Department of German and Russian

Fall 2017

Courses in German, Russian, Hebrew and World Literature

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Helga Schreckenberger, Chair
Department of German and Russian  
(GERM, RUSS, HEBR, WLIT),  
College of Arts and Sciences

The Department of German and Russian offers courses in German, Russian, Hebrew, and World Literature.

**Major in German:** Thirty hours of German courses at the 100 level or above, including 155, 156; 281 or 282; one course must be a German literature in translation (WLIT 017, 117).

**Major in Russian:** 9 courses (27 credit hours) of coursework in Russian at the 100-level or above; one course in Russian literature in translation (WLIT 118); one Russian history course; and one additional course chosen from among the listings of the Russian and East European Studies Program (this may be any course listed among the REES offerings, including History, Political Science, World Literature, Anthropology, and other allied fields).

**Minor in German:** Five courses at the 100 or 200 level, one of which must be 155 or 156.

**Minor in Russian:** Russian 51, 52; four courses in Russian at the 100 or 200 level.

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**Fall 2017**  
**German Courses**

**German 001: Elementary German**  
A 9:40-10:30 am, MWF; R 8:30-9:20 pm. CRN# 90971  
Kate Kenny  
B 10:50-11:40 am, MWF; R 11:40-12:30 pm. CRN# 90972  
Kate Kenny  
C 1:10-2:00 pm, MWF; R 11:40-12:30 pm. CRN# 90973  
Theresia Hoock  
D 2:20-3:10 pm, MWF; R 2:50-3:40 pm. CRN# 90974  
Theresia Hoock

An introduction to all aspects of contemporary standard German. Why German? German and English are both Germanic languages. They share many of the same words, word origins, and grammatical characteristics. That makes German a good choice for English speakers. With German, students gain access to an important intellectual, economic and culturally historic area of Central Europe. The objective of Elementary German is to develop language skills that enable students to communicate effectively in basic everyday situations. This is the first semester of a two-semester Elementary German course. Credits: 4

**Note:** All German courses above German 002 are taught entirely in German.

**German 051: Intermediate German**  
A 1:10-2:00 pm, MWF. CRN# 90005  
Bridget Swanson  
B 2:20-3:10 pm, MWF. CRN# 90006  
Bridget Swanson

The objective of Intermediate German is to reinforce and build upon students' reading, writing, listening, and conversational skills. This second-year language course will prepare students to continue with advanced studies in German conversation, composition, and literature. Language competence is essential as a vehicle for understanding cultures. A more solid knowledge of German is also a prerequisite for successfully participating in study abroad programs in German-speaking countries. This is the first semester of a two-semester Intermediate German course.  

**Prerequisite:** German 002 or equivalent. Credits: 3
German 095: German House
A Time: TBA. CRN #95663
Bridget Swanson
The German House Program has been designed to provide students the opportunity to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the German language and culture in ways not commonly possible in a traditional classroom setting and timetable. Through a program of films, discussions, guest lecturers, group meals, excursions, festivities and other cultural and social activities, an environment is created in which German is not only encouraged but becomes a medium of expressing the students' personal interests. The process through which these objectives will be met is thus cumulative, rather than end-goal oriented. As part of their fulfillment of the one academic credit awarded each semester for German House activities, students will give one oral presentation on a subject of their choice at our weekly meetings, which will take place at the German House suite in the Living/Learning Center at an evening time of mutual agreement among German House participants (e.g., Mondays from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.). They also will write and hand in short reflective essays on any four of our semester’s program of events, at a level of German commensurate with their abilities. Credits: 1

German 103: Composition and Conversation
A 10:50-11:40 am, MWF. CRN# 90006
Theresia Hoek
This course is designed to improve students’ writing and speaking skills and thus further their overall German language proficiency. Analyses of readings in literature, history and culture from a variety of media will provide the basis for group discussions and individual oral presentations. Writing assignments will increase active vocabulary and review essential aspects of grammar.
Prerequisite: German 052 or equivalent. Credits: 3

German 122: 20th/21st Century Culture and Civilization: Modern Germany
A 2:20-3:10 pm, MWF. CRN# 94560
Adriana Borra
Seventy-years after the end of WWII, twenty-five years after the German reunification, what’s Europe’s biggest economy like? It is high time to reconsider the old image all too often still associated with Germany, now the “most popular country in the world” according to a BBC World service poll conducted in 2013. In this course we will explore different topics that can help us understand possible causes for the high-ly surprising (certainly for most Germans) BBC poll result. Besides getting an overview of the most important components of contemporary German society we will give special attention to the following: starting with today’s image of the country inside its borders and abroad, we will explore the long journey from a nationalistic to a multicultural state (around 20% people with a ‘migrant background’ as of 2013), take a closer look at the environmental awareness of the country, and discuss how the different gender politics in East and West Germany led to a very different reality on both sides of the Wall, still noticeable today. Finally we will examine some of the main differences in the school and university system between the federal states and end the semester with students presenting on favorite German artists, writers etc., to illustrate the richness of contemporary German culture.
At the end of the course students will have improved:
• Their understanding of the culture, the historical events and trends of modern Germany.
• Their ability to read and comprehend German texts written by leading professors in their field.
• Their ability to write texts relating to course materials.
• Their ability to speak about and listen to contemporary topics as presented in this course.
• Their understanding of the possibility of multiple interpretations, cultural contexts and values.
• Their vocabulary dealing with elements of German society, history and culture.
• Their dictionary skills by using the suggested Learner’s Dictionaries.
Prerequisite: German 052 or equivalent. Credits: 3

German 197: Intermediate Readings and Research. CRN# 90168
1-6 credits. Special projects. Can be taken only with permission of department chair, Helga Schreckenberger.

German 281: Die Geschichte des deutschen Kinos (A History of German Cinema)
A 10:50-11:40 am, MWF. CRN# 92154
Bridget Swanson
In Fall 2016, the Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschlands curated “In Scene: German History in Feature Films,” an interactive exhibit tracing German cinema’s continual fascination with tumultuous events from the nation’s history. As the director of the institute proclaims, film has played a central role in shaping national memory in
contemporary culture. As he states, "more than any book or exhibition, even more than school lessons, popular feature films influence Germans' image of their own history." Indeed, from looming authoritarian figures in Das Cabinet des Dr. Caligari (1919) and Nosferatu (1927), to depictions of leftist terrorism in West Germany's Deutschland im Herbst (1979), and to recent parodies of Adolf Hitler in Die Wirklich Wahrste Wahrheit über Adolf Hitler (2007), history finds itself repeatedly staged across German film. But for what purpose do filmmakers engage with representations of the past? And how are national events portrayed differently across various eras of German film culture? Finally, to what extent do external factors, such as ever-changing technologies and film distribution channels, influence the transmission of German history and culture domestically and globally? These are a few of the central questions we will explore through our engagement with key films from the early 1900s to today. In addition to two short oral presentations on a topic of the student's choosing, students will compose one short mid-term essay and one final paper.

**Prerequisite**: German 155 or 156 and one other 100-level course.
**Credits**: 3

**German 297: Advanced Readings and Research. CRN# 94621**
1-6 credits. Special projects. Can be taken only with permission of department chair, Helga Schreckenberger.

**German 391: Master's Thesis Research. CRN# 90169**
For German graduate students only. 1-12 credits.
Helga Schreckenberger

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**Fall 2017**

**Hebrew Courses**

**Hebrew 001: Elementary Hebrew**
A 1:10-2:00 pm, MWF; T 1:15-2:05 pm. CRN# 90170
Gidon Bavly
From the fundamental step of learning Hebrew letters to a vocabulary inventory of 350 words (25 verbs) including text that describes collegiate studies, housing, sports, entertainment, food, numbers, and simple concepts of grammar, including classifying and conjugating verbs in the present tense. Class experience includes practice in speaking, reading, writing and comprehension. Once a week students use the language resource center to work with a Hebrew word-processor and to record reading of Hebrew texts. This is the first semester of a two-semester Elementary Hebrew course.
**No prerequisites. Credits**: 4

**Hebrew 051: Intermediate Hebrew**
A 2:20-3:10 pm, MWF. CRN# 90171
Gidon Bavly
The spoken language of everyday use with oral, aural, and written practice in speaking, reading, and comprehension. Subject matter covered: past tense verb conjugation, vocabulary pertaining to human body, vegan lifestyle, history of Jerusalem, history of the Zionist movement, environmental issues and more. This is the first semester of a two-semester Intermediate Hebrew course.
**Prerequisite**: Hebrew 002 or equivalent. **Credits**: 3

**Hebrew 197: Readings and Research**
A 2:20-3:10 pm, MWF. CRN# 91191
Gidon Bavly
Readings & Research component of Intermediate Hebrew, advanced; part of Hebrew 51A class plus additional work; cross-listed with Hebrew 051A.

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**Fall 2017 Honors Courses**

**HON 228: Honors—German**
CRN# 90584
Contact Helga Schreckenberger
**HON 252: Honors—Russian**
CRN# 90600
Contact Kathleen Scollins
The College Honors Program, designed for students with unusual initiative and intellectual curiosity, provides an opportunity to pursue two semesters (six credits) of independent research under the direction of a faculty sponsor. Students may pursue a thesis or creative project. Students may apply for College Honors if they have a GPA of 3.40 or higher.
Students who wish to pursue College Honors must submit their applications early in the first term of their senior year, and generally begin working on the proposal during the second semester of their junior year. Please contact Prof. Helga Schreckenberger [German, Dept. Chair] or Prof. Kathleen Scollins [Russian] for more information, details, requirements and deadlines if you are interested in pursuing College Honors. Permission of the Chair is required to enroll in an Honors course. Prerequisite: Permission of chair and faculty sponsor. Credits: 3

Fall 2017

Russian Courses

Russian 001: Elementary Russian
A 9:40-10:30 am, MWF; T 11:40-12:55 pm. CRN# 90172
B 12:00-12:50 pm, MWF; T 2:50-4:05 pm. CRN# 91423
Kathleen Scollins
An introduction to all aspects of contemporary standard Russian: speaking, listening, reading, writing. Cultural components include topics such as music, art, literature, and current events. This is the first semester of a two-semester Elementary Russian course. Credits: 4

Russian 051: Intermediate Russian
A 12:00-12:50 pm, MWF; T 11:40-12:55 pm. CRN# 90173
Kevin McKenna
The intermediate level of any foreign language curriculum poses a number of challenges and opportunities beyond the conclusion and "fine-tuning" of the language's grammar foundations. As enjoyable as was learning Russian case endings in "Introductory Russian," it must be understood that mastery of Russian grammar is not an end in itself, but merely one of a number of necessary skills assisting students to be able to read, write, speak and comprehend the language. Over the course of this fall semester, we will address ourselves to a number of content and skill areas, which should vastly improve Russian competence in the spoken and written language. The class will focus on increasing and improving conversational skills at the intermediate level of Russian with a goal of preparing students to enter into the advanced level of the language. Prerequisite: Russian 002 or equivalent. Credits: 4

Russian 095: Russian House
A Times to be announced. CRN# 95722
Kevin McKenna
The UVM Russian House is a residential living component of the Global Village in the University's Living/Learning Center. Students studying the Russian language live in Global Village suites, where they engage in conversation practice, viewing of Russian films, Russian cooking lessons, and a series of lectures provided by various members of the German/Russian Department as well as the Russian/East European Studies Program. Students receive one hour of academic credit for living in the Russian House. Credits: 1

Russian 122: Composition and Conversation
A 10:50-11:40 pm, MWF. CRN# 94953
Julia Katsnelson
Continued practical work on the four language skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Emphasis on oral and written self-expression. Presentations and compositions based on Russian movies and literature. Prerequisite: Russian 052 or equivalent. Credits: 3

Russian 197: Readings and Research. CRN# 90174
1-6 credits. Special Projects. Can be taken only with permission of department chair, Helga Schreckenberger.

Russian 221: Culture & Civilization to the 1905 Revolution
A 2:50-4:05 pm, TR. CRN# 94952
Kevin McKenna
This course will address those famous topics in the course of Russian culture and civilization that have so shaped the destiny and direction of Russia today, including: Kievan Rus'–862-1221, The Mongol Period of Russia's Development: 1221-1480; The Rise of Muscovite Russia; Peter the Great and His Reforms and Successors; Catherine the Great; 19th-Century Russian Rulers; The Decembrist Revolt; The Emancipation of the Russian Serfs; Russian Culture in the 19th-Century; Industrialization and Revolutionary Movement in 19th-Century Russia and The Russo-Japanese War and Revolution of 1905. Primary focus in this course will be devoted to reading and discussion of how the above topics contributed to and shaped the later development of Russian culture and history. This course is intended for students at the third- and fourth-year levels of Russian language study. Assignments and expectations will be adjusted to differentiate the levels of those post-052 third-year students from fourth year students.
The textbook for this course is Ben Rifkin's "Advanced Russian Through Its History/Дела давно минувших дней". Comprehension of written texts poses a serious challenge to students of the Russian language. To overcome these obstacles in understanding Russian expository prose, we will continue to utilize and practice a so-called "contextual strategy." Prerequisites: Russian 052 or equivalent. Credits: 3
Fall 2017
World Literature

World Literature 017-A: The Nature & Politics of Proverbs
8:30-9:45 am, T & R. CRN# 91606
Wolfgang Mieder
“Big Fish Eat Little Fish”: The Nature and Politics of Proverbs.
Proverbs offer a concise record of folk wisdom and have appeared in oral tradition, literature, art, popular culture, politics, and elsewhere for centuries. This course will provide an overview of the fascinating world of proverbs, stressing Anglo-American texts but also looking at proverbs from other languages and cultures.
The course begins with definition and classification problems, looking also at traditional forms related to the proverb. A number of proverbs will be studied in greater detail, looking at their origin, dissemination, history, occurrence in art, literature, mass media, politics, etc. – among them “Big fish eat little fish”, “First come, first served”, “Good fences make good neighbors”, and “A picture is worth a thousand words”.
All of this will be illustrated by numerous literary and journalistic texts as well as slides from art and the mass media. We will discuss the use of proverbs by Benjamin Franklin, Abraham Lincoln, Charles Dickens, Winston S. Churchill, Martin Luther King, Barack Obama, and others. We will also cover the use and function of proverbs and anti-proverbs in poems and popular songs, caricatures, cartoons, comics, advertisements, and headlines.
Prerequisites: none. Credits: 3

World Literature 017-B: TAP: Women and Nazi Germany
1:15-2:30 pm, T & R. CRN# 95130
Helga Schrekenberger
Women played a wide spectrum of roles during National Socialism: they were perpetrators (e.g., convinced party members, brutal concentration camp guards), by-standers and fellow-travelers of the Nazi ideology, victims (due to their race, their sexual orientation, or their political or religious views), and resistance fighters. Drawing on a variety of readings (fiction and non-fiction) and films (documentary and feature films) we will reconstruct the Nazis’ idea of “womanhood,” and examine the different experiences and options of women living under the National Socialist regime.
Course Objectives:
• To acquaint students with historical background of National Socialism
• To examine the roles women were supposed to take on according to the National Socialist ideology and the roles they played in everyday life in the Third Reich
• To understand the experiences of women during the period of National Socialisms and their memories of these experiences
• To analyze literary and filmic responses to the Nazi period and the Holocaust from a gendered perspective
• To help students develop their analytical writing and thinking skills
Prerequisites: none. Credits: 3

2:20-3:10 pm, MWF. CRN# 95541
Kathleen Scollins
2017 marks the 100-year anniversary of the Russian Revolution. This course will present a survey of 20th-century Russian literature, with a focus on the art and literature of the decades just before and just after the revolutionary year of 1917.
The twentieth century was an age of radical, unprecedented, and sometimes violent transformation in Russia: an era of revolution in social systems, political regimes, and economic structures. A number of distinctive literary tendencies emerged in response to this pervasive sense of cultural rupture, both organic (Symbolism and the other modernist schools of the pre-revolutionary avant-garde) and officially sanctioned (Socialist Realism, the Party-approved style that dominated the arts from 1932 until Stalin’s death in 1953). This course will provide a “big picture” survey, offering a more or less chronological review of Russian literature and culture from the experiments of pre-Revolutionary modernism through the repressions and rebellions of high Stalinism up to the bleak realism of the glasnost’ period. Lectures will provide the relevant social and historical context, and class discussions will focus on analysis of the texts themselves: primarily prose, with some poetry, and a number of forays into music, film, and the visual arts. Readings will include stories, poetry, and short novels by Chekhov, Blok, Akhmatova, Mayakovsky, Babel, Zamyatin, Olesha, Bulgakov, Nabokov, Kharms, Zoshchenko, Chukovsky, Solzhenitsyn, Tolstaya and Petrushevskaya. Among the questions we will ponder are the following: how did Russian writers respond and adapt to the changing political context of the 20th century? In what ways do the artistic traditions of the Russian 20th century continue those of the 19th (Pushkin, Gogol, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, etc.), and in what ways do they break away from it? How did artists and politicians variously understand the role of art in life? And what are some of the ways Russian writers liberated themselves from the demands of the State to become, in the words of Solzhenitsyn, a “second government”? All readings and discussions will be in English.
Prerequisites: none. Credits: 3
Department of German and Russian

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