

German Studies

The major in German studies is administered by the Department of German Studies: Professors Davis, Remmler (*chair*); Senior Lecturer Van Handle, Lecturer Lauer

Contact Persons

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German Studies Web Site

<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/german>

The Department of German Studies offers a program that promotes an understanding of the connections between language and its larger cultural contexts, including economics, science, history, politics, film, art, music, and philosophy in addition to literature. Language learning in our program emphasizes at all levels the interrelationship between language and culture. We encourage students to integrate their interest in other subjects with their study of German.

All department members have Ph.D. training in interdisciplinary German studies as well as German literature and participate in a wide range of interdisciplinary programs. Our courses, therefore, contribute to such programs as critical social thought, European studies, film studies, gender studies, and Jewish studies. Furthermore, there are many experts in German area studies in related Mount Holyoke (and Five College) departments whose courses form part of our German studies programs. We strongly recommend that students take courses in German history, philosophy, politics, art, music, film, and other fields related to German and European culture.

Our entire curriculum, then, supports the study of the German language within its cultural and historical contexts and is adapted to the individual student's background, style, and pace of learning. To facilitate such learning, the department creatively employs the use of technology throughout its curriculum,

from elementary courses to advanced seminars.

Courses focus on interpersonal communication among students and with the instructor, and among students and peer assistants from Germany. From the beginning, students learn strategies for understanding German speakers in a variety of contexts, on many levels, and in diverse situations. In "live laboratory" sessions, peer assistants from Germany provide opportunities for informal conversations. All courses are conducted in German, except first-year seminars and 231. However, students in these courses may receive credit toward the German studies major or minor by enrolling in a complementary two-credit speaking and writing course (German Studies 232).

German studies majors graduating from Mount Holyoke College have used the analytical, cultural, and linguistic competence they acquired to pursue a wide range of careers in international affairs, banking, business, publishing, journalism, radio and television broadcasting, law, government, education, and medicine and other sciences. A loyal network of alumnae helps current students acquire internships and enter career paths in these fields, both in German-speaking countries and the U.S. Many of these alumnae continued their studies in German and other fields at the most renowned graduate and professional schools in the United States and abroad.

The major in German studies, therefore, integrates the development of language skills with the study of the social, economic, and cultural developments in the German-speaking countries, both in the past and present.

Requirements for the German Studies Major

Credits

- A minimum of 32 credits beyond 201, of which at least 16 must be at the 300 level in the German Studies Department.

Courses

- 220 and at least one topics course, normally 223
- Four courses at the 300 level, including the senior seminar, German Studies 325, to be completed during the spring semester of their senior year (Students may count one or two 300-level courses taken abroad with approval of the chair.)
- Courses in translation (231) are not normally part of the minimum major of 32 credits. Students may earn credit in German if they read German texts in the original, write their papers in German, and enroll in 232, the 2-credit course which complements 231.

As culture is constructed and expressed through language, students are expected to conduct their work in the department and as much work as possible outside the department in the German language.

In conjunction with their advisors, students plan an individualized program of study suited to their interests and backgrounds. To ensure breadth of background and context, we strongly encourage students to include at least one course each relating to the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries. To ensure depth, students may focus on a specific topic, period, or century. Courses about Germany or Europe taught in other departments or programs may be selected from such fields as anthropology, art, critical social thought, economics, European studies, film studies, gender studies, history, international relations, Jewish studies, music, politics, philosophy, psychology, religious studies, sociology, and theatre arts. Students should focus their work in these courses on issues relating to German-speaking countries and consult with the department to choose appropriate courses.

Requirements for the Minor

The minor in German studies is intended to provide a focused introduction to the language and culture of German-speaking countries.

Credits

- A minimum of 16 credits beyond German Studies 201 and at least one 4-credit course at the 300 level

Courses

- 220 and at least one topics course, normally 223
- One course at the 300 level in the Department of German Studies
- Courses in translation (231) are not normally part of the minimum minor of 16 credits within the department. Students may earn credit in German if they read texts in the original, write their papers in German, and enroll in 232, the 2-credit course which complements 231.

Teacher Licensure

Students interested in pursuing licensure in the field of German studies can combine their course work with a minor in education. In some instances, coursework in the major coincides with coursework required for licensure; in other cases, it does not. For more information, please consult your advisor, the chair of the German studies department, and the “Teacher Licensure” page on the German studies Web site: <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/german/certification.html>. Licensure also requires a formal application as well as passing scores on the Massachusetts Test of Educator Licensure (MTEL) in both the literacy component and the subject matter component. Copies of the test objectives for the MTEL are available in the Department of Psychology and Education. Licensure application information and materials are available in the Department of Psychology and Education.

Study and Internships Abroad in German-Speaking Countries

The junior year in Germany is open to both majors and nonmajors. To be appropriately prepared for study in Germany, students who wish to participate should have studied German continuously, at least one course each semester, during their first and second years. Majors spending the junior year in a Ger-

man-speaking country with a program approved by the department and the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives normally satisfy some of the minimum requirements of their major while abroad. By completing appropriate course work, including written work, students majoring in German may transfer the equivalent of one course per semester at the 300 level and additional credits at the 200 level. Minors spending the junior year in a German-speaking country with a program approved by the department and the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives may bring back the equivalent of one course at the 300 level and one course at the 200 level. Upon their return, students are required to participate in at least one course per semester in the department so that faculty can evaluate them based on work done in the senior year when writing recommendations for graduate school or employment opportunities.

The department has exchange programs with the Universities of Bonn, Leipzig, and Potsdam and will assist each student with selecting an individually appropriate study abroad program or with locating internship opportunities abroad. See the department's study abroad Web page for more details: <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/german/introduction.html>.

Our students frequently spend time abroad, either in their junior year or in the summer. They also take advantage of diverse internship opportunities at: German investment banks or brokerage firms, science laboratories, hospitals, newspapers, intercultural agencies, schools, radio stations, museums, libraries, archives, and other places of professional interest to them.

Our graduating seniors have consistently been awarded such highly regarded national and international graduate fellowships as DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), Fulbright, PAD (*Pädagogischer Austauschdienst*), Congress/Bundestag Fellowship for Young Professionals, Bundestag Internship Program (*Internationale Parlaments-Praktika Internship Programm*), CDS Emigré Parliamentary Internships, and internships with the European Union.

For New Students

Placement

The Department of German Studies will review the course selection of all entering students, taking into consideration school and AP records together with the answers to the questionnaire at <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/germ/firstyears.html>.

All students who plan to elect German in either semester must complete this questionnaire carefully. Final course placement will be based on the following considerations: the student's specific training in German, the results of the student's online placement exam, and scheduling possibilities. Students should take the online placement exam by August 31, 2008, if possible. It is available at <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/germ/exam.html>.

Students contemplating spending all or part of their junior year in Germany should elect German in the first semester of their first year, since two continuous years of German in college are normally required for junior-year programs in Germany.

Courses that satisfy the College language requirement only are designated as such. Other courses can satisfy either the language requirement or fulfill a Humanities I-A distribution requirement.

German Studies 100, the first-year seminar offered in the spring this year, and German Studies 231, Topics in German Studies, are writing-intensive courses taught in English. Both courses are open to first-year students. This year's 231 topic is Introduction to Nineteenth-Century Critical Social Thought.

Course Selection

Students in Groups II–IV are required to take the online placement exam. Students may choose their courses according to the following guidelines, but all students are encouraged to consult with the chair of the department during the summer or upon arrival on campus. Email: german-d@mtholyoke.edu

Group I: Students with no previous training in German, or with the equivalent of one year of study at the secondary school level, should elect *German Studies 101* or *103* in the fall, or *German Studies 103* in the spring. *German Studies 101f-102s* is a yearlong Elementary German course; *German Studies 103* is an intensive course that covers two semesters (one year) in one semester.

Group II: Students who have studied German for more than one year but for fewer than four years, or who feel they need a comprehensive review of grammar, should elect *German Studies 201*.

Group III: Students with four or more years of study in German, or extensive experience living in a German-speaking country or speaking German, should ordinarily elect *German Studies 220* (Stories and Histories) or *German Studies 223* (Topics in German Studies) based on the results of the placement exam.

Group IV: Other students with previous training in German should consult with the department chair during the summer or in September for individual placement or enroll in *German Studies 223*.

Course Offerings

100s The Politics of Memory in Postwar German and Japanese culture

(First-year seminar; writing-intensive course; taught in English) Cultural exchanges between German and Japanese peoples have taken place for over 400 years. What has triggered and sustained exchanges of cultural, social, artistic, and military traditions? How have these historical exchanges affected the remembrance of World War II, the Holocaust, and Hiroshima/Nagasaki in postwar narratives of both national cultures? We focus on the process of remembering war and atrocity as expressed in memoirs and fictional prose by Japanese and German-speaking writers in order to explore the politics of memory within transnational perspectives.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement

K. Remmler

Prereq. fy or permission of instructor; 4 credits

101f Elementary German

This course introduces speaking, reading, and writing German. Cultural and literary readings together with frequent use of Internet resources dealing with everyday situations and experiences in the German-speaking countries sensitize students to the cultural context in which the language is used. Online grammar and listening comprehension exercises, as well as weekly conversation sessions with a peer assistant from Germany supplement class work.

Meets language requirement; does not meet a distribution requirement

M. Lauer

101 and 102 meet language requirement; 4 credits

102s Elementary German

Continuation of the elementary German course; practice in speaking, reading, and writing German. Cultural and literary readings together with frequent use of Internet resources dealing with everyday situations and experiences in the German-speaking countries sensitize students to the cultural context in which the language is used. Online grammar and listening comprehension exercises, as well as weekly conversation sessions with a peer assistant from Germany supplement class work.

Meets language requirement; does not meet a distribution requirement

M. Lauer

Prereq. See department for placement if you have not taken German 101 at Mount Holyoke College; 101 and 102 meet language requirement; 4 credits

103fs Intensive Elementary German

Two semesters in one. Practice in speaking, reading, and writing German. Cultural and literary readings together with frequent use of Internet resources dealing with everyday situations and experiences in the German-speaking countries sensitize students to the cultural context in which the language is used. Online grammar and listening comprehension exercises, as well as weekly conversation sessions with peer assistant from Germany supplement class work.

Meets language requirement; does not meet a distribution requirement

D. Van Handle, The department
8 credits

***104f Accelerated Elementary German**

Practice in speaking, reading, and writing German. Cultural and literary readings, video materials, and World Wide Web resources dealing with everyday situations and experiences in the German-speaking countries will be used on a regular basis. In the second semester discussion of texts by such authors as Friedrich Dürrenmatt, Erich Kästner, and Janosch, as well as focus on strategies that help students learn to read, write, and use vocabulary and grammatical structures more effectively. An additional weekly conversation session (50 minutes) with a peer assistant from Germany supplements class work.

Does not meet a distribution requirement
The department

The combination of German Studies 104 and 204 constitutes 3 semesters of study in 2 semesters. Completion of the two-semester sequence equivalent to completion of 101, 102, and 201. To fulfill the language requirement students must complete 204s. 6 credits

201fs Intermediate German: Experiencing the German-Speaking World

The course emphasizes the development of reading, writing, and speaking German by focusing on contextualized grammatical features. Combining content- and language knowledge, we look at a variety of texts and genres. The completion of various task-sheets and specific instructions on speaking and writing assignments will complement the work with the texts.

Meets language requirement; does not meet a distribution requirement

M. Lauer, D. Van Handle

Prereq. previous study of German;
4 credits

***204s Advanced Elementary/ Intermediate German**

(Speaking- and writing-intensive course)
Continuation of German Studies 104. Practice in speaking, reading, and writing German. Cultural and literary readings, video materials, and World Wide Web resources dealing with everyday situations and experiences in the German-speaking countries will

be used on a regular basis. Discussion of texts by such authors as Friedrich Dürrenmatt, Erich Kästner, and Janosch, as well as focus on strategies that help students learn to read, write, and use vocabulary and grammatical structures more effectively. An additional weekly conversation session (50 minutes) with a peer assistant from Germany supplements class work.

Meets language requirement; does not meet a distribution requirement

A. Hildebrandt

Prereq. Open to students who have completed a basic level in German, or permission of department chair.; The combination of Grmst-104 and Grmst-204 constitutes three semesters of study in 2 semesters. Completion of the two-semester sequence equivalent to completion of 101, 102, and 201. 4 meetings (3 75 minutes, 1 50 minutes), 1 lab.

***209f German Conversation and Composition I**

(Speaking- and writing-intensive course)
This course will help students improve their written and spoken German and review important points of grammar and syntax. Readings range from popular culture to literary texts. Extensive use of films, multimedia, and Internet resources to supplement class discussion. Topics based on students' individual interests. Recommended for students in conjunction with German Studies 220 and 223, or for those who desire additional preparation before entering upper-level courses in the department.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

Prereq. Previous study of German; 2 credits

210s German Conversation and Composition II

(Speaking- and writing-intensive course)
This course will help students improve their written and spoken German and review important points of grammar and syntax. Readings range from popular culture to literary texts. Extensive use of films, multimedia, and Internet resources to supplement class discussion. Topics based on students' individual interests. Recommended for students in conjunction with German 220 and 223 or for those who desire additional preparation before entering upper-level courses in the

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

Prereq. Previous study of German;

2 credits

***211s Creation and Production of a**

German Play

(Speaking-intensive course) Students write and stage an original one-act play in German. Students develop proficiency in the language through reading several short stories by authors such as Friedrich Dürrenmatt, Bertolt Brecht, Doris Dörrie, and Judith Hermann, as well as theoretical writings on the theater; students will then rewrite one of the short stories as a play. Students write a substantial essay describing how they applied the specific theories of the theater to their original adaptation. The play will be performed at the annual German Theatre Festival and Competition hosted each spring by Mount Holyoke College.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

D. Van Handle

Prereq. Open to students who have completed an intermediate-level German course, or per permission of department chair.; 4 credits

***212fs Studies in German Language and Composition**

(Speaking- and writing-intensive course) Written and oral expression are strengthened through essays, class discussion, and work with more advanced grammatical structures. Frequent use of Internet resources dealing with current political, social, economic, and cultural issues in German-speaking countries. One unit will focus on Wirtschaftsdeutsch, and students will learn how to write cover letters and résumés for internships and jobs. Students will participate in a Web-Diskussionsforum with students at a German university, prepare an oral report, and write a final paper or design a Web page as a final project. Meetings with a native German assistant for additional cultural insight and contextual conversational practice.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

The department

Prereq. Open to students who have previously studied German and per permission of department; 4 credits

266

214s Crosscultural Learning: Studying in a German-speaking Country

This course will focus on crosscultural communication and understanding, as well as issues of identity as they relate to study abroad in a German-speaking country. Emphasis on helping students prepare oral presentations and academic papers for a German-speaking university audience. A number of brief readings will address the challenges of moving across cultural boundaries. Use of media resources and the Web will also highlight everyday situations and practical concerns related to living and studying in a German-speaking context. Six 1½ -hour meetings during the second half of the semester.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

Prereq. Sophomore and juniors preparing for a year or semester of study abroad; Only for, and required of, students who will study in a German-speaking country at any time during the 2009-2010 academic year; 1 credit

220fs German Culture Today: Stories and Histories

(Speaking- and writing-intensive course) This course examines historical, cultural, and political developments that continue to frame debates surrounding the twentieth century, WWII, the former GDR, and German unification. Thematic focus helps students develop accuracy, fluency, and complexity of expression. Reading, writing, and speaking are consistently integrated. Special emphasis placed on text organization toward expanding students' language abilities, with a gradual movement from personal forms of expression to written and public discourses.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

K. Remmler, M. Lauer

Prereq. Previous study of German;

4 credits

***221fs Foundations of Contemporary Germany: German Cultural Studies from the Enlightenment to the Present**

(Speaking- and writing-intensive course) This course examines historical, cultural, political, and social developments that continue to frame the debate surrounding German identity as Germany defines its place within Europe in the twenty-first century. We analyze, orally and in writing, diverse forms of

texts, from literature, film, music, art, and the press. Main texts focus on such topics as the emergence of the German nation, Romantic art and music, Berlin in the Golden Twenties, contemporary multi-ethnic authors, and pop culture today. Students' individual fields of interest will guide interdisciplinary report assignment. Several essays and oral presentations.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

The department

Prereq. Previous study of German; 4 credits

***222f German Culture Today**

This course examines the cultural, political, and social developments from WWII to the present, focusing on contemporary German society. We will use various media including literature, newspapers, visual media, and Internet resources to discuss such topics as the German educational system, the impact of the EU and globalism on German society, contemporary film and theatre, and German youth culture and the influence of U.S. pop culture. Students are expected to do several written assignments and oral presentations. Reading assignments will be supplemented by audio, video, and Internet resources.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

The department

Prereq. Previous study of German; 4 credits

223fs Topics in German Studies:

Geistergeschichten--Geistesgeschichte?

Spirits and Spirit of German Culture

(Speaking- and writing-intensive course) We will discuss "unreal" narratives, films, ballads, and fairytales that include elements of the fantastic and grotesque and inquire: how can these represent the "reality" of key periods in German culture? What kind of reality is meant? We will include Goethe's "vampire" ballad, a grotesque Brecht ballad, and a Borchert manifesto; classic "Nosferatu/Dracula" films from the 1920s and 70s; ghost stories, serious or humorous, by Kleist and Heine; grotesque art and narrative by Grosz and Kafka; film comedies of the later twentieth century. Short historical, sociological, and scientific texts further elucidate cultural real-

ity. (Emphasis on essay revisions; oral presentations.)

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

G. Davis

Prereq. Previous study of German; 4 credits

232f German Studies Tutorial: Introduction to Nineteenth-Century Critical Social Thought

(Speaking-intensive course) Focus on developing discussion and reading skills in German and revising and editing papers written in German for German studies courses taught in English. An introduction to some of the great critical voices of the nineteenth century. We will explore the ideas of such mutinous thinkers as Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, Sigmund Freud, and Franz Kafka, focusing on the style as well as the substance of their works and the circumstances that provoked them to write and/or that their writings helped provoke. The course will highlight the tension between appearance and reality, the dialectic of domination and subordination, and the place of reason and irrationality in social life.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

K. Remmler

Prereq. Open to students with previous study of German; majors/minors in the department should simultaneously enroll in both German Studies 232 and German Studies 100s or 231s to receive major/minor credit. 2 credits

295fs Independent Study

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

Prereq. soph, jr, sr, or permission of department; 1 to 4 credits

***301s Advanced Studies in German Language and Culture**

(Speaking- and writing-intensive course) Offers intensive work in oral and written expression. Studies from a range of disciplines, newspaper and magazine articles, Web materials, and video and interview tapes broaden comprehension of content and style. Materials based on individual needs and interests. Frequent papers, translations, and other exercises aim at improving written skills in German. Oral reports, written assignments, class

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

The department

Prereq. Open to students who have completed at least 8 credits in the department in upper mid-level courses or beyond, or per permission of department chair; 4 credits

315f Topics in German Studies: Color Me German: Perceptions of Others in German Culture from 1800 to 1933

(Speaking- and writing-intensive course)

How did Germans perceive people of African descent, Jews, Native Americans? What about images of the enemy during WWI? Materials to include: essays on race by Hegel and contributions to the Berlin anti-Semitism debate by Treitschke; novellas about interracial relationships by Kleist and Storm; texts by Charles Sealsfield, about “the essence of the Black man,” a formative influence on German concepts of blacks; Karl May’s depiction of the “noble savage,” the native American, immensely popular even now; the Weimar Republic and its rage for the exotic: jazz, Völkerschauen, Josephine Baker, Duke Ellington and the “Chocolate Kiddies”; documents, films, war cartoons, and art.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

G. Davis

Prereq. Previous study of German; 4 credits

325s Senior Seminar

This seminar is designed to explore theoretically and practically the nature of our field of inquiry. We explore such questions as: What does German studies mean? What is interdisciplinary work? What role does literature play in culture studies? What is the relationship between language and the construction of culture? What meanings have been attributed to the terms of “culture” and “civilization?” Texts from a variety of disciplines. Students write term papers on topics related to their major field(s) of interest.

Spring 2009

325s(01) Faust vs. Mephisto: The Struggle for the “Western Soul”

(Speaking- and writing-intensive course)

Faust is often called “the epitome of Western

‘man’; but the Faustian is tied to the struggle with the Mephistophelian, thereby signifying the dualism characteristic of the Western worldview. We will focus on an investigation of the Faust topos from early sixteenth-century historical records and Johann Spies’s *Faustbuch*, via Christopher Marlowe’s *The Tragical History of the Life and Death of Dr. Faustus* (1594/1605), Goethe’s *Faust I* (excerpts from *Urfaust, Faust II*) and Klaus Mann’s *Mephisto* and its censorship scandal in 1968. Other possibilities for class or seminar projects: excerpts from Thomas Mann’s *Dr. Faustus*; Michail Bulgakov’s *Der Meister und Margarita*; opera by Gounod or Berlioz. *Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement*

G. Davis

Prereq. Seniors; nonseniors by permission of instructor; 4 credits

395fs Independent Study

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

Prereq. soph, jr, sr, or permission of department; 1 to 8 credits

Courses Offered in Translation

German Studies 100 and 231 satisfy the Humanities 1-A distribution requirement. It may also be possible to count these courses toward the German major or minor if students simultaneously enroll in German Studies 232, a 2-credit course which complements German Studies 100 and German Studies 231.

100s The Politics of Memory in Postwar German and Japanese culture

(First-year seminar; writing-intensive course; taught in English) Cultural exchanges between German and Japanese peoples have taken place for over 400 years. What has triggered and sustained exchanges of cultural, social, artistic, and military traditions? How have these historical exchanges affected the remembrance of World War II, the Holocaust, and Hiroshima/Nagasaki in postwar narratives of both national cultures? We focus on the process of remembering war and atrocity as expressed in memoirs and fictional prose by Japanese and German-speaking writers in order to explore the politics of

memory within transnational perspectives.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement

K. Remmler

Prereq. fy or permission of instructor; 4 credits

**231s Introduction to Nineteenth-Century
Critical Social Thought**

(Same as CST 250, Speaking- and Writing-Intensive) An introduction to some of the great critical voices of the nineteenth century. We will explore the ideas of such mutinous thinkers as Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, Sigmund Freud, and Franz Kafka, focusing on the style as well as the substance of their works and the circumstances that provoked them to write and/or that their writings helped provoke. The course will highlight the tension between appearance and reality, the dialectic of domination and subordination, and the place of reason and irrationality in social life.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement, but not the language requirement.

K. Remmler

Prereq. none; taught in English, no knowledge of German required. Students with previous study of German are encouraged to take German Studies 232 as a complement to this course. For credit toward the major/minor in German studies, students must enroll in German 232 (2 credits) as well (and read, write about, and discuss selected materials from 231 in German); 4 credits