



## Germanic Studies Classes Fall 2020

**GER 101, 102 (Elementary German I & II); GER 103, 104 (Intermediate German I & II). MWF 4 hours.**

All beginning and intermediate German language courses are blended-online and classroom courses. Use of computer and internet access is required.

**101 10-10:50 am  
1-1:50 pm**

**102 11-11:50 am**

**103 9-9:50 am  
10-10:50 am**

**104 2-2:50 pm**

**GER 212; TTH 12:30-1:45 pm; Instructor: Maryann Piel; 3 hours**

### **Berlin: Kiez by Kiez**

In this course we will explore Germany's capital city by getting to know the history, cultural landmarks, and current happenings within individual neighborhoods. Berlin is a thriving multi-cultural metropolis made up of twelve Kieze (neighborhoods) which have been home to and continue to draw artists, politicians, immigrants, and legions of working class people. By taking a local approach, we will get to know the cultural and social histories of different parts of Berlin and will learn to better understand this diverse and historically significant city. A multicultural and unquestionably crowded city brings with it opportunities to build one-of-a-kind communities, but also carries with it unique problems. The limited living space, the ever-rising rents, and the continuous stream of German and international newcomers have continued to change the way various neighborhoods look, sound, and feel. In this course you will expand your vocabulary, refine your spoken German, while also advancing effective writing and proofreading skills in different genres. We will make use of literary texts, current and historical newspaper and magazine articles, as well as theater productions and art exhibits in order to get to know Berlin on a neighborhood level. Taught in German. Prerequisite: GER 104 or equivalent.

**GER 315; MWF 1-1:50 pm; Instructor: Dr. Patrick Fortmann; 3 hours**

### **Business German**

This intermediate-level course balances the acquisition of linguistic proficiency, cultural awareness, and professional conduct in business-related settings. Students will learn to navigate inter-cultural communication in a purposeful way, including direct interaction, telephone conversation, and written correspondence. They will acquire professional vocabulary, master grammatical structures, and develop a set of skills for nuanced oral and written communication. By the end of the course, students will be familiar with general conventions and practices for conducting business in the German-speaking countries. Taught in German. Prerequisite(s): Credit or concurrent registration in GER 211; or Credit or concurrent registration in GER 212; or Credit or concurrent registration in GER 214 or the equivalent.



**GER 318; TTH 9:30-10:45 am; Instructor: Dr. Patrick Eiden-Offe; 3 hours**

**The Poetics of Social Class**

Class is back: Since the world economic crisis of 2007/08 at the latest, the problem of an increasing class division in society has returned. The gap between the haves and the have-nots is not closing, as we were led to believe during the era of post-World-War-II prosperity. Rather, this gap is widening. We can observe major social unrest in many countries around the world, and in numerous developed countries we can witness the rise of populist movements that claim to defend the rights and demands of destitute working classes that actually now are mostly out of work. Even in the academic world, a new class is taking shape: the new academic precariat includes both students who will be paying off their tuition debt for years to come and instructors on short-term contracts without any prospects of long-term employment. Literature has been a mirror as well as a constitutive force with regard to the formation of social classes since the late 18th century. The imaginary self-fashioning of modern class society was highly dependent on literary texts and practices, and ever since its emergence, the workers' movement, which was fighting against the capitalist class society, used literature as a means in its struggle. We will read and discuss literary and theoretical texts from the late 18th century to the present. Poems and pamphlets from the time of the French Revolution; the English romantic anti-capitalism of William Blake and Percy Shelley; early socialist and feminist treatises from the German Vormärz; and narratives from the American abolitionist movement will all be examined in our course. We will read texts from the heyday of the German and the American workers' movements of the late 19th and early 20th century as well as literary reports from the socialist transformation during the early days of the GDR. Special emphasis will be placed on autobiographical testimonies, including the much-discussed "auto-socio-biographies" of our time, such as those of Annie Ernaux, Eduard Louis, or J.D. Vance. Course Information: May be repeated to a maximum of 9 hours if topics vary. Taught in English.

**GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES TAUGHT IN ENGLISH**

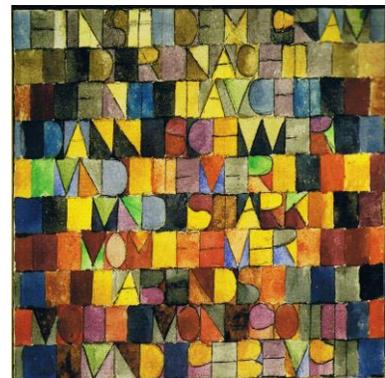
**GER 219; MWF 2:00-2:50 pm; Instructor: Dr. Patrick Fortmann; 3 hours**

**Vikings and Wizards: The Brothers Grimm and Their Cultural Legacy**

This course examines the cultural legacy of the Brothers Grimm, nineteenth-century collectors and editors of Germanic fairy tales and legends. Their scholarship of Germany's national myth, *The Song of the Nibelungen* and the questions they posed about oral and literary transmission continue to shape modern scholarship. Their life-long pursuit of fairy tales launched a tidal wave of European folkloric collecting that led to significant advances in research. The course will consider various interpretive strategies developed to classify and read this new material, from Propp's morphology and Aarne-Thompson's typology to feminist, historical and animal studies approaches. Through close readings of literary tales, the course provides basic tools for narrative interpretation and critical argumentation.

General Education credit for *Creative Arts* or *Past*.

**For more information about UIC's Germanic Studies courses, please contact Ms. Elsa Arteaga ([arteaga@uic.edu](mailto:arteaga@uic.edu)) or Dr. Imke Meyer ([ixmeyer@uic.edu](mailto:ixmeyer@uic.edu)): <https://german.uic.edu>**



## Campus Certificate in German Language



### Develop advanced level German language proficiency by taking

- **conversation courses** based on German TV shows;
- **culture courses** to identify and respond to new and diverse perspectives of the German speaking world;
- **[study abroad courses in German speaking countries](#)**: summer, one semester, one year;
- **business courses** to effectively engage with German speakers in business settings.



### Why earn a German language certificate?

- to demonstrate on your transcript that you are an informed global citizen who can **competently interact with others in multi-lingual contexts**;
- to pursue your **[MA for free at a German University](#)**;
- to complete a **[paid internship](#)** in Germany in areas of science and engineering or in **[applied science](#)** fields;
- to **put German your resume!** Prospective employers will know that you have solid writing and presentation skills, the ability to identify and ask significant questions, and are open-minded and adaptable.

Students from other disciplines who want to pursue the Certificate in German Language must complete a minimum of 17 semester hours, as outlined below:

Required Courses		
<a href="#">GER 103</a>	Intermediate German I	4
<a href="#">GER 104</a>	Intermediate German II	4
Select two of the following:		6
<a href="#">GER 211</a>	Exploring German-Speaking Cultures	
<a href="#">GER 212</a>	Rural, Urban, Global: Germanic Geographies	
<a href="#">GER 214</a>	Conversational German through Popular Culture and Media	
Select one of the following:		3
<a href="#">GER 299</a>	Becoming Transcultural: Study Abroad	
<a href="#">GER 310</a>	Contemporary German Language, Culture and Society	
<a href="#">GER 311</a>	German Literature in a Global Context	
<a href="#">GER 315</a>	Business Culture in German-Speaking Countries	
<a href="#">GER 401</a>	Research in German Studies	
<a href="#">GER 415</a>	Business Practices in German-Speaking Countries	

**Total Hours**

**17**

For more information contact Elsa Arteaga at [arteaga@uic.edu](mailto:arteaga@uic.edu).