

Spring 2021

Undergraduate Courses

100

GER 101 Beginner's German I

This course lays a foundation for functional acquisition of German. Class time is devoted to language tasks that will foster communicative and cultural competence and will emphasize listening and reading strategies, vocabulary acquisition, authentic input, and oral production.

Staff | M T W Th F 12:30 - 1:20 pm TAUGHT IN GERMAN

GER 102 Beginner's German II

Continues the goals of GER 101, focusing on increased communicative proficiency, effective reading strategies, and listening skills. Emphasis on vocabulary acquisition and functional language tasks: learning to request, persuade, ask for help, express opinions, agree and disagree, negotiate conversations, and to gain perspective on German culture through readings, discussion, and film.

Staff | M T W Th F 9:00 - 9:50 am TAUGHT IN GERMAN

Staff | M T W Th F 10:00 - 10:50 am TAUGHT IN GERMAN

Staff | M T W Th F 12:30 - 1:20 pm TAUGHT IN GERMAN

GER 1025 Intensive Intermediate German

Builds on GER 101, covering the acquisitional goals of two subsequent semesters: communicative proficiency in a wide range of syntax, mastery of discourse skills, and reading strategies sufficient to interpret and discuss contemporary German short stories, drama, and film.

Adam Oberlin | M T W Th F 12:00 - 1:20 pm TAUGHT IN GERMAN

GER 107 Advanced German

Continues improvement of proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing using texts, online media, and other sources as a basis for class discussion. Grammar review is included.

Staff | M W F 10:00 - 10:50 am TAUGHT IN GERMAN

Staff | M W F 12:30 - 1:20 pm TAUGHT IN GERMAN

200

GER 208 Studies in German Language and Style: Contemporary Society, Politics, and Culture

This course traces German cultural and political history from 1945 to the present by examining the period's most heated debates. These include controversies around the aftermath of Nazi rule, the ideological rivalry between the two German states up to reunification, persistent struggles with multiculturalism, and Germany's role and reputation in Europe. The course facilitates advanced competence in written and oral German while also developing analytical competencies in historical and historiographical argumentation.

Adam Oberlin | T Th 3:00 - 4:20 pm TAUGHT IN GERMAN

GER 210 Introduction to German Philosophy

An introduction to the German philosophical tradition from the Enlightenment to the present through the study of its major figures (Kant, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Adorno, Arendt). This course offers a survey of German intellectual history based upon

direct engagement with original texts. Domains to be explored include metaphysics, aesthetics, the theory of knowledge, political philosophy and the philosophy of language.

Johannes Wankhammer | Pre-Recorded Lectures and Interactive Precepts TAUGHT IN ENGLISH

GER 211 Introduction to Media Theory

This class will trace the development of critical reflection on technologies and media ranging from the printing press to photography, from gramophones to radio technologies, from pre-cinematic optical devices to film and television, and from telephony and typewriters to cyberspace. Topics include the relationship between representation and technology, the historicity of perception, the interplay of aesthetics, technology and politics, and the transformation of notions of imagination, literacy, communication, reality, and truth.

Thomas Y. Levin | M W 11:00 am - 12:20 pm TAUGHT IN ENGLISH

300

GER 302 Topics in Critical Theory: What Is Critique?

What does it mean to think "critically" or practice "critique"? This seminar explores the rich history of reflection on *Kritik* in the German intellectual tradition, from Kant's critical turn in philosophy to the Critical Theory of the Frankfurt School and contemporary debates about whether critique has outlived its usefulness. We will explore the historical origins of the critical habitus, probe connections between literary criticism and cultural critique, and examine the uses and limits of critical demystification in times of post-truth politics.

Johannes Wankhammer | T Th 11:00 am - 12:20 pm
TAUGHT IN GERMAN

GER 307 Topics in German Culture and Society: German Affects

This course sets out from the assumption that emotions are historically as well as culturally determined. In discussing literature, philosophy, theory, and film, we will traverse a variety of emotions

and ask whether there exists anything like particularly "German" emotions. Discussion will focus on love, resentment, the uncanny, shock and *Angst*, hatred, trauma and apathy, rage, *Heimweh*, enthusiasm, shame, and *Schadenfreude*.

Barbara N. Nagel | M W 1:30 - 2:50 pm TAUGHT IN GERMAN

GER 314 Topics in the History and Theory of the Media: Artificial Life

What defines life? And where is the boundary between its proper and improper instances, between the natural and the artificial? Taking up readings from philosophy, science, and literature that range from antiquity to contemporary nanotech, this seminar explores humanity's desire to become like the gods, fashioning species, companions, and slaves at will, even as these creations threaten to take on an uncanny life of their own. Discussing these topics inevitably raises questions about ethics, technology, aesthetics, gender and ecology.

Devin A. Fore | M W 3:00 - 4:20 pm TAUGHT IN ENGLISH