

Mount Holyoke College
German Studies Department
Spring 2014 Courses

German Studies 101s (01) - Elementary German

A continuation of the elementary German course; we will practice speaking, reading, and writing in German.

Cultural and literary readings together with frequent use of Internet resources dealing with everyday situations and experiences in the German-speaking countries will 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.

M. Meirosu M, W, F — 8:35 a.m.-9:50 a.m.

4 credits

German Studies 101s (02) - Elementary German

A continuation of the elementary German course;

We will practice speaking, reading, and writing in German. Cultural and literary readings together with frequent use of Internet resources dealing with everyday situations and experiences in the German-speaking countries will 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.

A. Holden M, W, F — 11:00 a.m.—12:15 p.m.

4 Credits

German Studies 103s (01)

Intensive Elementary German

Two semesters in one.

Students will 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 will sensitize students to the cultural context in which the language is used. Online grammar and listening comprehension exercises will be included, as well as weekly conversation sessions with peer assistant from Germany supplement class work.

A. Holden M, T, W, F — 8:35 a.m. — 9:50 a.m.

8 Credits

German Studies 221s (01)

The Diversity of German Culture: Close-ups and Long-Shots 1800 to the Present

This speaking- and writing-intensive course highlights diversity as characteristic of German culture and society in the present and the past, contrary to the popular image of German cultural homogeneity. Hitler's nationalistic *völkisch* myth propagated this historical fiction that had already begun with the 1871 political "unification from above." We investigate the many forms of diversity in the German-speaking area: political, social, economic, ethnic, gender identifications, sexual orientations, abilities. Close readings of films, printed texts, and a variety of other media help us discover the changing forms of *Vielfalt*. Introduction to transcultural writing and speaking, also in preparation for abroad experiences.

G. Davis

M, W — 8:35 a.m. — 9:50 a.m.

4 Credits

Prereq. Previous study of German, normally equivalent to 3 semesters of college German, or 3 or more years of high school German; or permission of instructor.

German Studies 223s (01) – Germans Outside Germany: German-Language cultures in Europe

(Speaking- and writing-intensive course) This course offers an introduction to the history and literature of Austria, Switzerland, and German-language cultures in Eastern Europe. We will examine the role that the Habsburg Empire, World War II, the Holocaust, neutrality, immigration, and communist dictatorship played in the formation of national, cultural, and personal cultural identity. Authors discussed include three Noble Prize Winners in Literature: Elias Canetti, Elfriede Jelinek and Herta Müller as well as internationally acclaimed writers such as: Frank Kafka, Robert Musil, Paul Celan, Ingeborg Bachmann, Ruth Klüger, Rose Ausländer, Catalin Dorian Florescu, Richard Wagner, Zsuzsanna Gahse, Ilija Trojanow. Taught in German.

A. Holden M, W — 1:15 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
4 Credits

Prereq. Previous study of German, normally equivalent to 4 semesters of college German; or extended exchange study in a German-speaking country; or per permission of instructor; This course may also be taken at the 300 level.

**German Studies 231s (01) - Topics in German & European Studies in a Global Context-
Trans*gender and Queer German Cinema:
From Third Sex (1919) to Trans-Papa (2012)**

Speaking- and writing-intensive course; taught in English; Film Studies 270s(01) Gender Studies 204s (06); Classic German cinema, 1919-1933, anticipated many present-day gender debates. In educational films, tragedies, travesties, and comedies, many of which were re-made later (*Girls in Uniform; Victor Victoria*), Weimar Cinema questioned binary definitions of gender, and represented gay and lesbian sexual orientations as standard forms of human sexuality. We will study the link from Weimar to the present through films like Rosa von Praunheim's *It Is Not the Homosexual Who Is Perverse, But the Society in Which He Lives* and *The Einstein of Sex*, his biography of Magnus Hirschfeld, gay scientist and founder of the Institute of Sexual Science; and 2011-12 films by young women directors, Bernardi's *Romeos*, Mettke's *Transpapa*.

G. Wittig Davis T, TH — 11:30 a.m. — 12:45 p.m.

4 Credits

If time conflict with the screening session, please contact the instructor for alternate arrangements. Only meets language requirement if student simultaneously completes GRMST 232. Majors/minors in German Studies and students interested in German credit should simultaneously enroll in both GRMST 231 and GRMST 232 (2 cr.) taught in German.

German Studies 232s (01) - Trans*gender and Queer German Cinema: From Third Sex (1919) to Trans-Papa (2012)

This is a speaking- and writing-intensive course with a focus on developing discussion and reading skills in German, in addition to revising and editing papers, or media projects, composed in German for German studies courses taught in English. Films, readings, and discussion in will be in German using materials related to those in German Studies 231.

G. Wittig Davis

TIME TBA

2 Credits

Prereq. Previous study of German; expected enrollment 15; To satisfy the Foreign Language Requirement, students must simultaneously complete GRMST 232 (2 cr.) taught in German and GRMST 231 (4 cr.) taught in English. To avoid unnecessary duplication and ensure cross-cultural discussion, writing and reading requirements of 231 will be changed, and adjusted, to 232 writing and reading requirements in German.

German Studies 325s (01) - Senior Capstone Seminar, Topographies of Berlin: Case Studies in the Meaning of Space, Places, and Identity

This seminar is designed to explore the nature of our field of inquiry in theory and practice. 1) All students read texts exploring 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? Why learn German vis a vis "global English"? What meanings have been attributed to the terms "culture" and "civilization"? 2) Students pursue independent research connecting German studies and another major academic field of interest, respond critically to each others' work, and lead discussions.

(Speaking- and writing-intensive course) Post-unification Berlin provides a testing ground for seeing how space shapes identity. Historic sites within the built environment of contemporary Berlin, whether markers of historical upheaval and reconciliation, or of the transformation of the periphery into productive sites of commerce and cultural exchange, serve as a point of departure to explore the emergence of multidimensional identities in today's Europe. We explore the history, design, function, construction, and, in some cases, destruction, of major historical sites in Berlin, such as the Berlin Wall, the Reichstag, the Museum Island, the Holocaust Memorial, and others through case studies, archival research, and visual media.

K. Remmler T — 1:15 p.m. — 4:05 p.m.

4 credits

Prereq. sr; or permission of instructor;