

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 weekly conversation 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. Normally, no more than a total of four credits of independent study (295) may be counted toward the major.
- Four courses at the 300 level, including the senior seminar, German Studies 325, to be completed during the spring semester of senior year. Normally, no more than a total of four credits of independent study (395) may be counted toward the major in addition to eight credits of 395 senior thesis work. (Students may count up to two 300-level courses taken abroad with approval of the chair.)
- Eight additional credits beyond 201
- 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 German courses taught in English (100 or 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 in the German Studies Department

Courses

- 220 and at least one topics course, normally 223. Normally, no more than a total of four credits of independent study (295) may be counted toward the minor.
- One course at the 300 level in the Department of German Studies
- Four additional credits beyond 201
- 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 German courses taught in English (100 or 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/programs.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 avail-

able 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 German-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, li-

braries, 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/german/placement>.

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, 2009, if possible. It is available at <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/german/placement>.

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 German Culture Today (Stories and Histories) or German Studies 223 (Topics in German Studies: German Culture from 1800 to 2000 Search for Identity: Nation, Heritage, and Psyche) 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

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 situa-

tions 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

D. Van Handle

Students registering for this course must also register for a required weekly conversation session. 3 meetings (75 minutes) plus required conversation session (50 minutes); 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

The department, M. Lauer

Prereq. See department for placement if you have not taken German 101 at Mount Holyoke College; Students registering for this course must also register for a required weekly conversation session. 4 meetings (50 minutes), plus required conversation session (50 minutes). Students must complete both 101 and 102 to meet College 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 required weekly conversation sessions with peer assistant from Germany supplement class work.

Meets language requirement; does not meet a distribution requirement

M. Lauer, D. Van Handle

Students registering for this course must also register for a required weekly conversation session. 4 meetings (75 minutes) plus required conversation session (50 minutes); 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 with a language assistant from Germany supplements class work.

*Does not meet a distribution requirement
The department*

The combination of German Studies 104 and 204 constitutes three semesters of study in two semesters. Completion of the two-semester sequence equivalent to completion of 101, 102, and 201. To fulfill the language requirement students must complete 204s. 4 meet; 6 credits

201fs Intermediate German: Experiencing the German-Speaking World

The course emphasizes the development of German reading, writing, and speaking skills 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

Prereq. Previous study of German; Students registering for this course must also register for a required weekly conversation session. 3 meetings (75 minutes), conversation session (50 minutes); 4 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 department.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

M. Lauer

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, and Doris Dörrie, 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

M. Lauer

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

***212 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

M. Lauer

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

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

This course will focus on cross-cultural 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. 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.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

K. Remmler

Prereq. Sophomores 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 2010-2011 academic year; Course will begin after Spring Break; 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

M. Lauer

Prereq. Previous study of German; Students in 220 are expected to enroll in the complementary two-credit tutorial (German Studies 221).; 4 credits

221fs Tutorial for German Studies 220

(Speaking-intensive course) Students in 220 are expected to enroll in the complementary two-credit tutorial (German Studies 221). Tutorial enhances students' speaking abilities through analysis and discussion of DVD-based interactive cultural historical materials. Students will practice the performance of specifically designed speaking tasks. By doing so, students will increase their ability to express ideas in a number of discourses related to topics covered in 220 and in preparation for study abroad.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

M. Lauer, K. Remmler

Prereq. German Studies 220; 2 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

M. Lauer

Prereq. Previous study of German; 4 credits

223fs Topics in German Studies: German Culture from 1800 to 2000

This course examines the cultural, political, and social, developments from 1800 to the present by investigating a significant topic. The selection of materials is exemplary rather than comprehensive and is based on thematic, historical, generic, and other units.

Fall 2009

223f(01) Search for Identity: Nation, Heritage, and Psyche

(Speaking- and writing-intensive course) In fall 2009, we focus on major historical events and movements that have shaped German national and political, ethnic and gender, cul-

tural and linguistic identities from the eighteenth century to the end of the Weimar Republic. We analyze, orally and in writing, diverse forms of film and literature, music, and art, as well as diverse texts from/about science, philosophy, economics, and popular culture. Students' individual fields of interest guide interdisciplinary assignments. Readings are supplemented by audio, video, and Internet resources. National identity discussions are based on the contemporary German TV series, *Die Deutschen* and *60 x Deutschland*. Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement
G. Davis

Prereq. Previous study of German; Students in 223 are expected to enroll in the complementary two-credit tutorial (German Studies 224). Students who demonstrate the appropriate background in German studies may receive 300-level credit, provided they complete required additional work.; 4 credits

Spring 2010

223s(01) *The Gender of War in Twentieth-Century German Culture* (Speaking- and writing-intensive course) As an extreme, but common experience, war creates, shapes, and contests normative constructions of masculinity, femininity, and gender relations in general. This seminar explores the concept of war, its causes, and its representation in memoirs, fiction, art, and photography within German-speaking realms with an emphasis on World War II and its aftermath. What impact does war have on gender relations within a matrix of other categories of identity, such as race, class, and sexuality? Materials include texts by Bachmann, Brecht, Celan, and other German writers and films such as *Triumph of the Will* and *Das Boot*.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement
K. Remmler

Prereq. Previous study of German; Students enrolled in 223 are expected to enroll in the complementary two-credit tutorial (German Studies 224). 2 meetings (75 minutes); 4 credits

224fs Tutorial for German Studies 223

(Speaking- and writing-intensive course) Students in 223 are expected to enroll in the complementary two-credit tutorial (German Studies 224). Focus on the spoken and written analysis of contemporary DVD-based interactive cultural historical materials, and on specific topics of interest to students. Emphasis on revising and editing papers and on developing oral presentations for both German and U.S. academic audiences.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

G. Davis, K. Remmler

2 credits

232fs German Tutorial

Focus on developing discussion and reading skills in German, and revising and editing papers written in German for German studies courses taught in English.

Fall 2009

232f(01) *The New Face/s of Germany: Contemporary German Society in Film and Text* (Speaking-intensive course) Readings and discussion in German pertaining to GRMST-100: Film representations of the diverse face/s of Germany: Today, 20 years past the fall of the Berlin Wall: every 4th German—30 percent school-age children—of immigrant background, 3.3 million Muslim residents; a mosque next to the Cologne Cathedral; public schools teaching Turkish and German; more Russian Jews emigrating to Germany than to Israel; immigrants of German heritage who do not know German; East Germans longing for the return of the Wall. Focus on close analysis of several films, their sociohistorical, economic, and cultural contexts, e.g., Oscar-winning *Lives of Others*, *Journey of Hope*, *Ali-fear Eats the Soul*.
G. Davis

Prereq. Previous study of German; To receive credit for GRMST-100 (taught in English) toward a minimum major or minor in German Studies, students also have to complete GRMST-232 (01) (taught in German); 2 credits

232f(02) Introduction to Nineteenth-Century Critical Social Thought

Reading and discussion in German pertaining to GRMST-231: Introduction to Nineteenth-Century Critical Social Thought. 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.

K. Remmler

Prereq. Open to students with previous study of German; majors/minors in the department should simultaneously enroll in both German Studies 231 and German Studies 232(02) to receive major/minor credit; 2 credits

Spring 2010

232s(01) Global Europe?: Immigration and Representations of Im/migrants in Film and Text

(Speaking-intensive course) Readings and discussion in German pertaining to GRMST-315 or EURST 316. The course focuses on key issues facing contemporary Europe as it attempts to integrate large im/migrant populations: such legal issues as the development of asylum, immigration, citizenship, and anti-discrimination/hate laws and such cultural issues as the meanings of integration vs. assimilation; multicultural vs. pluralistic societies; the roles of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam in the construction of European societies and cultural identities; perceptions of (Post-)Colonialism and the interceptions of gender, race, class, and nationality; and the (dis)integrative role of language. Focus on the emergence of European Union rules vs. representative national policies in Germany, France, and Great Britain.

G. Davis

Prereq. Previous study of German; To receive credit for GRMST-315 or EURST316 (taught in English) toward a minimum major or minor in German Studies, students also have to complete GRMST-232 (taught in German) taken for 300-level credit and read, write about, and discuss selected materials from EURST-316 or GRMST-315 in German.; 2 credits

295fs Independent Study

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

Prereq. soph, jr, sr, or permission of department; 1-4 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 discussion.

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: Love and Death or Sex and Crime: The Representation of East Germany in Film after the Fall of the Berlin Wall

(Speaking- and writing-intensive course) On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, we will discuss the most important films about East Germany produced after 1990. Films such as *Good-bye Lenin*, *Stilles Land*, *Das Leben der Anderen*, *Halbe Treppe*, and others form the basis of discussion and analysis of political, economic and cultural discourses in unified Germany between 1990-2008. We compare these films with classics of East German film, such as *Spur der Steine*, *Der Dritte*, *Die Legende von Paul und Paula*, and *Solo Sunny*. In addition to writing assignments based on film analysis and criticism, we also practice the basics of scriptwriting and film directing.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

H. Teschke

Prereq. advanced German knowledge or by permission of instructor; This course is taught in German and includes weekly screenings tba; 4 credits

