

# Germanic Studies

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## Program of Study

The concentration program for the B.A. degree in Germanic studies is intended to provide students with a highly personalized and wide-ranging introduction to the language, literature, and culture of German-speaking countries and to various methods of approaching and examining these areas. It is designed to be complemented by other areas of study (e.g., anthropology, art history, comparative literature, economics, film studies, history, philosophy, political science, sociology).

## Program Requirements

Beyond the competence needed to meet the College language requirement, students concentrating in Germanic studies normally take six additional courses in German language, six courses in German literature and culture, and a B.A. paper. Students might count some relevant German-oriented courses in other departments in the humanities or social sciences toward the requirements of the concentration in Germanic studies. Students must establish any individual program of study with the assistance and approval of the departmental adviser.

Students may satisfy the required language courses for the concentration through placement or accreditation examinations.

**B.A. Paper.** The B.A. paper normally is a research paper of a minimum of twenty-five pages. While the paper may be written in either English or German, it must include a bibliography that makes ample use of German language sources. Students must submit an outline of their B.A. paper to their faculty adviser by the end of their junior year.

## Summary of Requirements

<i>College Language Requirement</i>	<i>demonstrated competence in German equivalent to one year of college-level study</i>
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<b>Concentration</b>	3	GRMN 20100, 20200, 20300 (second-year German)†
	3	GRMN 21100, 21200, 21300
	3	courses from GRMN 22000-22099
	3	courses in German literature and culture (may be taken in other departments)
	—	B.A. paper
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† *Credit may be granted by examination.*

**Grading.** Students concentrating in Germanic studies must take a letter grade in all courses taken as part of their concentration requirements. Students not concentrating in Germanic studies and not fulfilling a language requirement have the option of taking courses in the department on a *P/N* basis. Students with previous background in German who register for GRMN 10100-10200-10300 without permission of the department will be graded only *P/N* or *P/F*.

**Honors.** Honors are reserved for graduating seniors who achieve overall excellence in grades for courses in the College and within the concentration, and complete a B.A. paper that shows proof of original research or criticism. Students with an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher for College work and a GPA of 3.5 or higher in classes within the concentration, and whose B.A. paper (GRMN 29900) is judged superior by two readers, will be recommended to the Master of the Humanities Collegiate Division for honors.

**Study Abroad.** All interested students are encouraged to take advantage of four study abroad options available in the College: (1) A program in Vienna is offered each Autumn Quarter. It includes three courses of Western Civilization, as well as German language instruction on a variety of levels. (2) In the Autumn Quarter, an intensive language program in Freiburg is available to students who have completed GRMN 10300. Students in this program are expected to complete the second year of language study. (3) The College also cosponsors, with the Berlin Consortium for German Studies, a yearlong program at the Freie Universität Berlin. Students have the opportunity to register for regular classes at the Freie Universität or at other Berlin universities. To be eligible, students must have completed the second year of German language courses or an equivalent, and should have completed all general education requirements. (4) Students who wish to do a summer study abroad program can apply for a Foreign Language Acquisition Grant (FLAG). These grants are administered by the College and provide support for a minimum of eight weeks of study at a recognized summer program abroad. Students must have completed GRMN 10300 or its equivalent to be eligible for FLAG support for the study of German.

**Proficiency Certificate.** It is recommended that all students concentrating in Germanic studies work toward an Advanced Language Proficiency Certificate in German as documentation of advanced functional ability in German in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Detailed information is available at [dos-college.uchicago.edu/information/language-certificate.html](http://dos-college.uchicago.edu/information/language-certificate.html).

## Faculty

C. Baumann, A. Gailus, R. Heller, S. Jaffe, K. Kenny, D. Levin, E. Santner, C. Tang,  
R. von Hallberg, D. Wellbery

## Courses

### German (GRMN)

#### *First-Year Sequence*

**10100-10200-10300. Elementary German for Beginners I, II, III.** *PQ for 10200: placement or consent of language coordinator. PQ for 10300: 10200 or 10201 or placement or consent of language coordinator.* The goal of this sequence is to develop proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking for use in everyday communication. Knowledge and awareness of the different cultures of the German speaking countries is also a goal. *Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

**10201. Elementary German.** *PQ: Placement or consent of language coordinator. No auditors permitted.* This is an accelerated version of the GRMN 10100-10200 sequence for students with previous knowledge of the language. *Autumn, Winter.*

**13100. Reading German.** *PQ: Knowledge of German not required. No auditors permitted.* This course does not prepare students for the competency exam. This course prepares undergraduates with no previous experience in German to do research in German. By the end of the quarter, students should have a fundamental knowledge of German grammar and a basic vocabulary. While the course does not teach conversational German, the basic elements of pronunciation are taught so that students can understand a limited amount of spoken German. *Spring.*

#### *Second-Year Sequence*

**20100. Deutsche Märchen.** *PQ: GRMN 10300 or placement. No auditors permitted.* A comprehensive look at German fairy tales, including structure and role in German nineteenth-century literature, adaptation as children's books in German and English, and film interpretations. Also includes a review and expansion of German grammar, with an emphasis on the verb. *Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

**20200. Deutsch-Amerikanische Themen.** *PQ: GRMN 20100 or placement. No auditors permitted.* Issues may range from print or other media, to social topics such as family roles or social class, to literary genres such as exile or immigrant literature. Review and expansion of German grammar continues, with an emphasis on case. *Autumn, Winter.*

**20300. Kurzprosa aus dem 20. Jahrhundert.** *PQ: GRMN 20200 or placement. No auditors permitted.* A survey of short fiction in the twentieth century, including investigations of historical and cultural events of the time. Advanced review of German grammar through the study of special topics such as the passive or an overview of prepositions. *Winter, Spring.*

*Third-Year Sequence*

**21100, 21200. Die Gattungen I, II.** *PQ: GRMN 20300 or placement. GRMN 21100 and 21200 may be taken in sequence or individually. No auditors permitted.* Overview and analysis of genre (e.g., portraits, narrative, reviews, arguments, drama, poetry) through a variety of activities such as close reading, writing, and oral presentations. *21100: Autumn, Spring. 21200: Winter.*

**21300. Deutschland im 20. Jahrhundert.** *PQ: GRMN 21100 or 21200, or placement. No auditors permitted.* Cultural, historical, or societal issues are investigated through a variety of texts, including historical documents, journalism, literary texts, secondary literature, biographical materials, and film. *Spring.*

*Languages Across Curriculum (LxC)*

LxC courses have two possible formats: an additional course meeting during which students read and discuss authentic source material and primary texts in German; or a course in another discipline (such as history) which is taught entirely in German. Prerequisite German language skills depend on the course format and content. LxC courses maintain or improve students' German language skills while giving them a unique and broadened perspective into the regular course content.

*Advanced Undergraduate Courses Taught in German*

**22004/35000. Von Wagner zu Brecht.** (=GSHU 24100/34100, MUSI 22500/33500) *PQ: Knowledge of German and advanced standing.* The years of the German Empire, 1871 to 1918, saw one of the most remarkable transformations in the aesthetics and dramaturgy of German works for the stage: the rise and fall of the Gesamtkunstwerk. This course traces that transformation in German drama and opera. We study dramas by Gerhart Hauptmann, Frank Wedekind, Arthur Schnitzler, and Oskar Kokoschka; and music-dramas by Richard Wagner, Engelbert Humperdinck, Richard Strauss, and Arnold Schoenberg. Classes conducted in German. *D. Levin. Winter.*

*Advanced Undergraduate Courses Taught in English*

**22003/31500. Goethe's Wilhelm Meister Project.** *PQ: Knowledge of German helpful but not necessary. Advanced standing. Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship* addresses the problem of how to live a meaningful life without seeking refuge in traditions and ready-made social roles. While *Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship* is at the center of our attention, we also look at earlier and later versions, at the Romantic reception of Goethe's novel, and at innovative recent interpretations. Texts by Goethe, Schlegel, Novalis, and others. Classes conducted in English. *Optional shorter German sessions offered. A. Gailus. Autumn.*

**22600. Confronting German Identities in Art and Film, 1800 to 2000.** (=ARTH 23800) *PQ: At least one previous course in Art History or German.* For course description, see Art History. *R. Heller. Autumn.*

**24000/34800. Postwar German Cinema.** (=CMST 22900/32900) *PQ: Advanced standing.* For course description, see Cinema and Media Studies. *D. Levin. Spring.*

**25200/35200. Literary Kierkegaard.** In this seminar, we read Kierkegaard's novellas, literary criticism, and aesthetic theory. Topics of discussion include irony, repetition, observation, history, and authorship. *Optional Danish instructions offered. C. Tang. Spring.*

**25300. Thomas Mann's *Doktor Faustus*.** (=FNLD 25000) After an initial survey of the Faust-tradition in European literature, we focus our attention on Mann's masterpiece written in the immediate aftermath of World War II. At the center of our discussions is Mann's attempt to link the crisis of aesthetic aspirations in modernity to a cultural history of Germany, culminating in the rise of Nazism. *Optional German discussion sessions offered. E. Santner. Autumn.*

**25500/38500. Theology and Poetry as *coincidentia oppositorum*.** (=GSHU 27200/37200) Theology and poetry are often conceived of as inevitably opposed to one another. The aim of this course is to explore ways in which they might be seen as coinciding. Students are asked to present their prized theologians, theoreticians, and poets. Among ours are Heidegger and Tillich; Freud and Kohut; Goethe, Stefan George, H. D. (Hilda Doolittle), Dylan Thomas, Bertolt Brecht, and Nazim Hikmet. *S. Jaffe, G. Sharrock. Winter.*

**26100/36100. Kitsch.** (=GSHU 28200/38200, SLAV 28600/38600) For course description, see Slavic Languages and Literatures (General Slavic). *M. Sternstein. Offered 2003-04; not offered 2002-03.*

**28100. The Radical Truth of Henrik Ibsen.** (=GSHU 28100, NORW 281000, SCAN 28100) For course description, see Norwegian. *K. Kenny. Autumn.*

**29300/39400. Freud and Nietzsche.** (=GSHU 29500) This course pursues a comparative analysis of the genesis, structure, and implications of the Freudian and Nietzschean thought and expression, particularly in relation to their critical assessments of religion and religiosity. In particular, careful study is devoted to the relation of Freud the Jew and Nietzsche the Christian to both Judaism and Christianity. *S. Jaffe. Autumn.*

**29600/39600. Kafka in Prague.** (=CZEC 27700/37700, GSHU 27900/37900) For course description, see Slavic Languages and Literatures (Czech). *M. Sternstein. Winter. Offered 2003-04; not offered 2002-03.*

**29700. Reading and Research Course in German.** *PQ: Consent of instructor and director of undergraduate studies. Students must consult with an instructor by the eighth week of the preceding quarter to determine the subject of the course and the work to be done. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

**29900. B.A. Paper.** *PQ: Fourth-year standing. Consent of instructor and director of undergraduate studies. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

**Norwegian (NORW)**

**10100-10200-10300. First-Year Norwegian I, II, III.** It is the aim of NORW 10100-10200-10300 to provide students with minimal proficiency in the four language skills: speaking, reading, writing, and listening with a special emphasis on speaking. To achieve these goals, we undertake an overview of all major grammar topics and work to acquire a substantial vocabulary. *K. Kenny. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

**20100. Intermediate Norwegian.** *PQ: NORW 10300 or consent of instructor.* This course combines intensive review of all basic grammar with the acquisition of more advanced grammar concepts. Students undertake readings pertaining to culture and contemporary Norwegian life, and read a contemporary novel. Classes conducted in Norwegian. *K. Kenny. Winter.*

**24700. Scandinavian Women's Literature.** (=SCAN 24700) For course description, see Scandinavian. *K. Kenny. Spring.*

**28100. The Radical Truth of Henrik Ibsen.** (=GRMN 28100, GSHU 28100, SCAN 281000) The aim of this course is to examine eight of Ibsen's prose plays in our own modern context. Do Ibsen's works continue to resonate with new generations of readers and viewers? Do we still see what has been called "the radical truth" in his plays? *K. Kenny. Autumn.*

**28500. Comparative Fairy Tale: The Brothers Grimm, H. C. Anderson, and Asbjørnsen and Moe.** (=CMLT 21600, HUMA 28400, SCAN 29800) For course description, see Scandinavian. *K. Kenny. Winter.*

**29700. Reading and Research Course in Norwegian.** *PQ: Consent of instructor and director of undergraduate studies. Students must consult with the instructor by the eighth week of the preceding quarter to determine the subject of the course and the work to be done. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

**Scandinavian (SCAN)**

**24700. Scandinavian Women's Literature.** (=NORW 24700) This is a survey course of literature by Scandinavian women writers. We read and analyze works from Norway, Denmark, and Sweden, from the 1850s to the near present. We examine how feminist issues and themes in the texts of these Scandinavian women reflect the changes in Scandinavian society over the past 150 years. *K. Kenny. Spring.*

**28100. The Radical Truth of Henrik Ibsen.** (=GRMN 28100, GSHU 28100, NORW 281000) For course description, see Norwegian. *K. Kenny. Autumn.*

**28500. Comparative Fairy Tale: The Brothers Grimm, H. C. Anderson, and Asbjørnsen and Moe.** (=CMLT 21600, HUMA 28400, NORW 29800) In this course, we compare familiar examples from two national traditions of the fairy tale, those of the Brothers Grimm (German) and H. C. Anderson (Danish), with examples from the less familiar Norwegian tradition of Asbjørnsen and Moe. *K. Kenny. Winter.*