILM 358b / LITR 427b, Text and Image: The Double of Interpretation  

Rüdiger Campe and Florian Fuchs
The textuality of vision and the visuality of text in the interpretation of artifacts in Western culture. The pairing of text and vision traced in literary and theoretical readings and in examples from visual art and film. Conditions, variations, and consequences of this unique media configuration and the politics of its interpretation. Case studies range from Plato to Hobbes, Kleist to Flaubert, and baroque emblems to computer diagrams.  HU

* GMAN 374b / LITR 307b, Walter Benjamin and the Modernization of Nineteenth-Century Paris  

Henry Sussman
The radical modernization of Paris under the Second Empire (1851–70) as seen through the eyes of Walter Benjamin. Focus on Benjamin’s Arcades Project, a compendium that charted developments such as Parisian mass transit and streamlined traffic, the construction of apartment houses, and the dissemination of mass media. Readings from other literary texts on the same events include works by Balzac, Zola, and Aragon.  HU
GMAN 381a / PHIL 204a, Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason  Staff
An examination of the metaphysical and epistemological doctrines of Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason. PHIL 126 or DRST 004  HU

* GMAN 389a / LITR 337a, Hegel and Dialectical Thought  Henry Sussman
A careful inventory of Hegelian dialectics and a broad view of subsequent philosophical and literary projects to the postwar twentieth century. Additional readings in Schlegel, Kierkegaard, Marx, Freud, Kafka, Benjamin, and Blanchot. German idealism’s unparalleled innovation; the rise and fate of a powerful philosophical operating system. Students are encouraged to read German, Danish, and French material in the original.  HU, SO  RP

* GMAN 416a / LITR 430a, Novels of the Institution  Rüdiger Campe
Close reading of novels of institutions — school, law court, administration, hospital — from c. 1900. The shift of focus from the individual to the institution; consequences of this shift for the concept and form of the novel. Works by R. Walser, Joyce, Kafka, Musil, and Thomas Mann; readings in social and aesthetic theory by Simmel, Lukács, and Benjamin. Discussion in English; readings in German and English.  HU

* GMAN 456a / LITR 456a, Interpretation and Authority  Carol Jacobs
Close readings of works on problems of authority and interpretation by Sigmund Freud, Roland Barthes, Paul de Man, and Walter Benjamin. Exploration of their writing as a performance that questions simplistic notions of truth. Consideration of the problem of how to interpret texts that unsettle the very nature of interpretation.  HU

Reading Courses

* GMAN 100a, German for Reading  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.

* GMAN 158a or b / GMAN 159 / JDST 416a or b, Reading Yiddish  Joshua Price
This course is designed to build literacy in Yiddish, the vernacular of Ashkenazi Jewry. With focus on the accelerated treatment of Yiddish grammar, regularly supplemented with simple primary texts (poems, songs, folktales), and followed by close readings of (modern) Yiddish literature, students will be able to navigate most Yiddish texts with the aid of a dictionary. May not be taken concurrently with elementary or intermediate German.

Senior Courses

* GMAN 478a or b, Directed Readings or Individual Research in Germanic Languages and Literatures  Kirk Wetters
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  Kirk Wetters
Preparation of an original essay under the direction of a faculty adviser.