GRMN 3010. Language: Culture and Society I. 3 hours.
MWF 04 (11:15a – 12:05p), Dr. Marjanne Goozé
MWF 04 (11:15a – 12:05p), Dr. Inge DiBella
Prerequisite: GRMN 2002 or GRMN 2110 or permission of department
This introductory cultural studies course acquaints you with central social, cultural and political issues of post-war Germany. Our textbook is designed as a course for foreigners wishing to become German citizens. We are therefore becoming familiar with pertinent aspects of German culture from this unique and authentic vantage point. Our course also includes systematic grammar review. This class hones all your language skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) while simultaneously teaching cultural content. It is a gateway course structured to prepare you for higher-level German classes.

GRMN 3020. Language: Culture and Society II. 3 hours.
MWF 03 (10:10a – 11:00a), Dr. Katie Chapman
Prerequisite: GRMN 3010 or GRMN 3070
In this section of German 3020 we will explore German culture and language through a central theme: aging. What does it mean to enter into adulthood? To turn 30? Why a mid-life crisis? How does what we expect from ourselves and from others change as we grow older? What all does a person experience toward the end of life, and how can we help ourselves and others to face that experience mindfully, meaningfully, and with self-worth intact? In addition to answering these questions for ourselves and against the background of our own lives, we will naturally look at how questions of aging have been approached cross-culturally, in the German-speaking context. This topic will be explored through media both historical and contemporary. At the heart of our discussions will be texts of various genres, including essays, poems, stories, plays, interviews, songs, films, and articles. An introduction to working with these genres will be a central aspect of the course. You should expect to make gains in your German language proficiency through extensive at-home reading and in-class speaking practice. Additionally, throughout the duration of the course we will review elements of German grammar in order to improve confidence and accuracy when using the language in speaking and writing. Assessment measures—outside of engaged course participation and careful completion of readings and daily assignments—will include regular short grammar and vocabulary quizzes, in-class writing assignments, and several oral projects.
GRMN 3710. The Wall. 3 hours.
TR 73 (11:00a – 12:15p); Dr. Brigitte Rossbacher
This course explores the Berlin Wall as a site of history and imagination within the context of postwar politics, culture, and everyday life. We will discuss the events leading to the construction of the physical border, life with the Wall, the fall of the Wall and the persistence of mental “walls” between East and West Germans after unification. Specific areas of focus will be the ideological division of Germany; life in the GDR (youth culture, the planned economy, the Stasi); and Germany today. The course readings will be supplemented by historical documents, feature films, video and audio eye witness accounts, music and other media. By the end of the semester students should have a more detailed understanding of postwar events (chronology, cause and effect); ideology; historiography (how historical events were represented and interpreted in the FRG and GDR); aspects of everyday life in the GDR and unified Germany. Primary readings and discussion will be in German.

GRMN 3770. Heritage German: Language Change and Language Shift. 3 hours.
TR 74 (12:30p – 1:45p), Dr. Joshua Bousquette
Prerequisite: GRMN 2002
This course explores language use among speakers of heritage varieties of German, who learn and speak a language at home and in their community that differs from the language of the broader, often national community. Focusing on heritage German communities in the United States, we will study the correlation between quantifiable extra-linguistic factors and observable changes in language use over time. Primary topics covered in this course will include: migration, urbanization, language contact, bilingualism, linguistic substrates, and the role played by societal institutions and social networks within the heritage community.
Through taking this course, students will be provided an introduction to the field of heritage linguistics, including an introduction to the basic theoretical assumptions and methodological approaches to sociolinguistic research. Applying this theoretical knowledge, students will engage with a number of empirical studies covering a broad spectrum of German-speaking communities, including those in Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Kansas and Texas. Central to our discussion is the positioning of these heritage communities as simultaneously German and American – a cultural hybridity and domain-specific bilingualism that underpins the German-American experience.
FALL 2015
Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies

GERMAN – Upper Division Undergraduate Courses

All courses are taught in German unless stated otherwise.

** Course offerings may be subject to change **

GRMN 4001. Advanced German Conversation and Composition. 3 hours.
MWF 06 (1:25p – 2:15p), Dr. Inge DiBella
Prerequisite: GRMN 3020 or GRMN 3080
This course will be refining your command of spoken and written German. The focus will be on developing a more sophisticated range of vocabulary and expressions, and obtaining more ease in dealing with the finer points of German grammar. A significant part of class time is spent on developing speaking skills. The course is structured around four movies and shorter clips which we will discuss in detail based on student input.

GRMN 4410. The Holocaust in German Literature and Film. 3 hours.
MWF 07 (2:30p – 3:20p), Dr. Marjanne Goozé
Prerequisite: GRMN 3010 or GRMN 3070
Autobiographical, literary, and cinematic representations of the Holocaust from post-war to contemporary Germany. This class will investigate how the Holocaust is represented in East, West, and contemporary German films and texts by Jews and non-Jews, considering their impact and significance on German social and political identity and exploring how they helped determine its self-image and reception of its own history. The class may also look at video testimonies of survivors. We will concurrently examine how the growing field of memory studies shapes our understanding of these texts and films. The class will be organized around student-led discussions of the texts and films. Through readings, film viewings, discussions and written assignments, the students will improve their German fluency. Students will complete several guided written assignments and write a final essay or complete a final project. Taught in German (in spite of what Banner may say at the moment)

GRMN 4510. Special Topics: German Gothic Horror Literature. 3 hours.
MWF 05 (12:20p – 1:10p), Dr. Heide Crawford
Prerequisite: GRMN 3010 or GRMN 3070
German authors of the 18th and early 19th centuries were not only active in developing a unique German strain of Gothic horror literature, but they were also very influential on a pan-European level, helping to make Gothic horror literature a European phenomenon and influencing many British and American authors of horror fiction in subsequent centuries. In this course, our goal is to understand how early German authors of horror literature created atmospheres of horror and feelings of sublime Gothic dread in their narratives. We will read a variety of genres including ballad poetry, dramas, short prose works and longer ones by well-known authors such as Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Friedrich Schiller, Ludwig Tieck and E.T.A Hoffmann as well as lesser known authors.
RUSS 3001. Russian Conversation and Composition I. 3 hours.
MWF 04 (11:15a – 12:05p), Dr. Olga Thomason
Prerequisite: RUSS 2002
This course is designed to enhance and consolidate students’ competence in the four language skill areas (speaking, reading, writing, and listening). The focus is on the comprehension of written texts and oral conversations, writing essays and learning more about contemporary Russian culture. On a regular basis students will make presentations and take part in class and online discussions. A guided review of such challenging grammar areas as motion verbs, impersonal constructions, direct and indirect speech, verbal adjectives and adverbs will be incorporated into the course.

RUSS 4510. Tolstoy on Page and Screen. 3 hours.
TR 75 (2:00p – 3:15p), Dr. Charles Byrd
So real that you can almost smell them, the fictional characters of Leo Tolstoy’s greatest two novels have captivated generations inside Russia and out. Close reading and discussion of War and Peace and Anna Karenina, enlivened by screenings and analysis of selected film adaptations. Estimated to have cost more than 700,000,000 in today’s dollars, Sergei Bondarchuk’s panoramic, academy-award winning War and Peace (1967) remains the single most expensive movie in world cinema history. Anna Karenina has been filmed more than 20 times. What, precisely, in Tolstoy’s works has proven so attractive to filmmakers? Conducted in English. Readings in translation. Films in English or with English subtitles.

RUSS 4520. Contemporary Russian Culture. 3 hours.
MWF 03 (10:10a – 11:00a), Dr. Olga Thomason
Prerequisite: RUSS 3001 or RUSS 3200
A survey of the main trends in modern Russian society and culture. This course will examine contemporary Russian culture with special attention to those political, social and religious subtleties and traditions that shape the cultural identity of present-day Russians and influence their everyday behavior. The course provides an overview of the political and social dynamics of modern Russia, combined with advanced language study.

SLAV/LING 3070. Introduction to Slavic Linguistics. 3 hours.
MWF 06 (1:25p – 2:15p), Dr. Olga Thomason
Prerequisites: LING 2100
An overview of the Slavic family of languages, aspects of their historical development, and characteristics of their modern linguistic systems. Selected topics in the phonology, morphology, syntax, and sociolinguistics of individual Slavic languages will be addressed. No prior knowledge of any Slavic language is required. Taught in English.