Gateway Courses

Suggested and/or Required Courses

Freshmen are encouraged to take language courses in the department at the appropriate level as determined by the Harvard Placement test or their SAT II test. We offer both regular and intensive language courses at the beginning and intermediate level as well as a third-year language sequence in German.

We offer further opportunities for language study through the Harvard Summer School: Intensive intermediate/advanced German in Vienna, Austria, a film-focused program in Berlin, and Germany. And a fully, not merely token, interdisciplinary HSS course on the historical, literary and material culture aspects of the period known as the Viking Age (ca. AD 750-1100) is offered in Scandinavia.

Gateway courses to get you interested:
• German Aa: Beginning German (TBA): Fall 2016
• SCAND xx: Any beginning Nordic language class (e.g., Swedish A, Scand 90R A., Danish, etc.)
• German 176: Staging War - Representations of Violence and Conflict in Drama and Theater (Prof. Michael Auer): Fall 2016
• German 143/History 1265: German Empires 1848-1949 (Prof. Alison Frank Johnson): Fall 2016
• Scandinavian 55: One Hundred Years of Scandinavian Cinema (Dr. Agnes Broomé): Spring 2017
• German 191: Engineering Texts (Prof. Fatima Naqvi): Spring 2017

Advanced gateway courses (required introduction courses to the 100 level in German):
• German 101: German Literature, Culture and Society (Dr. Anna Horakova): Fall 2016
• German 102: German Literature, Art and Thought (Prof. Nicole Sütterlin): Spring 2017

Other suggested courses that fulfill the GenEd requirement (taught in English):
• Aesthetic and Interpretive Understanding 59: Nazi Cinema - The Art of Illusion (Prof. Eric Rentschler): Fall 2016

Sample Advanced Courses

• SCAND 160A: Old Norse Language, Literature, and Culture - The Viking Legacy
• GERMAN 61: Advanced Grammar and Reading
• GERMAN 64: Environment Matters
• GERMAN 69: Crossing Borders
• GERMAN 115: Deutsche Komödie
• GERMAN 134/MUSIC 192r/HIST 13k: Understanding Beethoven
• GERMAN 140/HISTORY 1323: German Social Thought from Nietzsche to Habermas
• Germanic Studies 1xx: The Heroic Epic in Northern Europe

Continued...

• COMPARATIVE LITERATURE 157: Comparative Modernisms

Sample Thesis Titles

• Toxi Grows Up: A Changing Appraisal of the Afro-German Cinematic Image in Post-Reunification Germany through Branwen Okpako’s Dreckfresser
• “Holding the Hohlspiegel up to nature: Crises of Reading, Reflections, and Inheritance in Shakespeare and Kleist”
• Germany’s Achtundsechziger Generation and the Rise of the Rote Armee Fraktion: Burned Children Returning to the Fire as Seen Through Die Bleierne Zeit
• The Literary and Cinematic Anticipation of the Führer Figure
• Development of the Female Protagonist in the Work of Victoria Bendictsson
• Bridging the Unbridgeable Gap: Memory and Self in Christa Wolf
• Nänie: Schiller, Goetz, Brahms

Sample Department Research Opportunities

The Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies (CES)

Sample Faculty Research and/or Publications

John Hamilton:
• Research: Teaching and Research topics include 18th- and 19th-century Literature, Classical Philology and Reception History, Music and Literature, Literary Theory and Political Metaphorology.

Stephen Mitchell:

Lisa Parke:
• Issues in Language Program Direction: Integrating the Arts: Creative Thinking about FL Curricula and Language Program Direction (co-edited with C. Ryan and S. Katz Bourns, 2015)

Eric Rentschler:
• The Use and Abuse of Cinema: German Legacies from the Weimar Era to the Present (Columbia UP, 2015)