

German Studies
Course Descriptions – Spring 2009
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.

GRMN 121 Beginning German I (5 cr.)

Staff

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/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, places, 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 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* (5th ed.).

Terrell et al., *Kontakte: Online Arbeitsbuch* (5th ed.).

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

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

GRMN 122 Beginning German II (5 cr.)

Staff

Prerequisite: GRMN 121 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 II, students develop their vocabulary and grammar and become increasingly better at expressing their thoughts, feelings, opinions, likes and dislikes 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.

Texts: Terrell et al., *Kontakte: A Communicative Approach* (5th ed.).

Terrell et al., *Kontakte: Online Arbeitsbuch* (5th ed.).

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

Felix & Theo, *Ein Mann zuviel*.

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

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

Staff

Prerequisite: GRMN 122 or equivalent

German III concludes the three-semester introduction to the German language. This course has an increased emphasis on using the language to express opinions as well as on integrating reading skills into the classroom. Thus, students learn how to apply their knowledge of the language and their reading strategies to the reading/interpreting of German texts. Students also have increased opportunity to carry out creative activities based on these texts in class. The course is conducted in German and takes a communicative approach, which means that students learn to use basic German language forms in meaningful communicative contexts, both in speaking and in writing.

Texts: Terrell et al., *Kontakte: A Communicative Approach* (5th ed.).

Terrell et al., *Kontakte: Online Arbeitsbuch* (5th ed.).

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

German short story or novel, title *tba*.

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

GRMN 222/4 German Conversation (2 cr.)

Staff

Prerequisite: GRMN 122 or equivalent.

This two-credit course is designed to improve students' oral proficiency in German and increase their awareness of communicative situations in a German-speaking environment. To prepare for class, students will read a variety of texts. At the end of the course, students will be better prepared for spending time in Germany, both from a linguistic and cultural perspective.

GRMN 223 German IV: Reading, Discussion, and Review (3 cr.)

Jennifer Askey

Prerequisite: GRMN 122 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. This course extends the focus on language and culture through reading, interpreting, and discussing longer German texts (including poems and short stories) 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 a grammar reference book (which we will continue to use in 500-level German classes), additional readings, music, and films. Class meetings will be conducted in German.

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

Motyl-Mudretzkyj & Späinghaus, *Anders gedacht*. Übungsbuch.

Rankin & Wells, *Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik* (4th ed.).

Additional readings course materials will be made available on K-State Online.

GRMN 527 Advanced German Conversation (3 cr.)

Derek Hillard

Prerequisite: German IV or equivalent

Conversation, yes – plus reading, listening comprehension, and a select advanced grammar review. This course will prepare students for subsequent work in 500-level German language, culture, and literature classes, as well as benefit students who wish to advance their German language skills in all areas,

particularly oral expression, for such purposes as travel or study. (The course can be taken concurrently with 500-level literary/culture courses). Focusing on the culture and topics concerning today's Germany, we will read magazine articles, discuss films, and do role plays based on vignettes about a newcomer to Germany.

Texts: Wells, Larry D. and Jamie Rankin. *Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik* (4th ed.)
A Course Packet (available in Arts and Sciences copy center, 11 Eisenhower Hall)
You should also have a good dictionary (e.g., Langenscheidts, Duden, etc.)

GRMN 521 Introduction to German Literature II: 20th - 21st Century (3 cr.) Jennifer Askey

Prerequisite: German IV or equivalent

This course is designed to introduce students to 20th- and 21st-century German literature, though the particular selection this semester focuses on literature from about 1930 to 2000. Our goal in this course is to learn some effective reading and interpretive strategies for literature—in any language—as well as polish writing and speaking skills in German. The course is divided into four units, one general and three roughly historical, each of them geared toward a particular line of literary or historical interpretation. Generally, the "themes" of the literature read this semester revolve in some way around Germany's relationship with its war-torn past. The authors we will read all engage to one degree or another with issues of German culpability for WWII and the Holocaust, the relationship between individual Germans and their past, moral responsibility of the individual in the face of tyranny, and the relationships between Jews and Germans (and Jewish-Germans) today.

GRMN 728 History of the German Language (3 cr.) E. M. Betz

Prerequisite: At least one prior 500-level language course.

German 728 introduces students to the history of the German language, from the Early Middle Ages to the present, including the development of German as a literary language, characteristics and status of Standard German and the German dialects, and the relationship of German to the most closely related modern languages (Dutch, English, Yiddish). Internal linguistic changes and external (political, economic, social) influences on the development of the German language will be discussed.

This course offers an overview of phonological, morphological, lexical, and syntactic characteristics of the major stages in the development of German. It also outlines the larger cultural context in which each stage is embedded. Students will read and discuss texts from various periods: Old High German heroic songs and magic spells, excerpts from Middle High German legal code and courtly romance, Early New High German reformation pamphlets and selections from Luther's bible translation, texts by 17th and 18th century grammarians, personal letters and newspapers from the 19th century, and examples of 20th century fascist propaganda. The final weeks of the course will be spent on discussing changes in the structure and use of contemporary German. This includes topics such as the German reunification, the spelling reform of the 1990s, effects of global economic developments such as the European market, German in the age of electronic media, and the language of pop culture.

GRMN 729 German Seminar: Decadence (3 cr.) Derek Hillard

Prerequisite: At least one prior 500-level language literary/culture course.

Suggesting the atmosphere of autumn and all that is late, irrational, and falling, a pervasive sense of decadence arrived on the German and Austrian cultural scene with an almost programmatic force around 1900. What is cultural decadence? The decadent is at once appealing but dangerous, liberating but

chaotic, pleasurable but self-indulgent, exciting yet perverse, creative and destructive. It expresses itself in its figures of the neurotic, the aesthete, the obsessive lover, the femme fatale, heightened sensibilities, and in its deep skepticism regarding progress. We will read such texts as a novella about a German artist seduced in Italy by chaotic desires; plays about lost youth, lovers engaged in affairs as sport, and a man taught by death to live life; as well as a 1920s filmic depiction of an entire society as a criminal underworld. By investigating German writing, music, and visual art from ca. 1880 to 1920, this course will explore the questions: what is decadence and why did German culture need it? Central texts will include Thomas Mann's *Der Tod in Venedig* (along with its famous film adaptation), Hugo von Hofmannsthal's *Der Tor und der Tod*, Arthur Schnitzler's *Liebelei*, and Franz Wedekind's *Frühlings Erwachen*. In addition to German *Dekadenz*, we will also do some period comparisons with French *décadence* (Baudelaire) and English aestheticism (Oscar Wilde). Assignments include using our analysis of decadence ca. 1900 to investigate characterizations of decadence made in today's culture.