

DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN, RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

Spring 2022

COURSES IN GERMAN

GER 3202W: Advanced German: Reading, Writing, Analysis

MWF 11:15-12:05 (Saliba)

This course is designed to foster advanced proficiency in German through the analysis and discussion of important works of German literature, poetry, philosophy, drama, film, and political discourse. Class discussions and papers will focus on questions of style, rhetoric, and on developing critical tools and vocabulary required for textual interpretation. Special emphasis is on subtleties of register and idiomatic expression in spoken and written German. Frequent writing assignments will help students to explore different genres of expression and advance their skills and confidence in composing complex essays in German. Prerequisite: GER 2202 or equivalent. AXLE: INT

GER 4555: Topics in German Studies: Poems for All

TR 11:00-12:15 (Stirner)

Poetry is difficult, cryptic, and only read by a select few? This course proves the opposite. From soccer hymns to twitter-poetry, from ballads sung at medieval markets to modern love songs on the radio, from political satire to protest poems chanted in the streets: The course introduces students to the rich and vibrant landscape of German poetry in its many public-facing forms. We will talk rhythm and meter, politics, and pop culture, watch poetry films and multimedia installations, and take a journey through German landscapes and history. You will receive the tools to analyze closely, interpret skillfully, and understand not only individual poems but also broader trends in German literature and culture. Guest speakers including a contemporary poet and a poetry editor who will connect us to the contemporary scene of poetry festivals and publishing houses in Germany. All materials and discussions are in German. Prerequisite: GER 3201 and 3202W or approval. AXLE: INT

COURSES IN ENGLISH

GER 2440: History of German Thought

taught by visiting professor from Berlin!

Section 01: MW 10:10-11:25 (Morat) | for all students

Section 02: F 10:10-11:00 (Morat) | German discussion. Prerequisite 2201.

Section 03 F 10:10-11:00 (TBD) | English discussion

In this course, we will read German philosophers and critical theorists from the Enlightenment to the present, not only in order to evaluate the ideas they present, but also to understand how these ideas fit into the social and political history of the German-speaking world. The question of how thought is related to history – does philosophical thought influence history, or does it evolve in a way that is largely independent from its historical context – is itself one of the central questions of German philosophy and will be one of the central questions of this course. We will approach the work of thinkers including Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, Marx, Freud, Benjamin, Adorno, Arendt, Marcuse, and Habermas as part of German culture and as our entry point to a larger exploration of German culture and history. All readings are in English. Students enroll in a discussion section in German or in English. AXLE: HCA

COURSES IN ENGLISH

GER 2444: German Fairy Tales from Brothers Grimm to Walt Disney

Section 01: MW 12:20-1:10 for all students (Maughan and McFarland) Section 02: F 12:20-1:10 (McFarland)
Section 03: F 12:20-1:10 (Maughan) Section 04: F 12:20-1:10 (TBD) Section 05: F 12:20-1:10 (TBD)

Fairy tales are central to our shared cultural narrative, and have long fueled the imaginations of both children and adults. This course applies a critical lens to the fairy tales of Jakob and Wilhelm Grimm, Perrault, Andersen, and others. It locates the tales in their socio-cultural context of origin and then examines 20th and 21st-century retellings of the tales. Topics of discussion include: the social function of the tales, their changing roles in media and popular culture, psychology, gender, social class, visual and film adaptations. The course is designed to strengthen critical thinking and writing skills and to guide students toward perceptive, close readings of literary, visual, and cinematic material. All course material is in English. Students enroll in lecture (Section 01) and a discussion section. AXLE: INT

GER 2555: Topics in German Studies: Metropolis Berlin

taught by visiting professor from Berlin!

MWF 1:25-2:40 (Morat)

At the end of the 19th century, Berlin was not only the capital of the newly founded German nation state, it was also its economic and cultural center. By far the largest German city and the only German metropolis, Berlin spearheaded the processes that transformed Germany into a modern industrial nation in the decades around 1900. At the same time, a metropolitan culture emerged that not only produced new forms of social, cultural and intellectual exchange, but also a new aesthetic. New literary forms emerged, both in fiction and in journalistic writing. In the visual arts and in music, many artists dealt with big city life. The new media of film and radio were primarily urban in their early days. In this course, we will first look at the main features of Berlin's urban development from the German Empire to the Weimar Republic, and then turn our attention to these different art forms and their engagement with the metropolis Berlin. All course material is in English. AXLE: INT

GER 2745: Radical Art: The Avant-Garde Revolution

TR 2:45-4:00 (Zeller)

Historic avant-garde movements are the epitome of modern art. From Zurich to Moscow, Paris to Berlin, and New York to Rome, different schools such as Expressionism, Futurism, Dadaism, Cubism, and Surrealism developed new forms of artistic expression. By using found objects and prefabricated materials, they provoked the artistic establishment between 1910 and 1930, while their public performances challenged political, religious, and social norms. Although connected through the desire to revolutionize art, avant-garde movement's intentions varied as much as their methods, artistic output, and politics. In this course, we will discuss the origins of avant-garde movements, their rise, inner struggles, gender trouble, media use, and impact across the arts and literature to this day. We will focus on artists and writers of the expressionist, futurist, and Dadaist movements such as Meidner, Marc, Kandinsky, Goncharova, Marinetti, Boccioni, Ball, Schwitters, Taeber-Arp, Höch, Heartfield, Lissitzky, Malevich, Khlebnikov, Kruchenykh, Burliuk, and Mayakovsk. AXLE: INT

Information

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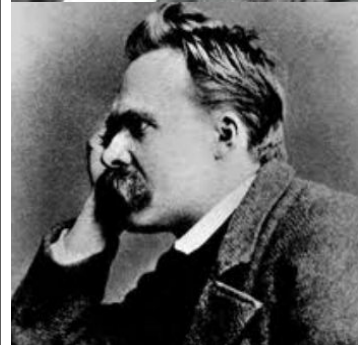
History of German Thought

In this course, we will read German philosophers and critical theorists from the Enlightenment to the present day not only to evaluate the ideas they present but also to understand how these ideas fit into the social and political history of the German-speaking world. The question of how thought is related to history—does philosophical thought influence history, does it reflect history, or does it evolve in a way that is largely independent from its historical context—is itself one of the central questions of German philosophy, and it will be one of the central questions of this course. We will approach the work of thinkers including Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, Marx, Freud, Benjamin, Adorno, Arendt, and Habermas as part of German culture and as our entry point to a larger exploration of German culture and its history. All readings and discussions in English. AXLE: HCA

All students enroll in section 01 (two weekly lectures). Students who have completed German 2201 (or equivalent) enroll in discussion section 02. All other students enroll in discussion section 03.

Spring 2022: German 2440
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 10:10 – 11:00 am
Instructor: Daniel Morat

For questions please contact:
daniel.morat@fu-berlin.de



Topics in German Studies

Metropolis Berlin

1880-1930

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All readings and discussions in English.

AXLE: HCA

Spring 2022: German 2555 / 5555

Mondays & Wednesdays 1:25 – 2:40 pm

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