

# Department of German

Professor: *Hansen (Chair), Kruse<sup>A1</sup>, Nolden, Ward<sup>A2</sup>*

Assistant Professor: *Hans*

Director of Study Abroad Program: *Nolden*

Resident Director of Wellesley-in-Vienna: *Millner*

The Department of German offers a varied curriculum that introduces students to a wide range of texts and contexts in order to introduce the cultural heritage and contemporary life of Germany, Austria, and German speaking Switzerland. Language courses emphasize rapid acquisition of communication skills. Because almost all upper-level courses are conducted in German, the advanced student can achieve a high level of fluency.

## Goals for the Major

The goals of the new, integrated major in German Studies are, broadly stated, to equip students with the cultural and linguistic skills to participate in German-speaking cultures. Specifically:

- Students acquire in our courses the linguistic skills to engage in high-level conversation in German.
- Students learn to understand and appreciate a wide variety of complex texts (literary, historical, journalistic, musical, cinematic, scholarly, etc.)
- Students acquire the skills to write sophisticated German.
- Students receive a broad introduction to the cultures (comprising the art, history, music, philosophy, or politics) of German-speaking countries.
- Students are prepared to follow a course of studies at a German or Austrian university, to succeed in internships in German-speaking firms, to enter graduate school in related fields, and to pursue diverse careers both in the US and abroad.

---

## GER 101-102 Beginning German

*Hans, Kruse, Ward*

An introduction to contemporary German with emphasis on communicative fluency. Extensive practice in all four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Videos and Web-based activities introduce the student to topics from contemporary culture in German-speaking countries. *Each semester earns one unit of credit; however, both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit for either course.*

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

---

## GER 122/WRIT 125 Hitler: The Man in History, Literature, and Film

*Hansen*

The figure of Adolf Hitler continues to horrify and fascinate those who have inherited the world he changed forever. This writing course explores the historical figure of Hitler and subsequent responses to him by contemporaries, historians, writers, and filmmakers. After reading Hitler's own words and biographers' accounts, we shall focus on representations of the man from Germany (Brecht, Thomas Mann) and elsewhere (Charlie Chaplin, Mel Brooks). This course is built around a series of writing projects that focus on the historical subject, Hitler, and his legacy. Assignments will prepare you to write a formal, analytical paper typical of many disciplines at Wellesley: a paper that uses research tools to make a clearly articulated argument and uses evidence to express original thought. *Includes a third session each week. Students enrolled in German courses are encouraged to fulfill the Writing 125 requirement with this class. This course counts as a unit toward the German Studies major.*

Prerequisite: None. Open only to first-year students.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

---

## GER 201-202 Intermediate German

*Hans, Hansen*

Strengthening and expanding of all language skills with special emphasis on idiomatic usage. Thorough grammar review, oral and aural practice in classroom and language laboratory, readings on contemporary cultural topics, extensive practice in composition. *Each semester earns one unit of credit; however, both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit for either course.*

Prerequisite: One to two admission units and placement exam, or 101-102.

Distribution: One unit of Language and Literature for 202

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

---

### **GER 202W Intermediate German in Vienna**

Like 202 on campus, this course strengthens and expands all language skills including idiomatic grammar review, oral and listening practice, readings on contemporary and historical topics, and practice in composition. This course is offered as an immersion experience and will feature an important cultural component. *Not offered every year. Subject to Dean's Office's approval.*

Prerequisite: 201 or permission of the instructor. Application required.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: Wintersession

Unit: 1.0

---

### **GER 233 Berlin in the Twenties**

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** Berlin, the capital of Germany during the Weimar Republic, was at the center of both the political turmoil and the cultural fervor of the "golden" 1920s. The urban milieu provided the backdrop for avant-garde and popular culture. Issues will include political and social changes resulting from the economic dislocation caused by World War I and the rise of National Socialism. Texts will be drawn from journalism, autobiography, short fiction, poetry, theater, cabaret music, art, architecture, and film. Brecht's *Dreigroschenoper* and the film, *Comedian Harmonists*, will be featured. Emphasis on the development of communicative skills in order to negotiate complex meaning in reading, speaking and writing. Review of selected topics in grammar. *Designed for students with four semesters of language training or equivalent.*

Prerequisite: 202 or permission of the instructor.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

---

### **GER 235 The Fantastic in German Literature**

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** This course surveys the rich tradition of German literature of the fantastic and the uncanny. These works, which employ allegories of escapist fantasy, horror, supernatural terror, delusion, and abnormal psychic states, are chosen for their literary treatment of fears that prey on the human imagination. We shall begin with a couple of less well-known examples from the Grimms' folktales, and explore works of major writers for images of the Doppelgänger, talking animals, and magical helpers. Emphasis on the development of communicative skills in order to negotiate complex meaning in reading, speaking, and writing. Review of selected topics in grammar and style. *Designed for students with four semesters of language training or equivalent. This course is offered in alternating years.*

Prerequisite: 202 or permission of the instructor.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

---

### **GER 237 Love in German Literature**

*Hansen*

The course will explore some of the best-known literary expressions of romantic relationships written in German. We will begin with medieval poetry of courtly love and move to examples from Goethe, the Romantics, Heinrich Heine, and then to the modern period. The topic encompasses problems like falling in love, forbidden love, tragic love, fulfillment, separation, and the erotic. The course has two goals. The first is to enhance your appreciation of literature and culture through close reading and contextualization of works by period and genre. The second is to develop your communicative skills in order to negotiate complex meaning in speaking and writing. Emphasis on vocabulary building, review of selected grammar topics, and extensive writing practice. *Designed for students with four semesters of language training or equivalent. Taught in German, two periods.*

Prerequisite: 202 or permission of the instructor.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.0

---

### **GER 239 Germany and Austria Today: Advanced Conversation and Composition**

*Hans*

Intensive practice in oral and written communication and presentation; introduction to rhetorical strategies of conversation and discussion; introduction to elements of German prose style; practice of various forms of writing. Review of selected grammar topics. On the basis of newspaper and magazine articles, essays and stories, television news, film clips, and website materials, we will discuss and write about current events and issues in Germany and Austria.

Prerequisite: 202 or permission of the instructor.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

---

---

**GER 241 Themes of Childhood, Youth, and Adolescence in German Literature**

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** This course will explore images of children and adolescents in adult literature. The texts are unified thematically by such issues as youthful rebellion, inter-generational struggles, social initiation, and the crisis of adolescence. We shall analyze the portrayals of youth as idealized heroes, as innocent victims, and as critical witnesses of the adult world. Authors include Goethe, Stifter, Hesse, and Aichinger. We will also read Grimms' folktales, Wilhelm Busch's proto-comic book, *Max und Moritz*, and Heinrich Hoffmann's cautionary verses, *Der Struwwelpeter*.

Prerequisite: One unit, taught in German above 202, or permission of the instructor.  
Distribution: Language and Literature  
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

---

**GER 244 Deutschlandreisen: Fictional Journeys Through Germany**

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** In this course we will read travel narratives in which important authors, painters, and film makers of the last two centuries have captured their journeys through Germany. We will ask what it is that these travelers have perceived and experienced, how they have mapped out their journeys and how they have artistically represented their experiences. Texts, paintings, and films by Heinrich Heine, Joseph von Eichendorff, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Wim Wenders, Christian Kracht, Sven Nadolny, Konstantin Faigle, Wolfgang Büscher, Andre Kaminski, and others.

Prerequisite: One unit, taught in German above 202, or permission of the instructor.  
Distribution: Language and Literature  
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

---

**GER 246 German Autobiography**

*Norden*

In this course we will read German autobiographies from several centuries to familiarize ourselves with patterns of autobiographical writing as well as with important moments in German and Austrian history. Texts will be drawn from the canon of literary memoirs but will also include the writings from scientists, politicians, and other persons of general interest. Our course will commence with passages from the memoirs of the Jewish merchant Glück von Hameln, an example of early women's autobiographical writing. The emphasis of the course will be on the twentieth century.

Prerequisite: One unit, taught in German above 202, or permission of the instructor.  
Distribution: Language and Literature  
Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

---

**GER 250 Research or Individual Study**

Prerequisite: Open by permission.  
Distribution: None  
Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 1.0

---

**GER 250H Research or Individual Study**

Prerequisite: Open by permission.  
Distribution: None  
Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 0.5

---

**GER 256 Culture and Politics in East Germany 1949–89**

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** We will trace the forty-year trajectory of the German Democratic Republic from the cold-war context of its founding in 1949 to its demise in 1989. Our focus will be the constant interplay between culture and politics. Major events like the uprising of 17 June 1953, the building of the wall in August 1961 and its fall in 1989 will form the background for a consideration of a broad range of literary and film texts, including autobiographical writings and poetry. We will conclude with several recent German films that look back after nearly two decades to consider what daily life was like in East Germany. Topics include dealing with the Nazi past, youthful rebellion, women and family policies, and the role of the church in the "Wende."

Prerequisite: One unit, taught in German above 202, or permission of the instructor.  
Distribution: Language and Literature  
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

---

**GER 275 World War II and Its Aftermath in German Literature**

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** Sixty years after the end of World War II, Germans have begun the problematic task of remembering their recent history not only as perpetrators of the war and the holocaust but also as the war's

eventual victims. This course will examine representative examples of the literature memorializing World War II and its aftermath in their historical and cultural context. Texts read will include novels and novellas, essays, historical accounts, and memoirs. Authors represented will include Böll, Grass, Sebald, Nossack, Treitel, Timm and others.

Prerequisite: One unit, taught in German above 202, or permission of the instructor.  
Distribution: Language and Literature  
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

---

### **GER 276 Franz Kafka (In English)**

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** All aspects of Kafka's works and life will be explored in the historical and social context of early twentieth-century Central Europe. We will read a wide selection from his novels, e.g. *The Trial*; short stories, *The Metamorphosis*, *In the Penal Colony*; parables and aphorisms; diaries and letters, such as his *Letters to Felice*. We will discuss the delight and difficulty of reading Kafka, his posthumous reception as a world author, and his importance as a cultural icon in the late twentieth- and early twenty-first centuries.

Prerequisite: None  
Distribution: Language and Literature  
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

---

### **GER 280/CAMS 204 Film in Germany 1919–2009 (In English)**

*Nolden*

This course provides a survey of the history of films made by German directors. It introduces the student to the aesthetics and politics of the individual periods of German filmmaking, among them Expressionism, Film in the Third Reich, Postwar Beginnings, and New German Cinema. We will concentrate on films by Lang, Murnau, Riefenstahl, Sierck, Staudte, Akin, Fassbinder, Wenders, and Tykwer. *Students may register for either GER 280 or CAMS 204 and credit will be granted accordingly.*

Prerequisite: None  
Distribution: Arts, Music, Theatre, Film, Video or Language and Literature  
Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

---

### **GER 285 German Cult Texts**

*Nolden*

Critical analysis of works that were read with fascination and obsession by major audiences will help us understand important trends and movements in social and cultural history. Our study of the mass appeal of *Kultbücher* will begin with Goethe's *Werther* (1774) and end with Florian Illies' *Generation Golf* (2000). Works by Nietzsche, Rilke, Hesse, and others. Primary focus on the twentieth century.

Prerequisite: One unit, taught in German above 202, or permission of the instructor.  
Distribution: Language and Literature  
Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

---

### **GER 325 Goethe**

*Kruse*

Texts from all phases of Goethe's literary career will be studied in their socio-historical context. Readings will include: poetry, dramatic works including *Faust*, and narrative works.

Prerequisite: Two units, taught in German above 202, or permission of the instructor.  
Distribution: Language and Literature  
Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

---

### **GER 329 Readings in Enlightenment and Romanticism**

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** This course introduces students to the main authors, genres, and issues of the literature of Enlightenment, Storm and Stress, and Romanticism. Special focus on literary images of the family, the outsider, women, and power relationships. Texts by Gellert, Lessing, Goethe, Schlegel, Kleist, and Tieck.

Prerequisite: Two units, taught in German above 202, or permission of the instructor.  
Distribution: Language and Literature  
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

---

### **GER 350 Research or Individual Study**

Prerequisite: Open by permission to juniors and seniors.  
Distribution: None  
Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 1.0

---

**GER 350H Research or Individual Study**

Prerequisite: Open by permission.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 0.5

---

**GER 360 Senior Thesis Research**

Prerequisite: By permission of department. See Academic Distinctions.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

---

**GER 370 Senior Thesis**

Prerequisite: 360 and permission of department.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

---

**GER 389 Seminar**

*Ward*

**Topic for 2009-10: Latin America and the Caribbean in the German Imagination.** From the travel accounts of the German conquistador Nikolas Federman in the sixteenth century and those of the scientist Alexander von Humboldt in the eighteenth century to the novellas of Heinrich von Kleist in the nineteenth century and the films of Werner Herzog in the twentieth century, the Caribbean basin and Latin America have been a source of fascination for many representatives of German culture. We will consider a wide range of authors and genres, exploring the impact of Latin America and the Caribbean on the German imagination, with special emphasis on the travel literature of explorers, the fiction and poetry of writers in exile during the Third Reich, and dramas of the 70s and 80s concerning Latin American revolutions.

Prerequisite: One 300-level unit or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.0

---

**Department Information**

The language of instruction above the 100 level is almost exclusively German unless otherwise noted. Students thus have constant practice in hearing, reading, speaking, and writing the language.

The department reserves the right to place a new student in the course for which she seems best prepared, regardless of background and number of units she offers for admission.

Beginning in fall 2009 the department will offer a unified major called German Studies as well as a minor in German Studies. GER 101-102 is counted toward the degree but not toward the major or minor. Students who begin German at Wellesley and wish to major will be encouraged to advance as quickly as possible to upper-level work by doing intermediate language training during the summer or accelerating in our January-in-Vienna program during Wintersession.

Students interested in an interdepartmental major in German Studies are referred to the listing for this interdepartmental program.

**Requirements for the Major in German Studies**

For students entering Wellesley in fall 2009 and later, the new, unified major in German Studies replaces the previous choice between a major in German Studies and German Language and Literature. Students who entered Wellesley before fall 2009 have the option to complete the current major requirements or the requirements in effect at the time they declared the major. With the approval of the department, courses taken abroad may count toward the major at the 200 level. Each student should consult with her departmental advisor about the best sequence of courses in her case. The major in German Studies requires a minimum of 9 units. The following courses constitute the minimum major:

- 201, 202
- Two 200-level courses above 202, at least one taught in German, numbered 231-285.
- One course in English from the list of "Related Courses" or one taught in English in the German Department.
- 325 or 329
- 389
- Two electives in German, one preferably at the 300 level.

## Requirements for the Minor

For students entering Wellesley in fall 2009 and later, the minor in German Studies replaces the minor in German. GER 201 and 202 may count toward the six-unit minimum minor. One course from among 231, 233, 235, 237, 239 or equivalent is required. One 300-level unit is highly recommended. One unit may be a German Studies course from the list of "Related Courses" or one offered by the German department in English. With the approval of the department, courses taken abroad may count toward the minor. Students are encouraged to supplement the minor with any of the "Related Courses". Each student should consult with her departmental advisor about the best sequence of courses in her case. The following courses constitute the minimum minor:

- 201, 202
- One 200-level course above 202, numbered 231-285.
- One course in English from the list of "Related Courses" or one taught in English in the German Department.
- Two electives in German, one preferably at the 300 level.

## Honors

The department offers two plans for the honors program. Plan A (See Senior Thesis Research, 360 and 370) offers the opportunity for original work culminating in the writing of a longer paper or papers with an oral defense. See Academic Distinctions. Plan B, honors by examination. Written and oral examinations are based on a reading list devised by the student under the guidance of an advisor. Plan B carries no course credit, but where appropriate, students may elect a unit of 350 to prepare a special project that would be included in the honors examination.

## Study Abroad

Students in GER 201 who wish to accelerate at the intermediate level may apply to the January-in-Vienna program. Participants travel to Vienna in January where they study with a professor from the German department. During their stay they complete GER 202W and receive credit as they would for a course taken on campus. Upon returning for the second semester at Wellesley, students are encouraged to continue with GER 23X course.

Qualified students are encouraged to spend the junior year in Austria in the Wellesley-in-Vienna program or another program approved by the College.