GERMAN LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION (GELT)

GELT228 Going Green, German-Style: The Relationship to Nature, 1800-Today
Few countries display as active a commitment to protect natural resources and the environment as Germany. Its focus on renewable energies, recycling, and conservation in general is unique even by European standards, and in the U.S., Germany’s policies on sustainability and environmental preservation are often held up as models. It is important to recognize, however, that Germans did not achieve this degree of environmental awareness overnight. Rather, it represents the result of centuries of contemplating, controlling, and conserving nature and cannot simply be transferred to other cultures. In this course, we will examine the German (and European) cultural tradition by analyzing artworks and texts from the last two centuries that have both expressed and shaped salient attitudes and emotional responses. The goal of the course is to give you insight into Germany’s long and complicated history of defining and relating to nature, and to allow you to reflect critically on your own attitudes toward nature and the environment.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-GRST, HA-GRST, HA-GRST
Identical With: GRST228, ENV228, GRST228, ENV228, GRST228, ENV228, GRST228, ENV228, GRST228, ENV228, GRST228, ENV228, GRST228
Prereq: None

GELT230 The Simple Life
As the human population grows toward nine billion and our planet’s carrying capacity comes under increasing pressure, many observers believe the human project itself is at risk. What human beings have accomplished is probably unique in the history of the universe; once lost to war, famine, and ecological collapse, the understandings and physical creations of our cultures will be irrecoverable. We must ask ourselves, with considerable urgency, the following questions: How do our values, our economic systems, and our behaviors—as individuals, groups, societies, and cultures—affect the conditions under which we, our descendants, and the plants and animals with which we share the earth might live in the future? To what extent and at what cost can technology enable us to adapt to changes already under way? Should we take an “après moi le déluge” attitude or try to prolong the life of our species, and if so, in what form? Does the so-called simple life, as conceptualized in different times and places, offer any useful models? Does living “green” make sense? What about environmental (in)justice? This course will draw on texts from a variety of periods and disciplines, written in a range of styles and from many perspectives, to examine how these questions and others can be approached. Creative thinking will be strongly encouraged. We will pay particular attention to contemporary sustainability initiatives and environmental consciousness in Germany.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-GRST, HA-GRST, HA-GRST
Prereq: None

GELT234 Multikulti Germany: Expressions of Germany’s Cultural Diversity
That Germany is an ethnically and culturally homogenous country is a myth cultivated by the Nazis. Germany’s position in the center of Europe has made its geographical and cultural identity fluid and the make-up of its population diverse at least since the Migration of Peoples (ca. 200-800 CE). Adding to the ethnic and cultural mix were influxes of Jews during the Middle Ages and later; the incursions of armies from all over Europe during the Thirty Years’ War; the 17th-century immigration of French Huguenots to Prussia; the redrawing of borders after both world wars; marriages between black GIs and German women after WWII; and, during the labor shortage that followed World War II, the arrival of guestworkers from southern and eastern Europe and Turkey, many of whom ended up staying. Refugees also came from Eastern Europe during the Soviet era and during the Bosnian War, and for some people not motivated by political or economic oppression Germany has proved an attractive destination. In this course we will focus primarily on fiction and non-fiction works by recent immigrants or descendants of immigrants, all of whom write in German and have been translated into English. Among the topics we explore will be homesickness; interactions with the bureaucracy; use of and perspectives on language; questions of citizenship, assimilation, and integration; clashes of cultures; and encounters with xenophobia. We will also look at the particular experience of Afro-Germans.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-GRST, HA-GRST, HA-GRST
Identical With: GRST234, COL216, GRST234, COL216, GRST234, COL216
Prereq: None

GELT239 Wagner and Modernism
This course focuses on Richard Wagner and his complicated legacy to modernism in Europe from the 1860s through the 1920s, before his art was co-opted by totalitarian regimes in Europe. Wagner’s work stands at the crux of debates surrounding a modernist aesthetic. Key questions raised by his work are the relationship between poetry, music, dance, and the visual arts; art and religion; art and racism; art and a mass audience; art and politics; synaesthesia; and the relationship between abstraction and figuration.
We will begin by analyzing Wagner’s music and writings, and especially his idea of the GESAMTKUSNTWERK. The core of the course, however, will consist of looking at how visual artists in France, Germany, and Italy responded to his work. We will also look at the particular influence of Wagnerian ideals on the Bauhaus. We will focus on such other works as Stéphane Mallarmé’s and Friedrich Nietzsche’s, as well as post-Wagnerian theories of stage design by Adolphe Appia, Georg Fuchs, and Edward Gordon Craig in so far as these helped shape visual arts production.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART, HA-ART, HA-ART
Prereq: None
GELT268 Understanding Modernity: Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud
This course will investigate the aesthetics, politics, and cultural context of the emergence of modernity. Having established a critical vocabulary, we will study the influence of Brecht's theoretical writings on theater and film, ambivalent positions vis-à-vis the classic Hollywood cinema, issues of feminist filmmaking, and the thematic preoccupations peculiar to Germany, for example, left-wing terrorism and the Nazi past. Attendant materials will include literary sources, screenplays, and interviews.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-GRST, HA-FILM, HA-FILM, HA-GRST
Identical With: GRST268, COL268, GRST268, COL268, GRST268, COL268, GRST268, COL268, GRST268, COL268, GRST268, COL268, GRST268, COL268, GRST268, COL268, GRST268, COL268, GRST268, COL268

GELT273 Sex and Text in Freud's Vienna
The focus in this course will be initially on the foundational texts of psychoanalysis: STUDIES ON HYSTERIA, THE INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS, and "A Fragment of an Analysis of a Case of Hysteria (Dora)." We will then investigate the response and resistance, both creative and polemical, to Freud and psychoanalytic theory in the literature and art of the period. We will read major works by Freud's "double," the novelist and playwright Arthur Schnitzler, and by the satirist Karl Kraus, the author of the famous aphorism "Psychoanalysis is that mental illness for which it purports to be the therapy." The implicit response to Freud's theory of dreams and of the unconscious in the portraits and other paintings of Klimt, Kokoschka, and Schiele will also be given close consideration. In general, the course will explore how psychoanalysis influenced and participated in the sexual discourses of the period.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-GRST, HA-GRST, HA-GRST, HA-GRST

GELT275 Twilight of Modernity: Art and Culture in the Weimar Republic
This course investigates the cultural and artistic productions of the now legendary Weimar Republic (1918-1933), Germany's first, and ultimately unsuccessful, experience with democracy, imposed by the victors in the First World War, rife with political turmoil, afflicted with the shock of hyperinflation, and destroyed by the rise of Nazism. Cultural life during this period--that had its magnetic center in the young and chaotic metropolis of Berlin--reminded a dynamic (and explosive) laboratory of modernity that is best studied by looking at both high and low culture, including literature, journalism, music, cultural theory, and the visual arts. Through the comparison of a variety of documents, we will examine the differing and often conflicting incarnations of modernity characteristic of this period. For example, we will look at how the artistic technique of montage migrated from Dada and the cinema to the novel (Alfred Doblin's BERLIN ALEXANDERPLATZ) and other kinds of avant-garde writings (Walter Benjamin's ONE-WAY STREET). Other possible topics include the rapid development of new media technologies and the concomitant revolutionary changes in perception; "new objectivity" and the culture of distance; the development of new media technologies and the concomitant revolutionary changes in perception; "new objectivity" and the culture of distance; the assertion of a previously taboo range of gender identities; the emergence of the thematic preoccupations peculiar to Germany, for example, left-wing terrorism and the Nazi past. Attendant materials will include literary sources, screenplays, and interviews.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-GRST, HA-GRST, HA-GRST, HA-GRST
Identical With: GRST275, COL276, GRST275, COL276, GRST275, COL276, GRST275, COL276, GRST275, COL276, GRST275, COL276, GRST275, COL276, GRST275, COL276, GRST275, COL276, GRST275, COL276

GELT279 Hansel and Gretel and Co.
Once upon a time, there were two brothers by the name of Jakob and Wilhelm Grimm. Some of the tales they collected and edited have lived happily ever after, being translated into many languages, adapted to other media, and quoted or alluded to in many contexts. Others are known today only in the German-speaking countries or not at all. In this course we will examine these and many other German fairy tales from a number of perspectives-literary, cultural, psychological, sociological. Through close readings of the texts and study of some of the scholarship on fairy tales, we will look for answers to questions such as,
How grim are the Grimms’ tales? What is the relationship between fairy tales and myths? What fairy-tale motifs or plots occur in other (folk) literatures? What function do fairy tales fulfill for children and adults?

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-GRST, HA-GRST, HA-GRST, HA-GRST
Identical With: GRST279, COL279, GRST279, COL279, GRST279, GRST279, GRST279, COL279, GRST279, COL279, GRST279, COL279, GRST279, COL279, GRST279, COL279, GRST279, COL279
Prereq: None

GELT286 Irony and Imagination: Romantic Revolutions in Literature, Music, Art, and Thought
Thomas Mann claimed that Romanticism was “the most revolutionary and the most radical movement of the German spirit.” While the term Romanticism is notoriously difficult to pin down, this course will provide an interdisciplinary introduction to Romantic literature, painting, music, and thought. Additionally, we will examine some of the social institutions that shaped the Romantic revolution in Germany: the university, the museum, the insane asylum, and the urban literary salon. The course will begin with a short exploration of the most important predecessors of Romanticism in Germany, Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Johann Gottfried Herder. Through close readings of literature and (what we today call) theory, as well as encounters with painting and music, we will seek to go beyond the stereotype of Romanticism as a cult of irrational, emotional subjectivity by focusing on the following Romantic themes: the idea of irony as the art of thinking in contradictions and fragments, always delaying fulfillment; the aestheticization of philosophy; the definition of diversity as a progressive, universal mixing and melting together of all areas of artistic and scientific expression and knowledge; the discovery of the marginal, fantastic, surreal, and eccentric; the ideal of communal thinking ("sympoetry"); the invention of a German national self based on the rediscovery of medieval legends and folk stories; and the figuration of unfufillable longing in poetry and song. All readings are in English. Students have the option of reading some or all texts in German.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-GRST, HA-GRST, HA-GRST, HA-GRST
Identical With: COL293, GRST286, COL293, GRST286, GRST286, COL293, GRST286, COL293, GRST286, COL293, GRST286, COL293, GRST286, COL293, GRST286, COL293, GRST286, COL293
Prereq: GRST213 OR GRST217

GELT302 Advanced Seminar in German Literature II: German-Language Theater after 1945: Show, Teach, Remember
Theater has played an integral role in the development of German culture since the 18th century. Playwrights, directors, and producers in these countries have been able—indeed compelled!—to constantly negotiate and define theater’s pedagogical role vis-à-vis the public and the political sphere. They had to ask how theater can and should (re)present the world on stage, and how the world on stage can and should relate to the audience and its world. German-language theater after 1945 additionally had to tackle questions about Germany’s past, as well as the past of (its) theater traditions, and the connection between visuality, aesthetics, and power that had played such an immense role during the National Socialist era. In this course, we will read some of the most important and influential plays written and produced in the German-speaking countries since 1945, as well as influential theoretical texts. We will discuss such performance aspects as set designs, language, and acting techniques, and we will ourselves stage short excerpts in various styles as a way of gaining first-hand experience with the range of possibilities in this infinitely flexible genre.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT

Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-GRST, HA-GRST, HA-GRST, HA-GRST
Prereq: GRST213 OR GRST217

GELT401 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

GELT402 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

GELT411 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

GELT412 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT