

Fall 2023

300 Level German Language Classes

Towards Fluency in German | [Stacy Swennes](#) | TuWThF 11–12pm | ULWR | [300.001](#)

This course seeks to increase the accuracy of students' grammar and vocabulary through conversation, writing, and reading. The content of the course is focused on everyday life, cultural trends, and current events in Germany. Texts to be read include journalistic prose, material from the Internet, movies, and popular music. The course will also provide a systematic review of German grammar. The course is intended for students still wishing or needing a systematic review of German grammar and practice in composition after having satisfied the language requirement.

Towards Fluency in German | [Mary Gell](#) | MTuWTh 2-3pm | [300.002](#)

This course is designed to help you improve your command of German through speaking, reading, writing, and listening at the intermediate level and to prepare you for success in other 300- and 400-level German courses. With that in mind, we will pay special attention to refining your written expression in German by using two different approaches to writing: (1) MPG: a model-based, process-oriented, and genre-focused approach; (2) creative, spontaneous, in-class writing. We will also take on a systematic review of German grammar and word usage.

Conversation and Debate | ARR | W 12-1pm | [306.001](#)

Conversation and Debate | ARR | Tu 4-5pm | [306.002](#)

Conversation and Debate | ARR | Th 4-5pm | [306.003](#)

The goal of this course is to increase your confidence in speaking on any topic in German. Henceforth, we will communicate on any topic that pertains to either current cultural or everyday events. The class focuses on expanding the existing vocabulary and varying the spoken styles that are necessary to appreciate fully life in German-speaking communities.

In addition, creative and compositional exercises (concocting and completing prose and poetry, writing extemporaneous letters, making light-tongued phone conversations — all in German) will alternate with impromptu conversational situations.

Introduction to German Literature | [Andrew Mills](#) | TuTh 10-11:30am | HU | [315.001](#)

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German Science Fiction/Fantasy | [Mary Rodena-Krasan](#) | MW 10-11:30am | [325.001](#)

Within the annals of German literature and film little is mentioned of the science fiction and fantasy genres. Fritz Lang's *Metropolis* (1927) and *Frau im Mond* (1929) as well as Alfred Döblin's *Berge Meere und Giganten* (1924) reflect a general interest in the genre before World War II. After the war the genre fills with English language titles from such masters as Heinlein, Asimov and Tolkien. Yet there existed a lively audience for science fiction in the 1950's with such publications as *Terra* and *Perry Rhodan*. From the 1970's onward, German science fiction and fantasy once again gains traction in regional bookstores and theaters, but rarely garners the international acclaim or status of the aforementioned English language titles.

In this course we will examine the contested space science fiction occupies within the realm of literature, its manifestation in Germany both before and after World War II as well as highlight contemporary works by German authors and directors of science fiction and fantasy.

An Intimate Look at Warfare in the German Experience | [Andrew Mills](#) | TuTh 4-5:30pm | [325.002](#)

The course is designed to be a forum where students can improve their language skills in the areas of speaking and writing, as well as reading and listening comprehension. Students examine the German experience of warfare on the level of individual women, men, and children who lived through conflict as combatants, civilians, and bystanders. Personal experiences and perspectives are explored by means of the visual arts, film, literary fiction, memoirs, music, poetry, and personal correspondence. The chronological mold is broken by offering students a range of stopping points along the historical timeline that do not conform to linear sequencing, but instead prioritize the subjects' intimate, personal experiences of warfare and its consequences. Here the term "German" is broadened to include the German historical imagination's understanding of the concept when contemplating warfare. Thus students do not merely study those periods of war that one would expect to see in this course—the First and Second World Wars—they might also examine narratives from the victory of the Germanic tribes against the Roman legions in the Battle of Teutoburger Forest, the tribulations and deprivations of the Thirty Years War, and the Wars of Liberation fought against Napoleon. Throughout the course, the emphasis will be placed upon the individual's experience of warfare and the illumination of periods of German history that might not be well known to the modern student of German.

Fashion and Trends Throughout History as a Mirror of German-Speaking Society | [Silvia Grzeskowiak](#) | MW 2:30-4pm | [325.003](#)

In this course, we will explore the dynamic and enticing trends of pop culture in German-speaking society throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, from the Roaring 1920s to Generation Z. Delving through the decades, we will navigate the movement of music, fashion, and social media in order to not only discover the ways in which society and socioeconomic situations affected these trends but additionally how these trends influenced society at large. By using a vast range of resources and select visual imagery, we will be taking a critical look at how fashion and trends have impacted our innermost identities, body positivity, and gendered stereotypes. The necessary vocabulary and grammar will be provided along the way.

Soccer | [Kalli Federhofer](#) | MW 1-2:30pm | [325.004](#)

In this course, students are invited to dive into the fascination 'Fußball'. Introduction to the rules, soccer-jargon, teams, and players will be part of the class time, as well as historical and cultural aspects of soccer in the German-speaking countries. The material for discussions and student presentations is based on literary texts, Internet resources, videos, and two movies. The course will be conducted in German; weekly readings and motivated participation are required. Matters of German grammar, which may occur while improving the speaking, reading and writing skills, will be reviewed as needed. The course expects a strong interest in soccer and an existing familiarity with the sport.

Business German | [Kalli Federhofer](#) | MWF 12-1pm | [350.001](#)

This course introduces students to the language of business German and gives them insight into Germany's place in the global economy. The course is organized around major business and economic topics, such as: the geography of business in German, branches of industry, company structure, office procedures, business forms, product descriptions, stock market, stock forms. In addition to the basic text, students will read actual business, merchandising, and advertising material; newspapers and magazines. There will also be short videos on business and related topics. Students will also keep a mock portfolio around which the final project is built.

Berlin: The City in Literature, Art, and Film | [Karein Goertz](#) | TuTh 2:30-4pm | [361.001](#)

This post-proficiency Readings course, taught exclusively in German, focuses on 20th and 21st century Berlin as seen through the filter of journalistic, autobiographical and fictional texts, as well as the visual arts and film. We examine the city's perpetual struggle to redefine itself over the course of the last century: from its emergence as a world city and cultural hub in the 1920s, to its decline following the economic crash of 1929 and descent into fascism and war; from its reemergence out of the ruins, through Cold-war division and unification, to its current incarnation as an international city with a complexly layered past and present-day challenges. Through different narrative lenses—tragic, nostalgic, comical, journalistic ironic—students explore a wide range of topics: revolution, gender politics, political ideology and private life, youth culture, music as protest, utopian and dystopian visions, multiculturalism. Readings include work by Georg Simmel, Irmgard Keun, Hans Fallada, Peter Schneider, Thomas Brussig, Zafer Senocak and Jenny Erpenbeck.

Five Poems, Three Stories, One Novel | [Andrew Mills](#) | MW 4-5:30pm | HU | [388.001](#)

The course is designed to be a forum where students can improve their language skills in the areas of speaking and writing, as well as reading and listening comprehension. Students read and discuss a variety of German-language literary works, with an emphasis on close reading and understanding of content and intent. Students read and discuss five possibly canonical, most certainly popular and influential poems in modern German literature, before proceeding to read a selection of three shorter, popular and entertaining Erzählungen and Kurzgeschichten. The second half of the semester is dedicated to the close reading and discussion of the deeply satisfying "tragic comedy" Der Besuch der alten Dame by the Swiss dramatist Friedrich Dürrenmatt.

If the course you want to take is full, please go on the waitlist—spaces do often become available!