

German Studies at the University of Delaware & Student Friendly Course Descriptions (Spring 2018)

Courses:

We offer a spectrum of innovative courses and regularly update them to keep them relevant to students' needs and interests. The curriculum includes classes in language, literature, film, history, current events, popular culture, and the European Union.

Students who have had little or no German can take GRMN 105 or GRMN 106.

The Major consists of eleven courses:
GRMN 107):

- GRMN 107
- three 200-level courses
- three 300-level courses
- one 300- **or** 400-level course
- two 400-level courses
- LLCU 499: Capstone (1 credit)

The Minor consists of six courses (prereq

- two 200-level courses
- two 300-level courses
- two 400-level courses

At the 200 through 400 levels students may choose any course that interests them, as long as it is taught in German. We are able to structure the curriculum in this way because the basic skills of reading, speaking, writing, and aural comprehension are integrated into every class we offer.

Faculty:

The German faculty is a dedicated group of teachers, each with many years of professional experience. We get to know our students and are readily available to mentor them. Students receive guidance in choosing courses, help finding scholarships and study abroad programs, as well as support when they pursue careers or further study.

Study Abroad:

We offer study abroad programs in two beautiful, historic cities: **Salzburg, Austria** and **Leipzig, Germany**. As an enhancement to course work, these programs include many excursions to cultural sites. Need- and merit-based scholarships are available for both programs.

Additionally, our students may compete for scholarships that cover expenses for two other study abroad opportunities: a four-week summer program in **Fulda, Germany** and grant for a full year of study at a German university (see below).

Scholarships, Prizes, and Support for Students:

Thanks to our strong relationships with area businesses, clubs, and individual donors, we are able to offer a range of prizes and scholarships:

Prizes:

- The Sepp Hilsenrad Memorial Award (a prize of \$1,000 to an outstanding German major)
- The Marion Wiley Memorial Award (a cash prize to an outstanding non-major)
- The Delaware Sängerbund Scholarship (three prizes of \$250.00 to top students in GRMN 105, GRMN 106, and GRMN 107)

Scholarships:

- Travel and tuition to the International Summer School in Fulda, Germany. We usually award two of these each year.
- Two Federation of German/American Clubs grants for a full year of study at a German university.

Support and Extracurricular:

Students are mentored and encouraged to apply for outside grants as well. Many of our German majors and minors have won prestigious national/international grants and prizes. We sponsor an active German Club with many members. Its events enable students to practice their German and learn more about German culture. We sponsor a chapter of the German Honor Society, Delta Phi Alpha, with a festive event each year to recognize student success.

German Courses in Spring 2018

GRMN 200: German Grammar Review (3 credits)

Lisa Thibault

Are you still not exactly sure where to place the verb? Are you still taking wild guesses on adjective endings? Do you rely a little too heavily on your imagination in order to form past participles? Would you benefit from a course where you can take another look at the topics you covered in 105, 106 and 107 (or in high school)? Then German 200 is right for you! This course is designed to provide you with an opportunity to improve and refine your basic language skills, thus building greater confidence and proficiency. Our systematic review of the grammar includes activities for improving reading, speaking and writing skills.

Prerequisite: GRMN 107 or equivalent.

GRMN 255: Germany in the News (3 credits)

Nancy Nobile

What are the hopes and concerns of people in today's Germany? Which cultural and political issues are currently in the news? How does the German parliamentary system function? And what are the rights and duties of German citizenship? To find answers to these and other questions, we'll read and discuss a basic civics textbook, online newspaper articles, and view short videos from German TV news. Discussion of emergent issues in Germany—from pop culture to politics—will improve your speaking, reading, and listening skills. To develop their writing skills, students will create their own newspapers in short increments over the course of the semester. Students will be asked to participate frequently in class discussions, to give brief presentations, and to take a midterm and final exam.

Prerequisite: GRMN 107 or the equivalent.

German 311: Introduction to Modern German Literature: Love, Money and Power (3 credits)

Ester Riehl

Greed, power mongering, political machinations and womanizing celebrities: Are these the central conflicts of a 21st-century Hollywood film, or an 18th-century German drama? German literature abounds with over-the-top romance and jealousy, scheming characters, misguided parents and courageous children forging their own way. In this course, we will read key texts addressing the triangle of love, money and power from the 18th century until current times. You will gain a deeper understanding of how themes and structures evolved over time and shaped the development of modern German literature as well as film. Discussing these topics students will improve their German skills and learn how to do close reading. Students will be asked to write several short papers, two essays, and to take a midterm and final exam.

Prerequisite: Two 200-level courses taught in German.

This course fulfills a College of Arts and Sciences Group A requirement.

GRMN 325: German Civilization & Culture (3 credits)

Nancy Nobile

In the span of a century the politics and culture of Germany changed dramatically many times over. Some of the topics we'll discuss in this course include urban modernization at the dawn of the twentieth century, the Weimar Republic, the rise and fall of the Third Reich, the two Germanys of the Cold War period, and Unification. To help illustrate these topics, we'll consider readings (including a graphic novel), paintings, architecture, music, and film. Students will be asked to participate actively in class discussions, to write short essays/homeworks, and to take a midterm and final exam.

Prerequisite: Two 200-level courses taught in German

This course fulfills a College of Arts and Sciences Group B requirement.

GRMN 455: The Craft of Translating (3 credits)

Nancy Nobile

This course will offer students an unusual approach to German literary texts by focusing on their translation. We will work with short masterpieces of German literature, explore how they have been variously translated by others, and create translations of our own. The verb "translate" comes from Latin roots meaning "to carry across" or "to bring over." What gets lost when one attempts to carry beautiful meanings across from one language to another? Can one compensate for these losses somehow? Since all translations are, in a sense, interpretations, students will learn a lot about interpreting literature. Through hands-on experience rather than memorization, students will also hone their grammar skills, expand their vocabularies, and increase their sensitivity to the written word. We will read a bit of translation theory and translate texts by authors including Rilke, Kafka, Karen Duve and Judith Hermann. Students will complete several short projects and a longer final project.

Prerequisite: Two 300-level courses taught in German

This course may be taken concurrently with a 300-level course.