GERMAN

320 Milbank Hall
212-854-8312
Department Assistant: Sondra Phifer

Mission

The German Department’s mission is to engage a wider audience of students within the Barnard Community. Its curricular program and cultural events serve a large and diverse academic community on the Barnard and Columbia campuses. The Department is committed to creating venues for students, faculty and the public interested in the many facets of cultural life in the German-speaking countries or communities.

As an active contributor to campus life, the Department has constantly initiated new venues—from readings, lectures and film screenings to excursions—to supplement and enrich its annual course offerings. In disciplines such as Art History, Philosophy or History, a familiarity with the German language is an asset; in interdisciplinary areas such as Comparative Literature or European Studies, German often serves as the main or second language of study.

It is the goal of our department:

• to teach the German language in a professionally reflected manner through a clear sequence of courses
• to help attain and expand knowledge of Austrian, German and Swiss literatures through reading exemplary texts in theme- or period-oriented courses
• to make familiar with characteristic features of Germanophone cultures by raising awareness of their geographical diversity and their historical richness in introductory survey courses
• to give students the rhetorical and intellectual tools for moving confidently between two languages’ cultural traditions by offering exercises, sketches and other forms of active participation from elementary to advanced levels of expression
• to create a learning environment that instills appreciation for critical thought and is conducive to acquiring a clearly defined set of skills, from language proficiency to interpretive adroitness and intercultural literacy

Courses in German are designed to develop proficiency in language skills and to present the traditions as well as the current developments in the literature and culture of the German-speaking countries: Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. Courses in Dutch, Finnish, Swedish, and Yiddish are offered by the Department of Germanic Languages. For information contact 319 Hamilton Hall.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students who graduate with a German major should be able to attain the following outcomes:

1. Write, speak, read, and listen in German at the intermediate-high level in German language using ACTFL; and carry-on an everyday conversation
2. Identify and discuss the historical significance of major cultural works such as film, plays, opera, telenovela, audiovisual media
3. Recognize cultural manifestations of social values and practices and apply effectively knowledge about cultural perspectives of majorities, minorities and underrepresented bi-cultural communities in German-speaking countries
4. Discuss the regional and historical differences among the three German-speaking countries and communities in the European and global contexts by demonstrating knowledge of representative cultural products and practices as well as common social perceptions and values
5. Demonstrate awareness of the relevant features of German language, culture or literature
6. Apply the key elements of literary and cultural theory in an analysis and interpretation of literary or cultural works
7. Complete an original research project about German literature and culture (includes finding and selecting appropriate sources; assessing their heuristic value; composing a concise research plan and a thesis statement; organizing a long piece of writing; establishing a reliable bibliography and proper citation practice)
8. Compose a closely argued, coherently presented and well-documented essay or a well-organized portfolio in German, relevant to a genre, medium, period, author, theoretical issue, cultural context or creative goal

The Major in German Literature

The courses comprising this program are all taught in German with the twofold objective of combining the study of significant works, literary trends, and cultural manifestations with advanced practice in the use of German as a medium of practical everyday communication and intellectually stimulating discussion or conversation.

Requirements: 10 courses (minimum of 31 credits)

One advanced language course chosen from:

GERM UN3001  ADVANCED GERMAN I
GERM UN3002  Advanced German II: Vienna

One language course chosen from:

GERM BC3009  News and Views
GERM BC3010  Current Issues: Media and Politics in Germany and Austria
GERM BC3012  Telenovelas
GERM BC3022  VIENNA STORIES

Six or Seven literature courses chosen from:

GERM BC3028  Contemporary German Prose Fiction (English)
GERM BC3031  Major German Poets
GERM BC3050  German Migrant Literature
GERM BC3057  PICTURING THE REAL: THE POWER OF IMAGES IN GERMAN FICTION
GERM BC3215  From Text to Screen: German Literature and Film
GERM BC3233  From Decadence to Dada
GERM GU4520  Ariadne’s Thread: Contemporary German Women Writers [in German]
Or their equivalent in consultation with the department chair.

GERM BC3061  Senior Seminar/Tutorial (or equivalent tutorial with thesis supervisor.)

The Major in German Studies

This major combines a study of literature with other aspects of German culture and civilization by choosing courses from the social sciences such as history, political science, and economics, and from other
humanities dealing with German-speaking regions or communities. The department will assist and advise students interested in studying in Germany, Austria, or Switzerland. It should be noted that Barnard College is a member of the Berlin Consortium for German Studies and strongly encourages those students wishing to study abroad to do so through this program administered by Columbia University and conducted in association with the Freie Universität Berlin.

Requirements: 11 courses (minimum of 34 credits)

One advanced language course chosen from the following:

- GERM UN3001 ADVANCED GERMAN I
- GERM UN3002 Advanced German II: Vienna

One course chosen from the following:

- GERM BC3009 News and Views
- GERM BC3010 Current Issues: Media and Politics in Germany and Austria
- GERM BC3012 Telenovelas

Three courses on German electives, focusing on Austria, Germany, or Swiss aspects, chosen from the following: Or equivalent in consultation with the Chair.

- GERM BC3022 VIENNA STORIES
- GERM BC3050 German Migrant Literature
- GERM BC3224 Germany’s Traveling Cultures
- GERM BC3233 From Decadence to Dada
- GERM GU4520 Ariadne’s Thread: Contemporary German Women Writers [In German]

Five courses in other disciplines, to be chosen in consultation with department chair.

One course for the senior seminar/tutorial

- GERM BC3061 Senior Seminar/Tutorial (Taken fall semester of senior year.)

* The major adviser in the German department will work with a second reader in another field if the thesis topic should require it.

The Minor in German

Requirements: 5 courses (minimum of 15 credits)

Minimum of 2 advanced language courses, from the following:

- GERM UN3001 ADVANCED GERMAN I
- GERM UN3002 Advanced German II: Vienna
- GERM BC3010 Current Issues: Media and Politics in Germany and Austria
- GERM BC3012 Telenovelas
- GERM BC3022 VIENNA STORIES

Minimum of 2 literature courses, from the following:

- GERM BC3028 Contemporary German Prose Fiction (English)
- GERM BC3050 German Migrant Literature
- GERM BC3215 From Text to Screen: German Literature and Film
- GERM BC3225 Germany’s Traveling Cultures
- GERM BC3233 From Decadence to Dada

Barnard Courses

GERM BC2050 VIENNA EXPERIENCE: CULTURE, HISTORY, LANGUAGE. 3.00 points.

Prerequisites: (GERM UN1102) Or the equivalent based on a language placement test taken with Professor Motyl.

In this intensive four-week summer study abroad language and culture course in Vienna, students will practice and expand their German-language skills on the intermediate level in real-life situations by exploring Austrian culture, history and politics in one of Europe's most diverse cities. Students will experience language and culture firsthand. Aside from practicing and developing their linguistic competency and ability to engage in critical thinking in German, students will develop cultural literacy and broaden global competence. Prerequisites: completion of German Intermediate I (GERM UN2101) or at least three semesters of college German language study

GERM UN2101 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN I. 4.00 points.

Prerequisites: GERM UN1102 or the equivalent.

Intermediate German UN2101 is conducted entirely in German and emphasizes the four basic language skills, cultural awareness, and critical thinking. A wide range of topics (from politics and poetry to art) as well as authentic materials (texts, film, art, etc.) are used to improve the 4 skills. Practice in conversation aims at enlarging the vocabulary necessary for daily communication. Grammar is practiced in the context of the topics. Learning and evaluation are individualized (individual vocabulary lists, essays, oral presentations, final portfolio) and project-based (group work and final group project)

Spring 2022: GERM UN2101

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Fall 2022: GERM UN2101

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<td>Irene Motyl</td>
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GERM BC3009 VIENNA EXPERIENCE: CULTURE, HISTORY, LANGUAGE. 3.00 points.

Prerequisites: (GERM UN1102) Or the equivalent based on a language placement test taken with Professor Motyl.

In this intensive four-week summer study abroad language and culture course in Vienna, students will practice and expand their German-language skills on the intermediate level in real-life situations by exploring Austrian culture, history and politics in one of Europe's most diverse cities. Students will experience language and culture firsthand. Aside from practicing and developing their linguistic competency and ability to engage in critical thinking in German, students will develop cultural literacy and broaden global competence. Prerequisites: completion of German Intermediate I (GERM UN2101) or at least three semesters of college German language study

GERM UN2101 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN I. 4.00 points.

Prerequisites: GERM UN1102 or the equivalent.

Intermediate German UN2101 is conducted entirely in German and emphasizes the four basic language skills, cultural awareness, and critical thinking. A wide range of topics (from politics and poetry to art) as well as authentic materials (texts, film, art, etc.) are used to improve the 4 skills. Practice in conversation aims at enlarging the vocabulary necessary for daily communication. Grammar is practiced in the context of the topics. Learning and evaluation are individualized (individual vocabulary lists, essays, oral presentations, final portfolio) and project-based (group work and final group project)
GERM UN2102 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN II. **4.00 points.**

Prerequisites: GERM UN2101 or the equivalent. Intermediate German UN2102 is conducted entirely in German and emphasizes the four basic language skills, cultural awareness, and critical thinking. A wide range of topics (from politics and poetry to art) as well as authentic materials (texts, film, art, etc.) are used to improve the 4 skill. Practice in conversation aims at enlarging the vocabulary necessary for daily communication. Grammar is practiced in the context of the topics. Learning and evaluation are individualized (individual vocabulary lists, essays, oral presentations, final portfolio) and project-based (group work and final group project).

Spring 2022: GERM UN2102

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<td>Skye Savage</td>
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<td>GERM 2102</td>
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<td>M T Th 1:10pm - 2:25pm</td>
<td>Silja Weber</td>
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<td>GERM 2102</td>
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<td>Irene Motyl</td>
<td>4.00</td>
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GERM 2210 Grammatik Aktiv. **2 points.**

An intensive study of key features of German grammar, with an emphasis on skill-building exercises and practical solutions to common problems of writing and speaking on the intermediate level, aims at building confidence in using simple and more complex sentence structures.

Spring 2022: GERM BC2212

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<td>GERM 2212</td>
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GERM UN3002 Advanced German II: Vienna. **3 points.**

Corequisites: Course either taken before or after GERM V3001. Intensive practice in oral and written German. Discussions, oral reports, and weekly written assignments, based on material of topical and stylistic variety taken from German press and from literary sources.

Spring 2022: GERM UN3002

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<th>Course Number</th>
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<td>11/18</td>
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GERM BC3009 News and Views. **3.00 points.**

This German-language course for students on the Advanced proficiency level will offer students the opportunity to improve their comprehension of German media language through viewing, reading, writing and digital film production. Course materials will be drawn from German-language periodicals, newspapers, TV newscasts, TV documentaries and features digitally available. Students will hone their media competence by analyzing the material at hand and write, film and edit their own digital newscasts and documentaries in German. Through this process students will acquire the media literacy needed to understand cultural differences in media production and presentation and how to successfully communicate and convey messages in a digital format. Finally, students will familiarize themselves with the technical aspects of filming and will learn how to edit digital material. The cultural aspect of the course will give students greater insight into current issues and discourses in German-speaking countries and in the U.S. In the final project students apply their skills and findings, after conducting research in German and working with German, Austrian and Swiss cultural institutions, newspapers, companies, cultural centers located in New York. At the end of the semester, students will create and write their own German-language documentary film, edit the documentary and present it to the class and other students of German
GERM BC3010 Current Issues: Media and Politics in Germany and Austria. 3 points.
Prerequisites: GERM V2102 or equivalent.
Advanced students improve language skills through exploration of political, cultural and intellectual debates and self perceptions in Germany and Austria. Discussion and analysis of print media, Internet, film and T.V.

Fall 2022: GERM BC3010
Course Number: GERM 3010
Number/Call Number: 001/00714
Times/Location: T Th 10:40am - 5:25pm
Instructor: Irene Motyl
Points: 3
Enrollment: 7/15

GERM BC3012 Telenovelas. 3 points.
Prerequisites: Intermediate German II (V2102 or V1225) or equivalent.
Examines popular culture and language through a German TV series. Advanced students practice and perfect their language skills by examining typical features and intercultural aspects of a German telenovela. Focus on main elements of genre, language, cultural context by comparing different versions.

GERM BC3022 VIENNA STORIES. 3.00 points.
Prerequisites: (GERM UN3002) Students explore film, podcasts and digital technology as tools for analyzing culture, language and identity. Integrated in this course is an in-person, on-site segment involving faculty leading study abroad in one of Europe’s most diverse cities: Vienna, Austria. During a one-week stay in Vienna during the spring break, students will put their German-language, filming and digital technology skills to use and gather ethnographic material to produce a short German-language documentary film on identity, the notion of homeland, and stereotypes. Live encounters with native Viennese as well as with recent migrants from Turkey, Ukraine, Poland, former Yugoslavia, and/or Syria in formal and informal settings and a field study project will serve as the main sources for the video. After the on-site and out-of-classroom segment, students will edit their film material and present the final video in the class, Advanced German II: Vienna now and then, which will take place during the same semester. A course website will be created to host final video projects for future reference. Student videos will thereby serve as authentic classroom material for German courses at Barnard and elsewhere. This course includes a one-week study abroad project in Vienna during spring break. Due to Barnard’s COVID 19 travel abroad restrictions, the originally planned study abroad week during the spring break 2021 will not take place in Vienna. Instead the interviews with migrants living in Vienna will be conducted online over Zoom during the spring break of 2021. A non-obligatory one week non-credit experiential program in Vienna in connection with this course might be offered April 24th- May 1st, 2021 depending on Barnard’s study abroad regulations for the summer.

GERM BC3028 Contemporary German Prose Fiction (English). 3 points.
Study of short prose texts and recent literary developments. Discussions of aspects such as: memory and Germany identity; fantasy and storytelling; borderlands and Berlin in contemporary literature. Readings include works by major writers and younger generations, from Grass and Christa Wolf to Biller, Honigmann, Johnson, Schneider, and Sebald.

GERM BC3031 Major German Poets. 4 points.
BC: Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: Literature (LIT).
Not offered during 2022-23 academic year.

Prerequisites: GERM V1202, the equivalent, or sophomore standing.
Survey of major poets in the German language from classicism to modernism and postmodernism, paying attention to the transition from traditional verse to avant-garde forms. Readings from Goethe, Heine, Rilke, Celan, Bachmann. Relevant areas of literary theory will be included.

GERM BC3050 German Migrant Literature. 3 points.
Prerequisites: GERM UN2102, Sophomore standing or the equivalent or permission of the instructor.
Examination of migration and the nomadic experience in the 19th and 20th centuries. Emphasis on the comprehension and construction of the “other” culture by travelers and migrants in fictional texts; and on questions of orientalism, colonialism, and multiculturalism. Texts by Chamisso, Heine, Seghers, Th. Mann, Ören, Atabay, Deleuze, Said, and Sassen.

GERM BC3057 PICTURING THE REAL: THE POWER OF IMAGES IN GERMAN FICTION. 3 points.
Examines the profound influence of popular and private images in literature in the modern era, with an emphasis on how writers have used icon, snapshot, family album, collage, poster or post in their works. Discussions revolve around German authors’ critical and creative responses to the photographic image and its aesthetic, documentary or mnemonic appeal to 20th-century storytellers. Readings include major figures such as Kafka, Rilke, Benjamin, Brecht, Mann, Maron, Sebald, and Wolf.

GERM BC3061 Senior Seminar/Tutorial. 4 points.
Not offered during 2022-23 academic year.

German majors will write their senior thesis under the supervision of the instructor.

GERM BC3062 Senior Essay: Literature or German Studies. 3 points.
Not offered during 2022-23 academic year.

Prerequisites: Open to senior majors. Permission of instructor required. Supervised research into German literatures and cultures culminating in a critical paper. Regular consultations with the instructor at hours to be arranged.

GERM BC3215 From Text to Screen: German Literature and Film. 3 points.
Not offered during 2022-23 academic year.

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing or the equivalent or permission of the instructor.
Survey of screen adaptations of literary texts beginning with Weimar cinema and proceeding through to the present with a particular focus on cinematic modes of narration, spectatorship, and visual pleasure, as well as on the role of institutional frameworks. Readings in neo-Marxist, psychoanalytic and semiotic film theory. Texts by Wedekind, Fontane, H. Mann, and Musil and films by Pabst, Fassbinder, Wenders, and Trotha. [In English, extra sessions for German majors.]
GERM BC3224 Germany's Traveling Cultures. 3 points.
Examines accounts of traveling or living in South America, Africa, and Germany from a postcolonial and transnational perspective. Discussion of German explorers, colonialism, global tourism, multiculturalism, focusing on the relationship between mobility and the formation of African, Jewish, Turkish bicultural identities in different historical contexts and geographical settings. Close attention to the role of language, ideology, and itinerary in visual, aural, and written records by A.v.Humboldt, Merian, J. Baker, Massaquoi, Wackwitz, Oezdamar, Akin. [In English]

GERM BC3232 From Decadence to Dada. 3 points.
Not offered during 2022-23 academic year.
Examines the transition from Viennese Modernism to Expressionism and Dada. Topics include: the emergence of the modern psyche, the play of word and image, and the relationship between ecstatic experience and social unrest. Texts by Schnitzler, Hofmannsthal, Döblin, Kafka, Freud, and Salomé. Film and montage by Hannah Höch, and others. (In English.)

GERM GU4520 Ariadne's Thread: Contemporary German Women Writers [In German]. 3 points.
Not offered during 2022-23 academic year.
Examines prose works of women writers in the late 20th c. century; emphasis on new modes of writing and topical issues such as family conflicts, cultural memories of Eastern Europe, the Balkan wars, the impact of media; discussions are informed by theorists such as L.Adelson, S.Benhabib, N.Fraser; focus on inequality and gender-conscious views of the politicized personal or cosmopolitan plurality. Readings incl. I.Bachmann, J.Franck, K.Hacker, Y.Kara, H.Müller, J.Zeh and others.

Columbia Courses

GERM UN1101 ELEMENTARY GERMAN I. 4.00 points.
Upon completion of the course, students understand, speak, read, and write German at a level enabling them to communicate with native speakers about their background, family, daily activities, student life, work, and living quarters. Emphasis is placed on acquiring the four language skills-listening, speaking, reading and writing-within a cultural context. Daily assignments and consistent work are necessary in order to achieve basic communicative proficiency. Daily assignments and consistent work are the basis for achieving basic communicative proficiency

Spring 2022: GERM UN1101

Course Number  | Section/Call  | Times/Location | Instructor | Points  | Enrollment
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GERM 1101 | 001/13971 | T Th F 8:40am - 9:55am 616 Hamilton Hall | Silja Weber | 4.00 | 11/15
GERM 1101 | 002/13974 | M T Th 11:40am - 12:55pm 315 Hamilton Hall | Silja Weber | 4.00 | 14/15
GERM 1101 | 003/13975 | T Th 6:10pm - 8:00pm 313 Hamilton Hall | Didi Tal | 4.00 | 12/15

Fall 2022: GERM UN1101

Course Number  | Section/Call  | Times/Location | Instructor | Points  | Enrollment
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GERM 1101 | 001/11952 | T Th F 8:40am - 9:55am Room TBA | Ilie Ariss | 4.00 | 0/15
GERM 1101 | 002/11953 | M T Th 11:40am - 12:55pm Room TBA | Romney Walker Wood | 4.00 | 5/15
GERM 1101 | 003/11954 | M W Th 2:40pm - 3:55pm Room TBA | Jutta Schmiers-Heller | 4.00 | 11/15
GERM 1101 | 004/11956 | T Th 6:10pm - 8:00pm Room TBA | Young Na | 4.00 | 5/15
GERM 1101 | 005/11957 | M W 6:10pm - 8:00pm Room TBA | Evan Parks | 4.00 | 7/15
GERM UN1102 ELEMENTARY GERMAN II. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: GERM UN1101 or the equivalent.
Prerequisites: GERM UN1101 or the equivalent. Students expand their communication skills to include travel, storytelling, personal well-being, basic economics, and recent historical events. Emphasis is placed on acquiring the four language skills—listening, speaking, reading and writing—within a cultural context. Daily assignments and consistent work are necessary in order to achieve basic communicative proficiency.

GERM UN1202 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN II. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: GERM UN1102 or the equivalent.
Prerequisites: GERM UN1102 or the equivalent. Intermediate German UN2101 is conducted entirely in German and emphasizes the four basic language skills, cultural awareness, and critical thinking. A wide range of topics (from politics and poetry to art) as well as authentic materials (texts, film, art, etc.) are used to improve the 4 skill. Practice in conversation aims at enlarging the vocabulary necessary for daily communication. Grammar is practiced in the context of the topics. Learning and evaluation are individualized (individual vocabulary lists, essays, oral presentations, final portfolio) and project-based (group work and final group project).

GERM UN1125 Accelerated Elementary German I & II. 8 points.
Equivalent to GERM V1101-V1102.

This intensive semester provides all of elementary German enabling students to understand, speak, read, and write in German. Topics range from family and studies to current events. Conducted entirely in German, requirements include oral and written exams, essays, German-culture projects, and a final exam.

GERM UN2102 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN II. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: GERM UN2101 or the equivalent.
Prerequisites: GERM UN2101 or the equivalent. Intermediate German UN2102 is conducted entirely in German and emphasizes the four basic language skills, cultural awareness, and critical thinking. A wide range of topics (from politics and poetry to art) as well as authentic materials (texts, film, art, etc.) are used to improve the 4 skill. Practice in conversation aims at enlarging the vocabulary necessary for daily communication. Grammar is practiced in the context of the topics. Learning and evaluation are individualized (individual vocabulary lists, essays, oral presentations, final portfolio) and project-based (group work and final group project).

GERM UN2125 Accelerated Intermediate German I, II. 8 points.
Prerequisites: GERM UN1102 Elementary II
Accelerated language study as preparation for Study Abroad in Berlin.
GERM UN3001 ADVANCED GERMAN I. 3.00 points.
Prerequisites: GERM UN2102 or the Director of the German Language Program's permission.
Prerequisites: GERM UN2102 or the Director of the German Language Program's permission. German UN3001 is an ambitious socio-cultural exploration of Berlin. Designed to follow up the language skills acquired in first- and second-year language courses (or the equivalent thereof), this course gives students greater proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing German while focusing on topics from German society today through German newspapers and periodicals through the lens of Germany's capital, Berlin. The course represents a gateway class to literature courses. This course counts towards the major and concentration.

Fall 2022: GERM UN3001

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<td>Jutta Schmiers-Heller</td>
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GERM UN3002 Advanced German II: Vienna. 3 points.
Corequisites: Course either taken before or after GERM V3001.
Intensive practice in oral and written German. Discussions, oral reports, and weekly written assignments, based on material of topical and stylistic variety taken from German press and from literary sources.

Spring 2022: GERM UN3002

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<td>T Th 4:10pm - 5:25pm 302 Milbank Hall</td>
<td>Irene Motyl</td>
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<td>11/18</td>
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GERM UN3333 Introduction To German Literature [In German]. 3 points.
Prerequisites: GERM UN2102 or the equivalent.
Examines short literary texts and various methodological approaches to interpreting such texts in order to establish a basic familiarity with the study of German literature and culture.

Fall 2022: GERM UN3333

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<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Section/Call Number</th>
<th>Times/Location</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<td>001/11967</td>
<td>M W 10:10am - 11:25am Room TBA</td>
<td>Dorothea von Muecke</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13/25</td>
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