

**Spring 2010**  
**Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies**  
**GERMAN–Upper Division Undergraduate Courses**

*All courses are taught in German unless stated otherwise*

**\*\*Course offerings are subject to change\*\***

**GRMN 2300. Introduction to German Cultural Studies – 3 hours**

**TR 11-00 – 12:15 pm                      Dr. Marjanne Goozé**

An introduction to central ideas in German culture studies presented in key texts. Issues are addressed through the reading and discussion of literary, psychological, political, and philosophical texts from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as well as through film study. Major authors include: Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, Franz Kafka, Sigmund Freud, Bertolt Brecht, Thomas Mann, Theodor Adorno, Walter Benjamin, Christa Wolf, and others. Topics include: German Modernism and Expressionism, Socialism (in East and West Germany), Psychoanalysis, reception of the Holocaust, and Gender Studies. Required for German majors; open to all students. *Taught in English.*

**GRMN 3010. Language Culture and Society I – 3 hours**

**MWF 11:15 – 12:05                      Dr. Inge DiBella**

This introductory cultural studies course acquaints you with central social, cultural and political issues of the last century pertinent to the development of modern Germany. We will use texts and films as a basis for exploring these foci of investigation: World War I and Weimar Republic; Post-War West Germany (*/Stunde Null/*, economic miracle); East Germany (wall, Berlin, */Stasi/*). Some grammar review and practice is integrated into this course. This class hones all your language skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking) while simultaneously teaching cultural and historical content.

It is a gateway course structured to prepare you for the transition to higher-level German classes. *Prerequisite* : GRMN 2002.

**GRMN 3020. Language: Culture and Society II – 3 hours**

**MWF 11:15 – 12:05                      Dr. Alexander Sager**

German 3020 is designed to increase your competency in the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) as well as your understanding of German culture. More specifically, you will:

- \*increase your active and passive vocabulary. This will improve your comprehension of spoken and written German and enable you to speak German more fluently.
- \*review elements of German grammar to improve your confidence and accuracy as you use the German language.
- \*learn to read and interpret texts of various genres.
- \*gain a better understanding of German culture, as well as of cultural similarities and differences.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Hering, Alex, Magdalena Matussek and Michaela Perlmann-Balme. *Übungsgrammatik Deutsch als Fremdsprache*. Leipzig: Max Hueber Verlag, 2002.

Richard Wagner, *Miss Bukarest I*. Berlin: Aufbau Verlag, 2001.

*Prerequisite*: GRMN 3010 Oor 3070.

**GRMN 3380. Contrastive German Grammar – 3 hours**

**TR 2:00 – 3:15 pm                      Dr. Katerina Somers Wicka**

This course is designed to give you an overview of the grammar of German from modern linguistic perspective, using English grammar as a point of comparison. We will learn how German is put together as a linguistic system, focusing on how words and sentences are formed, while at the same time considering how the language is used today by speakers in the German speaking world. Though our focus will be on the spoken colloquial standard variety of German, there will be frequent references to data from other non-standard varieties and earlier stages of German. The goals for this course are twofold. First, by examining German grammar from a linguistic perspective, you will gain a greater understanding of why German grammar functions the way it does. In a sense, this course will provide linguistic answers for many of the rules you learned in earlier German language courses. A second, broader goal, is to gain a greater appreciation for languages in general – both how they are structured and how they are put to use. No previous background in formal linguistics is presumed, though it is certainly

helpful. Reading knowledge of German is required. It is also assumed that you are familiar with the basic grammatical structures of German.

*Prerequisite:* GRMN 2002.

**GRMN 3710. The Wall – 3 hours**

**TR 12:30 – 1:45 pm**                      **Dr. Brigitte Rossbacher**

This course explores the Berlin Wall as a site of history and imagination within the context of postwar politics, culture, and everyday life. We will discuss the events leading to the construction of the physical border, life with the Wall, the fall of the Wall, the persistence of mental “walls” between East and West Germans after unification, and how the Wall is remembered twenty years after its fall. Specific focus will be the ideological division of Germany; life in the GDR (youth culture, the planned economy, the *Stasi*); opposition movements; escape attempts; Germany today. The course readings will be supplemented by historical documents, feature films, video and audio eye witness accounts, music and other media. By the end of the semester you should have a more detailed understanding of postwar events (chronology, cause and effect); ideology; historiography (how historical events were represented and interpreted in the FRG and GDR); aspects of everyday life in the GDR and unified Germany. Primary readings and discussion will be in German. *Prerequisite:* GRMN 3010 or 3070.

**GRMN 3830. Child and Youth Literature – 3 hours**

**MWF 1:25 – 2:15**                      **Dr. Inge DiBella**

This course examines the representation of children and childhood in juvenile literature in various genres (songs, picture books, stories, novel) and media (audio books, film). The reading list ranges from traditional children’s literature (/Märchen, Struwwelpeter, Max und Moritz/) to popular contemporary works (M. Ende, K. Boie, Janosch). We will discuss children’s literature as a vehicle to transmit cultural values, and examine this role in modern mass society (B. Bettelheim, N. Postmann). *Prerequisite:* GRMN 3010 or 3070.

**GRMN 4520. Literature and Revolution: Bertolt Brecht’s Learning Plays (Senior Seminar) – 3 hours**

**TR 9:30 – 10:45 am**                      **Dr. Martin Kagel**

This course focuses on the writings of one of the twentieth-century’s most influential playwrights, Bertolt Brecht (1898-1956). While the course will offer a historical overview over Brecht’s entire oeuvre and also introduce students to the author’s influential theory of *epic theater*, its main systematic interest lies in probing the political relevance of what Brecht called “the theater of the future,” Brecht’s learning plays of the late 1920s. It was at this time of explosive political constellations and intense artistic controversy that Brecht developed a new and revolutionary form of theater in collaboration with composers such as Paul Hindemith, Kurt Weill, and Hanns Eisler. We will consider Brecht’s critique of bourgeois ideology and capitalist exploitation, analyze the political function of literary form, and study his attempts to take account of a new social phenomenon in his writings: the masses. The course will include the discussion of fine art and film as well as of texts from different literary genres, including poems, plays, theoretical essays, and opera libretti. The senior project will consist of the production/performance of one of Brecht’s short learning plays.

*Senior Seminar will be taught in German. Prerequisite:* GRMN 3080 or 3020.

**GERMAN 4710. Vienna: Literature, Art, Music, Culture (Viennese Modernism) 3 hours**

**MWF 12:20 – 1:10 pm**                      **Dr. Brechtje Beuker**

Vienna at the turn of the century was a vibrant cultural melting pot and the birthplace of artistic and scholarly innovations that radically changed Western thinking. Poets, literary critics, painters, and architects met in the city’s famous coffee houses to debate the nature of art and the crisis of representation, leading to a break with conventional forms and the development of what is now known as modernist art. This development coincided with new ideas concerning the human psyche and the function of language. In this course, we explore the preconditions of Vienna’s unique cosmopolitan milieu around 1900 and discuss the modernist movement’s contributions to psychoanalysis, linguistic philosophy, modern art and design, and atonal music. Among the figures considered are Klimt, Hofmannsthal, Musil, Schnitzler, Mahler, Schönberg, Freud, and Wittgenstein.

*This course will be taught in English this semester.*

**Spring 2010**  
**Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies**  
**RUSSIAN–Upper Division Undergraduate Courses**

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**RUSS 3002. Russian Conversation and Composition II – 3 hours**

**MWF 11:15 – 12:05**

**Marianna Koshkaryan**

This course is the second course in a two-course sequence designed to develop and consolidate students' competence in the four language skill areas (speaking, reading, writing, and listening). The focus is on the comprehension of written texts and oral conversations. The goal is to achieve a high level of fluency and to develop an ability to converse on a wide variety of topics. Students will read and discuss current articles from the Russian press, watch several Russian movies and cartoons that will enhance students' understanding of Russian culture and mentality. A variety of topics will be discussed including: Russian government, political structures and events, issues pertaining to Russian business and economy. *Prerequisite:* RUSS 3001.

**RUSS 3300. Introduction to Russian Cinema – 3 hours**

**T 2:00 – 2:15 pm**

**R 2:00 – 4:45 pm**

**Dr. Charles Byrd**

A discussion-oriented survey of Russian films from the earliest pre-revolutionary moving-picture experiments to the social commentary and gangster fantasies of the current scene. Animated insect puppets; "I am the mechanical eye"; revolutionary montage and epic spectacle; the life, works and influence of Sergei Eisenstein; The Factory of the Eccentric Actor; agit-prop; the new Soviet man; censorship and state sponsorship; images of America and reactions to Hollywood; socialist realism; Stalinist musical comedy; women in Soviet film; Andrei Tarkovsky's "lyrical cinema"; the *glasnost'* era; and today's filmmakers. All films and film clips will be shown with English subtitles. *All discussion and course requirements will be in English.*

**RUSS 4270. Introduction to 20th Century Russian Literature – 3 hours**

**TR 12:30 – 1:45 pm**

**Dr. Elena Krasnostchekova**

This course provides an overview of Russian literature of the 20th century. Readings consist of short stories and poetry from the beginning of the century to the 1960s; later developments will be covered in lectures at the end of the semester. Readings will include texts such as: Bunin "Dark Avenues," "A Cold Autumn," Zamyatin "The Dragon," Babel "My First Goose," "In the Cellar," Platonov "The Return," Solzhenitsyn "Right Hand," and poetry by Blok, Akhmatova, and Pasternak. All texts are read in the original versions, unadapted and unabridged. *Prerequisite:* RUSS 3001 or permission of department.

**RUSS 4510. Special Topics: Contemporary Russian Prose – 3 hours**

**TR 2:00 – 3:15**

**Dr. Elena Krasnostchekova**

Students will read and discuss texts by some of the most popular and influential contemporary Russian authors, including Ulickaja, Petruševskaja, Sorokin, Pelevin, and Akunin. This course will be conducted entirely in Russian.

*Prerequisite:* RUSS 3001 or permission of department.