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Spring 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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**Spring 2017**

**German Courses**

**German 002: Elementary German**
A 9:40-10:30 am, MWF; R 10:05-10:55 am. CRN# 10130
Kate Kenny
B 10:50-11:40 am, MWF; R 11:40-12:30 pm. CRN# 10338
Theresa Hoeck
C 1:10-2:00 pm, MWF; R 1:15-2:05 pm. CRN# 10132
Theresa Hoeck

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. German 002 is the second semester of Elementary German.

**Prerequisite:** German 001 or equivalent. Credits: 4

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

**German 052: Intermediate German**
A 10:50-11:40 am, MWF. CRN# 10136
Kate Kenny
B 9:40-10:30 am, MWF. CRN # 10137
Theresa Hoeck

The objective of Intermediate German is to reinforce and build upon students' reading, writing, listening, and conversational skills. This second-year level 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 second semester of Intermediate German.

For German 052A: In the second half of the semester we will watch and discuss 'Good Bye, Lenin!' by Wolfgang Becker. This tragicomedy takes place in former East-Berlin, 1989-1990. Christiane Kerner, a passionate socialist, sees her son, Alex (22), marching in an anti-Berlin Wall demonstration and being hauled off by police. As a result, she suffers a heart attack and goes into a coma. While Christiane is in her coma, the Berlin Wall falls and Germany reunifies. The Kerners’ personal life also changes with all aspects of the new found capitalist world infiltrating their home. When Christiane emerges from her coma eight months later, her health situation is still tenuous. Any shock she experiences would probably lead to another heart attack and certain death. To protect his mother, Alex decides not to tell her of the new Germany. Although most around him don’t support the idea, they go along with the extreme measures Alex goes to to recreate East Germany in their home. How long can they keep up the ruse?

For German 052B: In the second half of the semester, we will read Friedrich Dürrenmatt’s Der Besuch der alten Dame, the story of an old lady who returns home to take merciless revenge on her former lover. In this tragi-comedy, the question is raised whether justice can be bought in return for material wealth. When the community slowly yields to temptation, it becomes evident that money corrupts even the most morally strong people. This play, set in postwar Europe, offers a modern answer to ancient questions of honor, morality, loyalty, community, and justice.

In a campus-wide effort to provide students with a foundation of ecological literacy, we will also engage in discussions that focus on issues of sustainability and environmental concerns.

"Sei du selbst die Veränderung, die du dir wünschst für diese Zeit." - Mahatma Gandhi

Prerequisite: German 051 or equivalent.
Credits: 3

German 196: German Folklore
A 10:05-11:20 am, TR. CRN # 15094
Wolfgang Mieder

This advanced German course introduces students to the rich field of German folklore, especially fairy tales, folk tales, folk songs, and proverbs. Following an introduction to the multifaceted aspects of folklore and the concept of cultural literacy, a quarter of the course will be dedicated to the close reading and interpretation of such fairy tales as “Hansel and Gretel”, “Snow White”, “Little Red Riding Hood”, “Sleeping Beauty”; etc. The second quarter is comprised of a detailed analysis of the folk tale “The Pied Piper of Hamelin” and its survival in literature and the mass media. Carl Zuckmayer’s play Der Rattenfänger (1975) will also be read and interpreted. The third quarter will be comprised of an informed look at the vast field of German proverbs and proverbial expressions, emphasizing their origin, dissemination, meaning, and use. The rich tradition of German folk songs will be dealt with in the final quarter, studying the many variants of the “Lorelei”, “Heidemühle”, and many other ballads and folk songs. Throughout the semester numerous examples of the appearance of this verbal folklore in poems, cartoons, advertisements, and newspaper headlines will be shown and discussed. All of this will exemplify the fascinating interplay of tradition and innovation in oral and written communication over time. Written interpretive homework assignments, a substantial collection of such materials from literary and mass media sources, a research paper, and a midterm and final examination are also part of this course that will augment the linguistic, cultural, and literary knowledge of the students.

Prerequisite: At least one 100-level course.
Credits: 3

German 196: Staging German
B 2:20-3:10 pm, MWF. CRN # 15114
Adriana Borra

Are you still feeling intimidated when speaking German? Do you think your pronunciation could use some help? Do you hate public speaking, let alone in a foreign language? Then this class is designed for you! It will focus entirely on oral communication, starting with pronunciation reinforcement exercises and developing your ability to present different genres (poems, songs, short
speeches, and skits) while improving your body language, facial expressions, and intonation as well. We will both use and modify existing German texts and produce our own. At the end of the semester you will present a project of your choice. Your instructor will help you every step of the way in gaining more confidence expressing yourself. All reading and viewing materials will be distributed in class or posted on Blackboard.

**Prerequisite:** This course may be taken in conjunction with German 052 or higher.

*Credits: 3*

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**German 198: Readings & Research**

A Times TBA. CRN # 10357

Special Readings and Research project to be arranged in consultation with a faculty advisor.

**Prerequisite:** Permission of department chair and faculty advisor.

*Credits: 1-6*

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**German 282: German Romanticism**

A 11:40-12:55, TR. CRN # 15097

Dennis Mahoney

In this upper-level course taught in German, we will focus on a literary period that in its beginnings attempted a synthesis of tradition and innovation (Novalis: *Die Christenheit oder Europa, Heinrich von Ofterdingen*) and by its end (Eichendorff: *Das Schloss Dürerande*) illustrated the fracture lines of modernity in the wake of the French Revolution. Our readings of Mozart’s “Singspiel” *Die Zauberflöte* and Tieck’s comedy *Der gestiefelte Kater* will help to illustrate affinities with and differences between Enlightenment and Romanticism. The discussion of representative German Romantic poems will provide a further opportunity to explore connections between literature and music, which is particularly true for Novalis and Eichendorff, but which also applies to late- and post-romantic writers like Heine and composers like Wagner. In addition to writing a 3-4 page analysis of a poem, students will also have the opportunity to give one oral presentation on one of the authors of the German Romantic peri-

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**Spring 2017**

**Hebrew Courses**

**Hebrew 002: Elementary Hebrew**

A 2:20-3:10 pm, MWF; T 2:50-3:40 pm. CRN# 10346

Gideon Bavly

The spoken language of everyday use with oral, aural, and written practice in speaking, reading, and comprehension. On Tuesdays the course meets in the Language Resource Center, where there are Hebrew word processors and students’ reading practice of Hebrew can be recorded. This is the second semester of a two-semester Elementary Hebrew course.

**Prerequisite:** Hebrew 001 or equivalent.

*Credits: 4*

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**Hebrew 052: Intermediate Hebrew**
A 3:30-4:20 pm, MWF. CRN# 10347
Gideon Bavly
Reading, translation, and discussion in Hebrew of texts selected to show the development of Hebrew culture from Biblical times to the present. This is the second semester of a two-semester Intermediate Hebrew course.
Prerequisite: Hebrew 051 or equivalent.
Credits: 3

Hebrew 198: Hebrew Readings and Research
A 3:30-4:20 pm, MWF. CRN# 11290
Gideon Bavly
Readings and Research component of Intermediate Hebrew. Advanced. Part of Hebrew 052A plus additional work.
Prerequisite: Hebrew 051 or equivalent.
Credits: 3

Spring 2017
Honors Courses

HON 229: Honors: German
CRN # 10410; contact Helga Schreckenberger.

HON 253: Honors: Russian
CRN # 10420; contact Kevin McKenna.

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], or Professor Kevin McKenna [Russian] for more information, details, requirements and deadlines if you are interested in pursuing College Honors. Permission of Chair is required to enroll in an Honors course.
Prerequisite: Permission of Chair and faculty sponsor.
Credits: 3

Spring 2017
Russian Courses

Russian 002: Elementary Russian
A 9:40-10:30 am, MWF; T 11:40-12:55 am. CRN# 10349
Kathleen Scollins
B 12:00-12:50 pm, MWF; T 11:40-12:55 pm. CRN# 10739
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 second semester of a two-semester Elementary Russian course.
Prerequisite: Russian 001 or equivalent.
Credits: 4

Russian 052: Intermediate Russian
A 12:00-12:50 pm, MWF; T 11:40-12:55 pm. CRN# 10350
Kevin McKenna
Many of our goals from Russian 051 will remain the same in Russian 052: greater competence in speaking and reading skills; develop and expand our contextual reading strategies; expand our Russian vocabulary, using a Russian word-root-based morphological approach; better acquaintance with Russian fiction and culture through the short stories of Alexander Pushkin («Въстремь») and Anton Chekhov («Снять хочется»); develop conversational skills through dialogues, oral presentations and learning essential Russian proverbs and proverbial expressions; a semester-long current events Russian research project of your choosing. Each of you will select a newspaper topic from the Russian newspaper, Известия, which you will read, analyze contextually, and then deliver a 10-15 minute summation and analysis to the class; completion of relevant sections of our Making Progress in Russian textbook (Imperative command forms; verbal governance). Students will maintain a semester-long e-mail "pen-pal" correspondence with students from a Russian university to learn more about the lives of their Russian peers, their impressions about current social/political/economic events in Russia, etc. for purposes of developing oral class presentations and written essays over the course of the spring semester.
By the end of Russian 052, all of you should be well prepared to participate in a semester study-abroad program at a Russian university of your choosing in either the spring of your junior year or the fall or spring of your senior year. In addition, you will be ready to enter into any of our Advanced Russian language/literature/culture courses.

Prerequisite: Russian 051 or equivalent.
Credits: 4

**Russian 096: Russian House**
A Times to be announced. CRN# 15166
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 101: Phonology**
A 1:10-2:00 pm, MWF. CRN# 10957
Julia Katsnelson
This course will provide a comprehensive introduction to Russian oral communication, with intensive practical work on phonetics, intonation, vocabulary building, and communicative strategies. Students will become familiar with the fundamentals of Russian phonology through classroom, CD, and language laboratory work on phonetics and intonation patterns.
In addition, students will actively build vocabulary, memorize and recite poems and dialogues, and build oral proficiency toward meaningful and accurate communication. All phonetic and communicative work will be supplemented with short authentic Russian readings, videos, poems, and songs.
The course is envisioned primarily as a complement to Russian 052 (Intermediate Russian), and will be particularly useful for those students who have not yet had the opportunity to study abroad.
Materials will include Russian materials on phonetics and intonation, including a coursepack and audio for listening and phonetic practice.
Prerequisite: Russian 052 or concurrent enrollment in 052.
Credits: 3

**Russian 121: Composition and Conversation**
A 10:50-11:40, MWF. CRN# 14884
Julia Katsnelson
This course is designed to improve students' language skills (speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension). Students will improve proficiency in speaking and writing through discussions, dialogs, oral presentations, and a variety of writing assignments. Reading and listening comprehension skills will be mastered through frequently assigned Russian texts as well as Russian films and cartoons. In addition, students will actively build vocabulary for everyday communication and will be acquainted with specific Russian cultural norms of oral communication (conversational etiquette, word choice, intonation, and some common rules of non-verbal communication).
The course will consist of two parts. During the first part of the course students will build their vocabulary and master their speaking and writing skills based on discussions about contemporary topics such as Education, Family, Environmental (global) issues, and so on. Students will be introduced to and become familiar with everyday Russian life, with Russian worldviews, customs, traditions, and the role Russia plays in the world today. During in-class discussions they will also compare Russia and the USA (socially, economically, politically, and culturally) in order to discover differences and similarities.
During the second part of the course, Russian films and cartoons will be used as the basis for conversations, providing students with a wealth of Russian culture.
Materials will include *Russian: From Intermediate to Advanced.* By Kagan, O. E., Kudyma, A. S., Miller; and *Animation for Russian Conversation.* By Merrill, J., Mikhailova, J., Alley, M.
Evaluation for this course will be based on 1 written essay and 1 oral presentation at the end of the semester.
Prerequisite: Russian 052 or equivalent.
Credits: 3

Russian 198: Readings & Research.
A Times TBA. CRN # 10558
Special Readings and Research project to be arranged in consultation with a faculty advisor.
Prerequisite: Permission of department chair and faculty advisor.
Credits: 1-3

Russian 222: XX-XXI Century Russian Culture and Civilization
A 11:40-12:55, TR. CRN# 14885
Julia Katsnelson
This course will provide a 20th-21st-century follow-up to the Russian 221 course “Russian Culture and Civilization: 862-1905.” By no means, however, will students need already to have taken Russian 221 in order to enroll into Russian 222. This is a course designed for students at the third-fourth year of Russian language study. While not at all a course in 20th-century Russian literature, we will read poems by Alexander Blok, Vladimir Mayakovsky and Anna Akhmatova. The majority of the course will be devoted to topics of political, economic, social, and cultural history of 20th-century Soviet society and late-20th to early 21st-century post-Soviet Russian society. The final weeks of the semester will be devoted to an examination of contemporary Russia, including the Putin “phenomenon” in Russia today.
The textbook is: Advanced Russian through History/Дела давно минувших дней, edited by Benjamin Rifkin and Olga Kagan with Anna Yatsenko (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2007). Evaluation for this course will be based on 1 written essay and 1 oral presentation at the end of the semester.
Prerequisites: RUSS 052.
Credits: 3

Spring 2017
World Literature

World Literature 017/117: The Legacy of the Holocaust
A 10:05-11:20 pm, TR. CRN# 15092/15277
Helga Schreckenberger
What does it mean to be Jewish after the Holocaust? Can Jews live in countries whose citizens were complicit in the murder of their relatives? Is it easier to live in countries that are not “contaminated” in that respect? How can the next generation understand/share in the trauma of the survivors of the Holocaust? Can one escape the legacy of the Holocaust? How should this generation bear witness to this horrific event? These are some of the many questions confronting the Second Generation, i.e. the children of Holocaust survivors. This course will explore films and literature by members of the Second Generation from Germany, Austria, the US, and Israel that address these questions from various points of view and through different artistic means. We will examine how the socio-political contexts of the different countries (e.g. the status of Jews, the collective attitude towards the Holocaust) shape the works and their central questions: the representation of the Holocaust, the construction of memory, and the problem of identity for the second generation.
No foreign language knowledge is necessary for this course.
Prerequisites: none
Credits: 3
Cross-listed with JS 096/196.

World Literature 117: German Literature and Culture: From Enlightenment to Romanticism
B 2:50-4:05 pm, TR. CRN# 15100
Dennis Mahoney
This course focuses on major examples of German Romantic poetry, drama, and prose, but set within a special framework. We will begin with Nathan the Wise, the German dramatist Gotthold Ephraim Lessing’s call for understanding and reconciliation among Christians, Jews and Muslims, which involves Lessing’s retelling of the Ring Parable from Boccaccio’s Decameron, but set
during the time of the Third Crusade. Towards the end of the semester we will turn our attention to Richard Wagner's music drama *Das Rheingold*, which deals with the forging and struggle for the Ring of Power that was to influence J.R.R Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*. Goethe's *Faust* — the centerpiece of our course in more ways than one — is a work that transcends narrow confines of genre and period, but its importance for the Romantic generation across Europe is incontestable. Other works we will discuss include *The Magic Flute*, Mozart's final opera, Novalis's experimental novel *Henry von Ofterdingen*, a newly published bilingual edition of the poems contained within Joseph von Eichendorff's novel *Ahnung und Gegenwart* (Presentiment and Present, 1815) — many of which have been set to music by composers like Robert Schumann and Felix Mendelssohn — and a bilingual edition of *Deutschland: A Winter's Tale*, Heinrich Heine's witty and biting travelogue through post-Napoleonic Germany.

By the end of the semester we will have explored the transformation of traditional literary genres in an era on the edge of modernity and its discontents. In addition, students will have the opportunity to present a 10-15 minute oral report on a topic of their choice dealing with either a) a passage from one of the works on the syllabus (for example, an aria or scene from *The Magic Flute*); or b) European developments in politics, philosophy, literature, music, or art during the Enlightenment and Romanticism, e.g. the life and works of Moses Mendelssohn, the great figure of the Jewish Enlightenment and the model for Lessing's Nathan. In terms of written work, there will be a midterm and two papers — a 3-4 page analysis of a single poem, scene, or chapter from one of the works we will be studying, and a 10-12 page research paper on a topic of your choice.

**Prerequisites:** none  
**Credits:** 3

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**World Literature 018/118: The 'Fictional' World of Alexander Solzhenitsyn: A Life in Art**  
A 4:25-5:40 pm, TR. CRN# 15130/15131  
Kevin McKenna

Often compared both to Fyodor Dostoevsky as well as Leo Tolstoy, the fiction of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1970. His works remain to this day so central to Russian literary culture that in 2006 Russian national television named them, along with Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment* and Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*, as the major national literary achievements in Russian fiction. In 2011, Time Magazine heralded Solzhenitsyn's literary works as the “main artistic achievements of the 20th century.”

The primary goal of this World Lit. 018/118 course will be to derive an understanding of the interplay between 20th-century history, society, and art as depicted in the fictional universe of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's novels, *Cancer Ward* and *In the First Circle*. Closely related in theme, style and substance to the novels, his short story “Matryona's House” and novella *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* will complete the reading list for this course. At all points of contact with Solzhenitsyn's fiction one cannot help but pose one of Tolstoy's original questions: “By what do we [humans] live?” and the 20th-century Soviet-era correlation “how does one survive with his/ her conscience intact?” To better understand why a literary giant like Solzhenitsyn could not publish his fiction in his own country, this course will also consider the major philosophical and political constructs of Soviet “socialist realism” as practiced in the USSR in the 20th century. For purposes of course evaluation, students will have the option of writing either (a) a take-home midterm essay (6-8 pages in length) as well as a take-home final essay (8-10 pages in length) or (b) conducting research for one's own term paper (14-16 pages in length).

**Prerequisites:** none  
**Credits:** 3