

Germanic Studies

Director of Undergraduate Studies and Departmental Adviser:

Eric Santner, Wb 204, 834-0948, esantner@midway.uchicago.edu

Language Program Director: Catherine Baumann, C 508, 702-8008,

c-baumann@uchicago.edu

Departmental Administrator for German in the College:

Jacqueline Dawkins, Cl 25F, 702-8494,

jdawkins@midway.uchicago.edu

E-mail: german-department@uchicago.edu

Web: humanities.uchicago.edu/depts/german

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).

Students in other fields of study may also complete a minor in Germanic studies. Details and a sample program follow information about the concentration.

Program Requirements

Beyond acquiring the competence needed to meet the College language requirement, students concentrating in Germanic studies normally register for six additional courses in German language, six courses in German literature and culture, and GRMN 29900 (B.A. Paper). With prior approval of the director of undergraduate studies, students may count up to three relevant German-oriented courses from other departments in the humanities or social sciences toward the requirements of the concentration in Germanic studies. Students must meet with the director of undergraduate studies to discuss a plan of study as soon as they declare their concentration. Concentrators must have their programs approved by the director of undergraduate studies before the end of their third year.

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 third year.

Summary of Requirements

Concentration	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 with prior approval)
	—	B.A. Paper (GRMN 29900)
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[†] *Credit may be granted by examination.*

Grading. Students concentrating in Germanic studies must take a quality grade in all courses taken to meet concentration requirements. Nonconcentrators have the option of taking courses on a *P/F* basis (except for language courses, which must be taken for quality grades). 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 those 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 at least 3.0 for College work and a GPA of at least 3.5 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 the variety of study abroad options available in the College. There are four. (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 complete the College's Advanced Language Proficiency Certificate in German as documentation of advanced functional ability in German in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Minor Program in Germanic Studies

The minor in Germanic studies requires a total of six courses beyond the second-year language sequence (20100-20300). At least one of the courses following completion of the third-year sequence must be taken in German. Credit toward the minor for courses taken abroad will be determined in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies.

Students who elect the minor program in Germanic studies must meet with the director of undergraduate studies before the end of Spring Quarter of their third year to declare their intention to complete the minor. (The deadline for students graduating in 2003–04 is the end of Autumn Quarter 2003.) Students choose courses in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. The director's approval for the minor program should be submitted to a student's College adviser by the deadline above on a form obtained from the adviser.

Courses in the minor (1) may not be double-counted with the student's concentration(s) or with other minors and (2) may not be counted toward general education requirements. Courses in the minor must be taken for quality grades, and more than half of the requirements for the minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

The following group of courses would comprise a minor in Germanic studies. Other programs may be designed in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. Minor program requirements are subject to revision.

Germanic Studies Sample Minor

GRMN 21100-21200-21300. Third-Year German Languages Across Curriculum (LxC) course. (one course, preferably related to the student's concentration)
GRMN 25300. Thomas Mann's *Doktor Faustus*
GRMN 35500. Von Wagner zu Brecht

Faculty

C. Baumann, 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 GRMN 10200: placement or consent of language coordinator. PQ for 10300: 10200 or 10201 or placement or consent of language coordinator. No auditors permitted. Must be taken for letter grades.* 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. Must be taken for a letter grade.* 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. Must be taken for a letter grade.* 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. Must be taken for a letter grade.* 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. This course 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. Must be taken for a letter grade.* 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. Must be taken for a letter grade.* 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 must be taken in sequence or individually. No auditors permitted. Must be taken for letter grades.* 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. Must be taken for a letter grade.* 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: (1) an additional course meeting during which students read and discuss authentic source material and primary texts in German, or (2) a course in another discipline (such as history) that 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

22007. *Romantische Erzählungen*. In this course, students learn to appreciate the Romantic art of storytelling. To achieve this goal, the course also provides some basic techniques of narrative analysis and general background knowledge about Romanticism as a literary movement. Readings by Tieck, Archim von Arnim, Kleist, Hoffman, Eichendorff, Fouque und Heine. Classes conducted in German. *C. Tang. Autumn.*

Advanced Undergraduate Courses Taught in English

22600. Confronting German Identities in Art and Film, 1800 to 2000. (=ARTH 23800) *PQ: At least one previous course in art history or German.* The course focuses on the issues concerned with visualizations of the problematics of German identity in conjunction with the Smart Museum exhibition "Confronting German Identities." As a colloquium, it explores how artists and other producers of visual imagery in Germany from the era of Romanticism to the present have reflected on the issues of the German what, how and why. Primary focus is on the Smart Museum exhibition and works in it as well as a selection of German films that address or provoke problems of German identities. *R. Heller. Autumn.*

24000/34800. Postwar German Cinema. *PQ: Advanced standing.* Introduction to the poetics and politics of some of the major works of postwar German cinema, including films by Wolfgang Staudte, Helma Sanders-Brahms, Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Werner Herzog, Alexander Kluge, Wim Wenders, Michael Verhoeven, and Monika Treut. All films with English subtitles. *D. Levin. Spring.*

25200/35200. Literary Kierkegaard. (=CMLT 24500/34500, FNDL 22700) 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 instruction offered. *C. Tang. Spring.*

25600. H.D. and the Poetry of Women. (=FNDL 27902, ISHU 25601) A reading of *Tribute to Freud* by the American poet H.D. (Hilda Doolittle, 1886-1961). From this laudation, several threads are spun out that suggest the developmental origins, theoretical status, and effective implications of Freud's much debated ambivalence toward women. Special attention is paid to the implications for Freudian poetology in general and the poetry of women, especially that of H.D. *S. Jaffe. Winter.*

25900. Fiction and Freedom. (=CMLT 24800) In this course we examine a series of major twentieth-century works of fiction that explore the nature of human freedom. Our concern is not only to delineate the theme of freedom, but also to attempt to understand the link between that theme and the fictional form the author chooses. A further concern is the position of the reader as it is figured in the texts examined. Authors considered are Herman Melville, Franz Kafka, Samuel Beckett, T. S. Eliot, Maurice Blanchot, and Imre Kertész. *D. Wellbery. Winter.*

26100/36100. Kitsch. (=ISHU 28200/38200, SLAV 28600/38600) This course explores the concept of kitsch (and its attendants: camp, trash, and the Russian *poshlost*) as it has been formulated in literature and literary essays and theorized in modern critical thinking. The course is discussion-intensive with readings from Theodor Adorno, Clement Greenberg, Robert Musil, Hermann Broch, Walter Benjamin, Vladimir Nabokov, Milan Kundera, Matei Calinescu, and Tomas Kulka. No prior experience of kitsch is necessary. *M. Sternstein. Autumn.*

29600/39600. Kafka in Prague. (=CZEC 27700/37700, ISHU 27900/37900) The goal of this course is a thorough treatment of Kafka's literary work in its Central European, more specifically Czech, context. In critical scholarship, Kafka and his work are often alienated from his Prague milieu. The course revisits the Prague of Kafka's time, with particular reference to *Josefov* (the Jewish ghetto), *Das Prager Deutsch*, and Czech/German/Jewish relations of the prewar and interwar years. We discuss most of Kafka's major prose works within this context and beyond (including *The Castle*, *The Trial*, and the stories published during his lifetime), as well as selected critical approaches to his work. *M. Sternstein. Winter.*

29200/39200. Freud as Humanist. (=ISHU 27600) *S. Jaffe. Winter.*

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.*

34200. Romantic Literature and Science. In the past decades, the study of the relation between literature and science has emerged as one of the most vibrant fields of literary scholarship. The period around 1800 occupies a prominent position in this enterprise, because it is in this period that literature and science were differentiated into what C.P. Snow polemically termed "two cultures" and, as a consequence, their relation became a problem. In this seminar, we will first address the theoretical question as to the implications of history of science for literary studies, and then examine the modes of differentiation and transfer between literary and scientific discourses by reading some key literary, poetological and scientific texts produced in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Readings by

Haller, Schiller, Hölderlin, Novalis, Humboldt, Arnim, Hoffmann, and Chamisso. *C. Tang. Spring.*

Norwegian (NORW)

10100-10200-10300. First-Year Norwegian I, II, III. The aim of this sequence is 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.*

10400. 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. Spring.*

26700. Literature of the Nazi Occupation of Norway. (=GRMN 26700, SCAN 26700) The German Occupation of Norway (which lasted from April 9, 1940, to May 7, 1945) is indisputably the most significant event in modern Norwegian history. The aim of this course is to use literature of and about this period to characterize the Occupation experience in Norway. Our readings include history, memoirs, novels, and poetry, from, among others, Norwegians (e.g., Vesaas and Hoel), Germans (e.g., Siegfried Lenz), and Americans (e.g., Steinbeck). *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)

26700. Literature of the Nazi Occupation of Norway. (=GRMN 26700, NORW 26700) The German Occupation of Norway (which lasted from April 9, 1940, to May 7, 1945) is indisputably the most significant event in modern Norwegian history. The aim of this course is to use literature of and about this period to characterize the Occupation experience in Norway. Our readings include history, memoirs, novels, and poetry, from, among others, Norwegians (e.g., Vesaas and Hoel), Germans (e.g., Siegfried Lenz), and Americans (e.g., Steinbeck). *K. Kenny. Winter.*