

Germanic Studies

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Program of Study

The program for the BA degree in Germanic Studies is intended to provide students with a wide ranging and highly personalized 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. Information follows the description of the major.

Program Requirements

Students majoring in Germanic Studies typically register for six German language courses at the second-year level and above, plus six courses in German literature and culture, including two literature or culture courses taken in German, and GRMN 29900 (BA 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 major in Germanic Studies. Students must meet with the director of undergraduate studies to discuss a plan of study as soon as they declare their major and no later than the end of Spring Quarter of their third year. Students must have their programs approved by the director of undergraduate studies before the end of their third year.

BA Paper. The BA paper typically 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 a proposal for their BA paper to their faculty adviser by the beginning of the eighth week of Autumn Quarter in their senior year. A first draft of the paper is due on the first day of Spring Quarter, and the completed paper must be submitted by the beginning of the sixth week of Spring Quarter.

Germanic Studies will accept a paper or project used to meet the BA requirement in another major, under the condition that original German sources are used. Students should consult with both chairs by the earliest BA proposal deadline (or by the end of their third year, when neither program publishes a deadline). A consent form, to be signed by both chairs, is available from the College adviser. It must be completed and returned to the College adviser by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student's year of graduation.

Summary of Requirements

3	GRMN 20100, 20200, 20300 (second-year German)*
3	GRMN 21102, 21202, 21302
2	literature or culture courses taken in German
4	courses in German literature and culture (three may be courses in other departments and/or Languages Across Chicago courses)
<u>1</u>	BA Paper (GRMN 29900)
13	

* Or credit for the equivalent as determined by petition.

Grading. Students who are majoring in Germanic Studies must receive a quality grade in all courses taken to meet requirements in the major. Nonmajors have the option of taking courses for *P/F* grading (except for language courses, which must be taken for quality grades).

Honors. Honors are reserved for students who achieve overall excellence in grades for courses in the College and within the major, as well as complete a BA 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 major, and whose BA paper (GRMN 29900) is judged superior by two readers, will be recommended to the Master of the Humanities Collegiate Division for honors.

Study Abroad. As early in their course of study as possible, interested students are encouraged to take advantage of one of the study abroad options that are available in the College. The five options are: (1) A program in Vienna, which is offered each Autumn Quarter, includes three courses of European Civilization, as well as German language instruction on several 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 complete the second year of language study. (3) The College also co-sponsors, with the Berlin Consortium for German Studies, a yearlong program at the Freie Universität Berlin. Students 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) Third-year majors can apply for a Romberg Summer Research Grant to do preparatory work for the BA paper. (5) Students who wish to do a summer study

abroad program can apply for a Foreign Language Acquisition Grant (FLAG) that is administered by the College and provides 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. For more information, visit sitg.uchicago.edu.

More than half of the requirements for the major must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

Proficiency Certificate. It is recommended that all students majoring in Germanic Studies complete the College's Advanced Language Proficiency Certificate in German as documentation of advanced functional ability in reading, writing, listening to, and speaking German. Students are eligible to take the examinations that result in the awarding of this certificate after they have completed courses beyond the second year of language study and subsequently have spent a minimum of one quarter abroad in an approved program; FLAG students are also eligible. For more information, visit college.uchicago.edu/academics/language_advanced.shtml.

Minor Program in Germanic Studies

Students in other fields of study may complete a minor in Germanic Studies. The minor in Germanic Studies requires a total of six courses in addition to the second-year language sequence (GRMN 20100-20300) (or credit for the equivalent as determined by petition). These six courses usually include the third-year sequence and three literature/culture courses. One of the literature/culture courses must be taken in German. Note that credit toward the minor for courses taken abroad must 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 and must submit a form obtained from their College adviser. Students choose courses in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. The director's approval for the minor program should be submitted to the student's College adviser by the deadline above on the form.

Courses in the minor may not be double counted with the student's major(s) or with other minors and 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 21101-21201-21301. Third-Year German

GRMN 22004. Von Wagner zu Brecht

GRMN 25300. Thomas Mann's *Doktor Faustus*

Languages Across Chicago course

Minor Program in Norwegian Studies

Students in any field may complete a minor in Norwegian Studies. A Norwegian Studies minor will consist of the beginning language cycle (10100, 10200, and 10300) as the language component of the minor. Three additional courses are required to complete the minor. Students choose these courses in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. These courses may include 200-level Norwegian language classes and/or literature classes; NORW 10400 (Intermediate Norwegian I: Introduction to Literature); and NORW 10500 (Intermediate Norwegian II: *To Ekspedisjoner*/Two Expeditions).

Students who elect the minor program in Norwegian 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 and must submit a form obtained from their College adviser. Students choose courses in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. The director's approval for the minor program should be submitted to the student's College adviser by the deadline above on the form.

Courses in the minor may not be double counted with the student's major(s) or with other minors and 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.

Minor program requirements are subject to revision.

Faculty

C. Baumann, K. Kenny, D. Levin, S. Lüdemann, E. Santner, J. Schwarz, D. Wellbery, C. Wild

Courses: German (GRMN)**Language****First-Year Sequence**

10100-10200-10300. Elementary German for Beginners I, II, III. *PQ for GRMN 10200: GRMN 10100 or placement. PQ for GRMN 10300: GRMN 10200 or 10201, or placement. No auditors permitted. Must be taken for quality grades.* This sequence develops 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 quality grade.* This is an accelerated version of the GRMN 10100-10200 sequence intended for students with previous knowledge of the language. *Autumn, Winter.*

13100. Reading German. *Prior knowledge of German not required. No auditors permitted. This course does not prepare students for the competency exam. Must be taken for a quality grade.* This course prepares students to read a variety of German texts. 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 introduced. *Spring.*

Second-Year Sequence

20100. Deutsche Märchen. *PQ: GRMN 10300 or placement. No auditors permitted. Must be taken for a quality grade.* This course is 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. *Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

20200. Deutsch-Amerikanische Themen. *PQ: GRMN 20100 or placement. No auditors permitted. Must be taken for a quality grade.* Issues may range from print or other media, to social topics such as family roles or social class, and to literary genres such as exile or immigrant literature. Review and expansion of German grammar continues. *Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

20300. Kurzprosa aus dem 20. Jahrhundert. *PQ: GRMN 20200 or placement. No auditors permitted. Must be taken for a quality grade.* This course is a study of descriptive and narrative prose through short fiction and other texts, as well as media from the twentieth century, with a focus on grammatical issues that are designed to push toward more cohesive and idiomatic use of languages. *Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

Third-Year Sequence

21102-21202-21302. Fokus. *These courses may be taken in sequence or individually, but all three courses are required for the major.* These three courses serve as preparation for seminar-style classes. Students prepare texts for class discussion and learn to present and participate in a *Referat* (a student-led discussion of relevant issues and the student's position on those issues). These *Referate* are also prepared in written form; expanding and refining writing skills are major goals.

21102. Fokus: Erzählen. *PQ: GRMN 20300 or placement. No auditors permitted.* This course presents advanced German through the study of narratives of various authors from different periods. *Autumn.*

21202. Fokus: Drama. PQ: GRMN 20300 or placement. No auditors permitted. This course presents advanced German through the study of dramas and/or films of various authors/directors from different eras. *Winter.*

21302. Fokus: Gedichte. PQ: GRMN 20300 or placement. No auditors permitted. This course presents advanced German through the study of poetry of various authors from different periods. *Spring.*

Courses: Literature and Culture

All literature and culture courses are conducted in German unless otherwise indicated. Students who are majoring or minoring in German and take courses taught in English are expected to do the majority of their course work in German.

23511. Man and Machine. This course explores the ways in which mechanical devices and machines have historically served as models to gain a deeper understanding of the human organism, and, in turn, how machines have been configured in the image of man. Our starting point is in the seventeenth century with the mechanistic philosophies of Descartes and Leibniz. Next we examine novellistic and cinematic treatments of mechanical man and woman in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and we conclude with Hollywood's dreams of electric sheep (*Blade Runner*) and the T-1000 (*Terminator 2*). All work in English. *C. Wild. Winter.*

24211. Ibsen: Theory and Practice. (=NORW 24211, TAPS 28418) The goal of this course is to integrate academic and practical approaches in the study of the great Norwegian playwright, Henrik Ibsen. We bring together two modes of engagement with Ibsen's work: (1) close, historical, and contextual readings of the major plays; and (2) performance-based scene studies in which the student learns to approach the material as actor, director, and dramaturg. Among the plays studied are *A Doll's House*, *The Wild Duck*, *Hedda Gabler*, and *When We Dead Awaken*. *K. Kenny, P. Pascoe. Winter.*

24311/34311. Three Generations. (=CMLT 24302/34302, SCTH 34311) Gottfried Benn, Elizabeth Bishop, Durs Grünbein, Zbigniew Herbert, C. K. Williams are three generations of Modernism in poetry: Benn as one of the grandfathers, Bishop and Herbert as representatives of the middle generation, and C. K. Williams and Grünbein as grandchildren. The idea of the class is to read poems closely and to discuss them in the class. German discussion section arranged for majors. Texts and discussions in English. *D. Wellbery, A. Zagajewski. Autumn.*

25311. Bargaining with the Devil. This course is an investigation of how the devil's pact has served as metaphor for the desire of humans to transcend limits of power, human knowledge, and artistic achievement. Readings and viewings include the Book of Genesis, historical documents from witchcraft trials, Goethe's *Faust*, romantic stories and fairy tales, and *Rosemary's Baby*. All work in English. *C. Wild. Autumn.*

25811. German Cinema, 1945 to 1980. *Knowledge of German language and history not required.* This course introduces the classical New German Cinema and some of the issues in its history and theory. We consider a broad variety of films (some familiar, some not so familiar) and read a broad range of material—incorporating, among others, questions of genre, auteur theory, psychoanalysis, semiotics, history, politics, and film style. Students are challenged to make a serious commitment to thinking about the logic, rhetoric, history, and textuality of film. Films have English subtitles. *D. Levin. Spring.*

26211. Enlightenment's Imaginary. In the vein of Adorno and Horkheimer's critique of the dialectic of the enlightenment, this seminar introduces this historical period and cultural movement by examining and deconstructing the myths and metaphors they fashion about their projects' paradoxes and aporias. We investigate different figurations of the paradox of the beginning: the contingency of birth, the inescapability of the Fall, the facticity of evil in a world made by a benevolent and omnipotent creator, the a priori of communication and language, the fiction of nature and natural signs as unmade, and, finally, pedagogy as the mode to institute enlightenment. Although the seminar understands the enlightenment as an European phenomenon, it concentrates on such German authors as Leibniz, Kant, Lessing, Mendelssohn, Herder, and Schiller. *C. Wild. Spring.*

26511. The Age of Goethe. This course examines one of the most important eras in the history of German culture, the Age of Goethe. In addition to selected works by Goethe, writings of Herder, Schiller, Tieck, and Kleist are examined. Students acquire an acquaintance with the most significant philosophical developments of the time, as well as major figures in the visual arts and music. We treat such period concepts as Enlightenment, Storm and Stress, Classicism, and Romanticism. *D. Wellbery. Autumn.*

28411/38411. Comparative Metrics. (=CLAS 38410, CLCV 28410, CMLT 28401/38401, ENGL 28914/38401, SLAV 28502/38502) *Working knowledge of one European language besides English is strongly recommended. This course meets the critical/intellectual methods course requirement for students who are majoring in Comparative Literature.* This class offers an overview of major European systems of versification, with particular attention to their historical development. We are particularly concerned with Graeco-Roman quantitative metrics, its afterlife, and the evolution of Germanic and Slavic verse. In addition to analyzing the formal properties of verse, we inquire into their relevance for the articulation of poetic genres and, more broadly, the history of literary (and sub-literary) systems. *B. Maslov. Spring.*

28500. Comparative Fairy Tale. (=CMLT 21600, NORW 28500) For some, fairy tales count as sacred tales meant to enchant rather than to edify. For others, they are cautionary tales, replete with obvious moral lessons. Critics have come to apply all sorts of literary approaches to fairy tale texts, ranging from stylistic analyses to psychoanalytical and feminist readings. For the purposes of this course, we assume that these critics are correct in their contention that fairy tales contain essential underlying meanings. We conduct our own readings of fairy

tales from the German Brothers Grimm; the Norwegians, Asbjørnsen and Moe; and the Dane, Hans Christian Andersen. We rely on our own critical skills as well as on selected secondary readings. All work in English. *K. Kenny. Spring.*

29000. Major Works of Modernism. (=CMLT 28700) This course is centered on several canonical works of classical modernism: Hugo von Hofmannsthal's *Ein Brief*, Robert Walser's *Jakob von Gunten*, Thomas Mann's *Tod in Venedig*, Franz Kafka's *Die Verwandlung*, Arthur Schnitzler's *Fräulein Else*, and Bertolt Brecht's *Mutter Courage und ihre Kinder*; and poetry by Stefan George, Hofmannsthal, Gottfried Benn, Rainer Maria Rilke, and Georg Trakl; as well as essays by Georg Simmel, Walter Benjamin, and Robert Musil. On the basis of the works studied, we endeavor to develop a concept of modernism sufficiently capacious to embrace radically opposed literary and cultural agendas. All work in German. *D. Wellbery. Winter.*

29700. Reading and Research Course in German. *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.*

29900. BA 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.*

34900. Old English. (=ENGL 14900/34900) This course is designed to prepare students for further study in Old English language and literature. As such, our focus is the acquisition of linguistic skills needed to encounter such Old English poems as *Beowulf*, *The Battle of Maldon*, and *The Wanderer* in their original language. In addition to these texts, we may also translate the prose *Life of Saint Edmund, King and Martyr* and such shorter poetic texts as the *Exeter Book* riddles. We also survey Anglo-Saxon history and culture, taking into account the historical record, archeology, manuscript construction and illumination, and the growth of Anglo-Saxon studies as an academic discipline. This course serves as a prerequisite both for further Old English study at the University of Chicago and for participation in the Newberry Library's Winter Quarter Anglo-Saxon seminar. *C. von Nolcken. Autumn.*

Languages Across Chicago (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.

Courses: Norwegian (NORW)

Language

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 of 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 I. Introduction to Literature. *PQ: NORW 10300 or consent of instructor.* This course combines intensive review of all basic grammar with the acquisition of more advanced grammar concepts. While our main priority remains oral proficiency, we work to develop our reading and writing skills. We challenge our reading ability with more sophisticated examples of Norwegian prose and strengthen our writing through essay writing. The centerpiece of the course is the contemporary Norwegian novel *Naiv. Super. K. Kenny. Spring.*

10500. Intermediate Norwegian II. To Ekspedisjoner/Two Expeditions. *PQ: NORW 10400 or consent of instructor.* This course is a continuation of NORW 10400 that 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, including the contemporary novel, *L*, by Erlend Loe and excerpts from Thor Heyerdahl's *Kon Tiki*. Classes conducted in Norwegian. *K. Kenny. Spring.*

Literature and Culture

24211. Ibsen: Theory and Practice. (=GRMN 24211, TAPS 28418) The goal of this course is to integrate academic and practical approaches in the study of the great Norwegian playwright, Henrik Ibsen. We bring together two modes of engagement with Ibsen's work: (1) close, historical, and contextual readings of the major plays; and (2) performance-based scene studies in which the student learns to approach the material as actor, director, and dramaturg. Among the plays studied are *A Doll's House*, *The Wild Duck*, *Hedda Gabler*, and *When We Dead Awaken*. *K. Kenny, P. Pascoe. Winter.*

28500. Comparative Fairy Tale. (=CMLT 21600, GRMN 28500) For some, fairy tales count as sacred tales meant to enchant rather than to edify. For others, they are cautionary tales, replete with obvious moral lessons. Critics have come to apply all sorts of literary approaches to fairy tale texts, ranging from stylistic analyses to psychoanalytical and feminist readings. For the purposes of this course, we assume that these critics are correct in their contention that fairy tales contain essential underlying meanings. We conduct our own readings of fairy tales from the German Brothers Grimm, the Norwegians, Asbjørnsen and Moe, and the Dane, Hans Christian Andersen. We rely on our own critical skills as well as on selected secondary readings. *K. Kenny. Spring.*

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. K. Kenny. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

Courses: Yiddish (YDDH)

Language

10100-10200-10300. Elementary Yiddish I, II, III. (=JWSC 20300-20400-20500, LGLN 27200-27300-27400) The goal of this sequence is to develop proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking for use in everyday communication. The main features of Yiddish culture are introduced through websites, songs, films, and folklore. *J. Schwarz. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

21709/31709. Intermediate Yiddish, I, II, III. *PQ: YDDH 10300 or consent of instructor.* This sequence uses a variety of material to expose students to different styles of written and spoken Yiddish. Course materials include a selection of modern Yiddish literature (short stories and poems), including CDs with readings by native speakers; newspaper articles; and websites about Yiddish cultural life in the United States, Europe, and Israel. *J. Schwarz. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*