

German Studies
Course Descriptions – Fall 2013
Department of Modern Languages

These descriptions supplement the official descriptions published in the most recent KSU Undergraduate and Graduate *Catalog*, and should be read together with them. They are arranged numerically in the same order as the schedule of classes. When available, a list of required texts follows each description.

Note for German 121-223 regarding student placement:

The Department of Modern Languages strives to provide the best possible learning environment for its students, and for this reason we take very seriously the placement of students in courses that match their abilities. In order to best serve each individual, **the Department reserves the right to remove students from the rosters of classes that do not correspond to their proficiency levels.** Students who have acquired advanced language skills abroad or at home must consult with Modern Languages staff in order to determine their appropriate entry point in our language sequence.

GRMN 121 Beginning German I (5 cr.)

Staff

Note: This course is not open to students with previous (classroom or immersion) experience with German.

This first-semester German language course is for students who have no previous experience with the language. In four class meetings per week and guided individual study and projects, students develop basic language skills and explore the culture of the modern German-speaking world. The course is conducted in German and takes a communicative approach. Students learn to use basic German language forms in meaningful contexts, both in speaking and in writing. By the end of the course, students will be able to deal with a variety of communicative situations and narrate orally and in writing; they will, for example, be able to ask and answer questions, name and describe persons, things, and places, refer to present and past events, and express wishes. Class periods are primarily for using German in practical communication, while reading, writing, and the practice of grammatical structures are done mostly outside of class. The overall goal of the course is to develop students' ability to master every-day situations in a German-speaking environment.

Texts: Terrell et al., *Kontakte: A Communicative Approach*. 2008 (6th ed.).
Terrell et al., *Kontakte: Online Arbeitsbuch*. 2008 (6th ed.).
[Note: If you purchase a used book, you will have to buy the online component separately!]
Zorach, *English Grammar for Students of German*. 2001 (4th ed.) [Recommended]

GRMN 122 Beginning German II (5 cr.)

Staff

Prerequisite: GRMN 121 (a grade of C or better) or equivalent

The second semester course continues the linguistic and culture instruction begun in German 121. By the end of this course, students will be familiar with most basic structures of the German language and will have developed basic cultural knowledge about the German-speaking world. In German 121, students develop their vocabulary and grammar and become increasingly better at expressing their thoughts, feelings, and opinions on a variety of subjects they may encounter in every-day life in a German-speaking community. To facilitate this, the course is conducted in German and takes a communicative approach. Students learn to use basic German language forms in meaningful contexts, both in speaking and in writing. Class periods are primarily for using German, while reading, writing, and the practice of grammatical structures are done mostly outside of class. To develop reading and interpretative skills, students in this course will read and discuss a detective novel and several longer cultural texts. *Class meetings will be conducted entirely in German.*

Texts: Terrell et al., *Kontakte: A Communicative Approach*. 2008 (6th ed.).
Terrell et al., *Kontakte: Online Arbeitsbuch*. 2008 (6th ed.).
[Note: If you purchase a used book, you must buy the online component separately!]
Baier, *Verschollen in Berlin*. 2007. Book + CD.
Zorach, *English Grammar for Students of German*. 2001 (4th ed.) [Recommended]

GRMN 221 German III: Speaking, Reading, and Review (5 cr.)

Chronister

Prerequisite: GRMN 122 (a grade of C or better) or equivalent

German 221 concludes the three-semester introduction to the German language. In this course students gain the skills to read German texts for basic understanding and analysis, engage in discussion, and work with video segments. They will further expand their vocabulary, become familiar with more complex grammar, and thus increase their ability to communicate their thoughts in German. This course has a stronger emphasis on integrating reading skills into the classroom: Students apply their linguistic and cultural knowledge to the reading and interpreting of the German novel *Im Land der Schokolade und Bananen*. They will also carry out a variety of creative activities based on this text, and they will learn more about the culture and history of the German-speaking countries. The course is conducted in German and takes a communicative approach. Students learn to use basic German language forms in meaningful communicative contexts, both in speaking and in writing. *Class meetings will be conducted entirely in German.*

Texts: Terrell et al., *Kontakte: A Communicative Approach*. 2008 (6th ed.).

Terrell et al., *Kontakte: Online Arbeitsbuch*. 2008 (6th ed.).

[Note: If you purchase a used book, you must buy the online component separately!]

Gündisch, Karin. *Im Land der Schokolade und Bananen*. Beltz & Gelberg, 1990.

Zorach, *English Grammar for Students of German*. 2001 (4th ed.). [Recommended]

GRMN 222 German Conversation (2 cr.)

Staff

Prerequisite: GRMN 122 or equivalent. Recommended: concurrent enrollment in GRMN 221 or 223.

Not open to students whose competency has been demonstrated at this level.

This two-credit course is designed to improve your oral fluency, broaden your vocabulary, and increase your ability to recognize and master different communicative situations in German. To prepare for class, you will read a variety of texts and watch German movies. In class, you will describe, discuss, formulate opinions, narrate events, and reenact scenes from texts and films. At the end of the course, you will be better prepared for spending time in Germany, both from a linguistic and cultural perspective.

Texts: Schueller, *Cinema for German Conversation*. 2009. Newburyport: Focus.

A good (big!) German-English/English-German dictionary (e.g., Langenscheidt, Oxford-Duden, Harper-Collins)

GRMN 223 German IV: Reading, Discussion, and Review (4 cr.)

McGregor

Prerequisite: GRMN 221 (grade of C or better) or equivalent

This course is designed to be a "bridge" between the basic language series (German I-III) and more advanced composition, grammar, and literature/culture courses. Through reading, interpreting, and discussing longer German texts (including poems and short stories), this course extends the focus on language and culture begun in German III. Moreover, students research various aspects of the history and culture of the German-speaking countries and will gain practice writing about and presenting the results of their research. Grammar instruction and review is an integral part of this course, as mastery of the structures of German will facilitate your ability to express more complex ideas. We will supplement a textbook with grammar exercises, additional readings, music, and films. *Class meetings will be conducted entirely in German.*

Texts: Motyl- Mudretzkyj & Späinghaus, *Anders gedacht*. Textbuch incl. CD. 2010.

[Note: Older editions are not accepted as textbook alternatives. You will need 2010 ed.]

Motyl-Mudretzkyj & Späinghaus, *Anders gedacht*. Übungsbuch. 2010.[OPTIONAL]

A good German dictionary. [Strongly recommended]

GRMN 521 Introduction to German Literature, 18th & 19th Century: Die Deutsche Novelle (3 cr) July

Prerequisite: one 500-level language class (or concurrently enrolled in one).

This course will trace the development of the 18th and 19th centuries through the genre of the novella. These short, fictional narratives incorporate a variety of literary genres including mysteries, detective fiction, tales of horror and fairy-tale texts. Through these texts we will examine not only changes in the genre, but also consider questions of social context including the change notion of family life, the struggles of modernization and industrialization, issues of gender and attitudes towards race. Readings will include texts by Kleist, Goethe, Achim von Arnim, and Caroline de la Motte Fouque.

GRMN523 Advanced Composition (3 cr)

Hillard

Prerequisite: GRMN 223 or equivalent

Note: This course can be taken concurrently with 500-level literature/culture courses (521, 522, 530).

With a focus on writing, this course is designed to advance what learners of German can do in all skills (writing, speaking, listening, and reading) in real-world situations. We will use texts from the arts, current cultural events, and popular culture as a basis for linguistic development.

In this advanced course students are expected to take greater initiative in actively participating in and shaping class discussions than at beginning or intermediate levels of language instruction. By investigating a topic of their own interest (e.g., music, film, *Vergangenheitsbewältigung*, politics), students will develop a project and make discoveries, which they will then share with others. Students will explore their project in papers, blogs, podcasts, and in-class presentations. Along the way, we will gain competency in different genres of writing: description, biography, letters, and analysis. In-class activities to help us achieve our goals include *Übungen* drawn from a select grammar review, discussion of texts, and conversation. The course prepares students for subsequent work in 500- and 700-level German language, culture, and literature classes.

Text: Wells, Larry D. and Jamie Rankin. *Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik*. 5th ed

GRMN 530 German Cultural Studies and History: Focus on Visual Art and Media (3 cr)

Chronister

Prerequisite: one 500-level language class (or concurrently enrolled in one).

In this German cultural history course, we will examine the power of images and visual productions to shape and communicate information about the values, practices, and power structures of a culture. Students will engage with art, film, literature, photography, and theater and discuss the impact of visual media on cultural perceptions, collective memory, social trends, and apparatus of power. Looking at examples ranging from G. E. Lessing's Enlightenment drama *Nathan der Weise* (1779) to the (digital) photography of Andreas Gursky and Thomas Struth (1990s-present), we will examine the ways in which visual culture has been central to such constructs as individuality, class, the nation, and gender from the Enlightenment to the present. Finally, we will discuss how we as Germanists can look to cultural productions to learn about the values and power structures in play in the German speaking world at different times in modern history.

GRMN 705: Topics in 20th & 21st Century Culture and Literature: Turkish Germany (3 cr)

Chronister

Prerequisite: One prior 500-level German literature/culture course.

Since the guest worker program of the early 1960s, Turks have become the largest and most visible minority population in Germany. In the last thirty years, Turkish writers, filmmakers, and artists have made a major impact on the German cultural scene. In this course, we will examine Turkish Germany with a dual focus, investigating depictions of Germany by Turkish-German authors, artists, and filmmakers, as well as depictions of Turks and Turkish culture by Germans. We will consider such questions as: in what ways have depictions of Turkish Germans shifted in cultural productions as the social status of this population has changed? What is at stake in terms of identity for today's generation of Turkish Germans who live at the interstices of both cultures? How does considering the perspective of a minority culture help us think critically about German art, culture, and politics? And what are the

distinctive features of art, film, and literature that are influenced by two very different cultural traditions? To address these questions, we will read and discuss works by such authors as Emine Sevgi Özdamar, Zafer Şenocak, Günther Walraff, and Feridun Zaimoğlu and view films by directors such as Fatih Akin, Kutluğ Ataman, Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Helma Sanders-Brahms und Yüksel Yavuz.

Note: This course is designed for undergraduate and graduate students.

GRMN 729: Seminar: Laughing & Crying: Emotion and the Arts

Hillard

Prerequisite: One prior 500-level German literature/culture course.

The notion that literature, art, and music make us laugh, cry, desire, cringe, and fear has been around the since the Greeks, stretches to both tragedies (*Faust*) and comedies of Goethe's day, to tales of adulterous women (*Effi Briest*, *Madame Bovary*, *Anna Karenina*) from the time of literary realism, and lives on today in phenomena such as horror films and emo-culture, and, of course, has been the subject of extensive scientific investigation. Indeed, that narratives are in some sense about our feelings has become such a commonplace that scholars often do not ask how this works, why it should be, or for what reasons emotions are depicted or targeted.

By investigating German literature (Goethe's *Faust* or Kleist's *Die Marquise von O*, Fontane's *Effi Briest*, Rilke's "Turnstunde," Kafkas parables), film (Fritz Lang's *M*), and music (Lieder and Wagner) we will take on projects that ask: Do certain historical genres, eras, or features try to target specific emotions or sensations? If we know stories are not real, why do we laugh, fear, or sympathize instead of just rationally judging them? In short, why do we cry when the heroine dies? Handkerchiefs not required, German is.

Note: This course is designed for undergraduate and graduate students.

MLANG 600: Principles of Linguistics: Language Structure and Use

McGregor/Copple

Have you ever wondered how languages differ and what they have in common? How and why a language changes over time? How spoken and written language differs? Why some languages seem harder to learn than others? And how language can be systematically studied? This course consists of a lecture and a lab component. While the lecture component focuses on English, the lab component will address various languages of interest (English, French, Spanish, and German in particular), and you will analyze examples from these and other world languages.

In this course you will:

- Learn about different levels of language structure, including phonetics and phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics,
- Apply this knowledge to actual data,
- Understand the complex relationship between formal language structure and language use/meaning-making in context (=pragmatics),
- Explore applications of linguistics to second and foreign language acquisition and teaching,
- Improve your understanding of the structure of English and your language of interest,
- Improve your language skills,
- Improve your academic writing and presentation skills.

Note: This course is designed primarily for graduate students.