German Studies at Wayne State University

(All courses conducted in German unless otherwise noted.)

GER 1010  Elementary German I
The first course in the basic language program in German. In this class students will develop skills for communicating (speaking, reading, writing, and listening) in German. They learn a number of speech acts (greetings, asking for information, expressing likes/dislikes, describing daily activities, etc.), study the cultures of the German-speaking countries, and are introduced to various grammatical structures (nominative and accusative case, modal verbs, etc.)

GER 1020  Elementary German II
The second course in the basic language program in German. In this class students will develop skills for communicating (speaking, reading, writing, and listening) in German. They learn a number of speech acts (including giving directions, describing people and things comparing people and things, talking about future events), study the cultures of the German-speaking countries, and are introduced to new grammatical structures (including dative case, subordinating conjunctions, two-case prepositions, reflexive verbs, and adjective endings).

GER 2010  Intermediate German I
The third and final course in the basic language program in German. In this class students will develop skills for communicating (speaking, reading, writing, and listening) in German. In addition, they learn a number of new speech acts (including narrating past events, speculating about activities, and making suggestions), study the cultures of the German-speaking countries, and are introduced to new grammatical structures (including the simple past tense, the genitive case, the subjunctive and the passive). Additional work with short stories and films help students improve their reading and listening skills.

GER 2020  Intermediate German II
This is the first course that counts towards a major or minor in German; it is designed to sharpen the four language skills (speaking, listening, writing, and reading) introduced in the first three courses of the basic language sequence and to increase students’ ability to function in German. The course makes use of a variety of textual genres, including interviews, newspaper articles, fairy tales, short stories as well as film in order to strengthen reading, writing, and discussion skills. A comprehensive grammar review also helps students improve the accuracy of their spoken and written German, enabling them to read texts at increasingly higher levels.

GER 2700  Anguish and Commitment: European Existentialism
A team-taught interdisciplinary study of representative works by European existentialist writers: Dostoevsky, Hesse, Kafka, Pirandello, Sartre, Camus, and Unamuno. (taught in English)

GER 2310  Short Fiction from Central Europe and Russia
This course explores how writers use short fictional forms, such as parable, short story, fairy tale, and satire, to express important themes in the Central European experience, including violence and cruelty, freedom and imprisonment, utopian visions, and urban life. (taught in English)
GER 2710 Survey of Germanic Culture I
In this course, students embark on a discovery of German culture from the time of the Germanic migrations to the early 19th century. Topics covered include: Germanic mythology; Charles the Great; monasticism and medieval Christianity; Romanesque and Gothic architecture; chivalry and knighthood; the Renaissance and Christian Humanism of Northern Europe; Martin Luther and the Reformation; the Thirty Years War and Baroque culture; the Enlightenment; Weimar Classicism and emerging German nationalism. (taught in English)

GER 2720 Survey of Germanic Culture II
This course examines German culture from Romanticism at the beginning of the 19th Century to the present. German culture is explored as it is collectively remembered through cultural artifacts such as literature (including novels, short stories, novellas, plays, poems, comics, memoirs, autobiographies), art and film. (taught in English)

GER 2991 Understanding the Fairy Tale
This course explores the meaning and role of the fairy tale in Western society from the Brothers Grimm to Walt Disney. (taught in English)

GER 3100, 3200 Intermediate Composition and Conversation I, II
Each of these courses is designed to refine and expand your communication skills in German with special emphasis on the productive skills of speaking and writing, and the idiomatic usage of written and spoken German. Each course is conducted in German. It will introduce students to a more advanced use of vocabulary, grammatical structures, and stylistic expression in speaking and writing and provide them with a more detailed understanding of 20th-century German culture. In addition to a selection of shorter texts, the course materials include a full-length book in German, at least one documentary or feature film, and select chapters from Rankin’s *Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik*.

GER 3410 New Soil, Old Roots: The Immigrant Experience
Armenian, German, Jewish, Polish, Russian and Ukrainian immigration to the United States, its effects on the cultures (language, literature, religion, politics, music, art, and theatre) of these ethnic groups and its influence upon American culture. (taught in English)

GER 4600 Proseminar in German Studies
Using a literary or cultural topic as its point of departure, this introductory seminar in German Studies is designed to build skills in critical reading, research and writing.

GER 5100 Advanced Composition and Conversation
The emphasis in this course is on the acquisition of additional linguistic skills in German and on sharpening speaking and writing skills in the language. To the extent necessary or desired, problems of grammar and syntax are addressed. Some of the sources used for the acquisition of these skills may include literary and non-literary texts, as well as magazine and newspaper articles.

GER 6100 Critical Approaches to German Studies
This course combines theory and practice into an introduction to the discipline of German Studies. Students learn about strategies of interpretation, gain knowledge of genres and periods in German literary history, and explore theories of artistic production and cultural analysis that have informed, guided, and challenged how the study of German literature and culture is practiced today.
GER 5350  German Film
German cinema has responded in various ways to the social, political and cultural forces that have shaped the history of Germany. This course may focus on film as a new artistic medium in late 19th and early 20th century Germany, Weimar cinema, film under fascism, post-war West and East German cinema or German film since unification. (taught in English)

GER 5400/7400  Cultural Studies and Criticism
This course examines major concepts and issues that have guided discussions of literary and cultural criticism in Germany since the 18th century. Topics covered may include the rhetorical and poetic traditions of 18th century Germany, the reception of Aristotle by Gottsched and Lessing, German idealist philosophy and the Weimar Classicism of Goethe and Schiller, Kant and the notion of aesthetic autonomy, the German novel and its theories, the legacy of Marx, Nietzsche and Freud; theories of modernity (Simmel, Benjamin, Kracauer), Brecht’s Epic Theater, the Brecht-Lukács debate on literary modernism, the Adorno-Benjamin debate on aesthetic theory and interpretation. (taught in English)

GER 5390/7390  Holocaust Studies
This course employs an interdisciplinary approach to studying the Holocaust that includes history, literature, film, aesthetics, representation and reception that encourage a broad and deep understanding of Holocaust Studies.

GER 5670/7670  19th Century German Studies
Focus on the writers, genres, literary and intellectual movements, and thematic explorations that contribute to an understanding of nineteenth-century German literature and culture.

GER 5720/7720  18th Century German Literature and Culture
Focus on the writers, genres, literary and intellectual movements, and thematic explorations that contribute to an understanding of eighteenth-century German literature and culture.

GER 5770/7770  Modernism
This course examines how German writers, artists and film-makers responded to the social and cultural tensions accompanying a perceived onslaught of modernity since the late nineteenth century and continuing into the Weimar Republic. Various forms of modernism, e.g. from Naturalism through Dada, are explored as artistic corollaries to the experience of modernity.

GER 5780/7780  Texts and Contexts since 1945
Literary and cultural works are examined within the context of political, social and intellectual developments in Germany since 1945.

GER 5790/7790  Topics in German Studies
Special topics in German studies are explored that focus on culture, literature, language or area studies.

GER 5800/7800  Literature and Culture of Minorities
This course focuses on literature by and about marginalized groups and their cultures in Germany.
Courses offered in Germany at Wayne State’s Junior Year in Munich institute

(These courses are available to WSU students who participate in the Junior Year in Munich program. All courses are conducted in German.)

JYG 3100, 3200 Advanced German Language I, II
Developed in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, this two semester sequence of German language proficiency-based instruction focuses on increasing grammatical accuracy, expanding subject-specific vocabulary, and strengthening conversational skills.

JYG 3110 Written Communication and Expression
This course focuses specifically on developing students’ writing skills. Emphasis is placed on strengthening accuracy, appropriateness and clarity of written expression in German as needed in both academic and non-academic environments.

JYG 4100 Introduction to the Study of German Literature
This is a foundation course for the study of German literature which will be of particular interest to students taking literature courses at LMU Munich. Includes instruction in literary genres, periods and terminology, survey of German literary history, methods of literary analysis, and practice with strategies of literary interpretation.

JYG 4200 Contemporary German Culture
This course examines how the current cultural scene in Germany is both informed by and responds to post-war and post-unification histories and experiences. This course examines various issues with which the German public see themselves confronted today, e.g. coming to terms with the past, the place of Germany today within Europe and within the European Union, domestic politics twenty years after unification, challenges to Germany’s social market economy, immigration and multi-cultural issues, German-American relations, concerns about education, the environment, globalisation and security. Excursions to theatrical or artistic performances and exhibits, literary readings and public lectures accompany in-class discussion.

JYG 4300 History of Art
The collections of Munich’s world-renowned museums, as well as famous architectural landmarks and buildings in and around Munich, provide the primary source material for JYM students to study the history of art from antiquity through the 20th century while in Munich. Methods and criteria of analysis contextualize exemplary works of German architecture, painting, sculpture, and decorative arts in relation to European artistic periods, styles and genres. Instruction takes place at JYM, in many of Munich’s famous museums (e.g. the Glyptothek, Bayerisches Nationalmuseum, Alte Pinakothek, Neue Pinakothek, Pinakothek der Moderne, Staatsgalerie der modernen Kunst, Schack-Galerie or the Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus), as well as on field trips to landmarks of historical architectural importance.

JYG 4400 German Drama and Theater
An introduction to the elements of drama and the methods used to analyze dramatic works provide the foundation for critically examining theatrical productions staged in Munich during the course of the semester. The course explores the historical roots of European theater which – since the 18th century – have guided the direction of theater as both a form of entertainment as well as a vehicle to achieve a national and cultural mission. A broad range of German dramatic texts since the 19th century will be discussed in class (e.g. from Büchner to Horvath, Brecht, and Jelinek) in connection to their social and aesthetic value. The course provides students with the
opportunity examine new interpretations of masterpieces of German drama, as well as discover contemporary German playwrights and their performances.

**JYG 4500 Munich and National Socialism**
This course explores the origins of National Socialism, the establishment of Munich as the administrative, symbolic and artistic center of the Nazi movement, everyday life in Munich under the Nazi dictatorship, antisemitism and the holocaust, persecution and resistance, de-nazification and coming to terms with the past. Includes visits to sites of historical significance in and around Munich, e.g. the Dachau concentration camp memorial, and Nürnberg (site of the 1934 Nazi Party rally and stage for Leni Riefenthal’s *Triumph des Willens*).

**JYG 4600 Goethe’s Italian Journey**
In September 1786 Johann Wolfgang Goethe embarked on what would become the most famous journey in the history of German literature. This course examines Goethe’s *Italienische Reise* from the conceptual vantage point of personal self-discovery that inspired the genre of *Bildungsliteratur* and the aspirations of Weimar Classicism, and provides students with a literary-historical context for their own sojourn abroad.

**JYG 4700 Munich Modernism**
Between 1900 and 1950 Munich’s international artistic reputation rivaled that of other European centers of modernism. This course examines the writings of famous Munich authors (e.g. Thomas Mann, Anette Kolb, Lion Feuchtwanger, Alfred Andersch, Walter Kolbenhoff and others) from the Gründerzeit through the post-war U.S. occupation, and explores the social contexts and conditions of literary production during this period. Includes visits to literary places of historical significance and archives.

**JYG 4800 Topics in German Studies**
Topics may include Masterpieces of German Literature, Nietzsche and Wagner, the Environment and Urban Cultures, Aesthetics and Intellectual History, Prague 1900-1945, Germany and its Eastern European Neighbors.

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**Additional Coursework Opportunities in Munich for JYM students**

**University Studies at LMU Munich**
WSU students participating in the Junior Year in Munich program are enrolled at Germany’s premier university, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU Munich), where they have access to a vast range of German studies courses, as well as courses in practically any major.

**Translation Studies**
WSU students wishing to focus on translation while on the JYM program in Munich may take coursework at *Das Fremdspracheninstitut der Landeshauptstadt München* (Munich’s College of Translation Studies).

**Undergraduate Research**
With prior approval of the undergraduate advisor in German, WSU students may conduct an undergraduate research project under the guidance and supervision of the JYM Resident Director, Prof. Hans-Peter Söder (Ph.D. Cornell University).