

## German Studies

Mary Anne O'Neil, *Chair*,  
*Foreign Languages and Literatures*

### *German*

Susan Babilon                      Robert D. Tobin  
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### *Affiliated Faculty*

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Courses in German Studies are designed to develop proficiency in speaking, writing, and reading the language and to acquaint the student with German literature and culture.

The courses in foreign literatures in translation (listed in the World Literature section), by examining the interrelationships of various national literatures, are designed to give students a broad knowledge of the traditions for foreign literatures from ancient to modern times.

**Placement in language courses:** Students with previous foreign language experience should consult the statement on placement in language courses in the Foreign Languages and Literatures section of this Catalog.

**The major in German Studies** will consist of 36 credits, including: four credits in senior thesis; 16 credits (four courses) in German at the 300 level or above. Either German 205/206 (eight credits) or four additional credits in German at or above the 300 level. Eight-12 additional credits may be taken either in the German program at the 300 level or above or in approved courses in German Studies at the 200 level or above. Of the 16 credits in German above 300, at least four credits must be above German 306, excluding independent study, and taught at Whitman College. Regularly approved courses in German Studies are available in history, music, philosophy, religion, art history and visual culture, and world literature (see below). Other courses, including those taken abroad,

may be accepted as German Studies with consent of the tenure-track faculty in German Studies.

Typically, the student entering Whitman with little or no German would include in his or her major: second-year German, third-year German, two German literature courses, two additional courses, either in German literature or in German Studies, and a senior thesis.

The student who was able to take third-year German as a first-year student would have more flexibility and would typically take: third-year German, three additional German literature courses, three additional courses either in German literature or in German Studies, plus a thesis.

The thesis is written in English, but students must work with texts in the original German. Because these theses are so interdisciplinary in nature, we require an outside reader whose area of academic specialization can enhance the development and assessment of the thesis. The outside reader is not necessarily from the affiliated faculty, but rather the person on the Whitman faculty who has the most expertise in the student's subject matter and is willing to serve.

The Final Comprehensive Exercise consists of the oral defense of the thesis. Prior to the defense of the thesis, students will be asked to prepare presentations on a significant text in German literature and an important scholarly analysis of German culture, chosen by the faculty. During this oral examination, students will also be asked to discuss these texts as well as their own thesis. In the course of the examination, students will need to demonstrate a broad knowledge of German literature, history, and culture.

**The minor in German Studies** will consist of: 12 credits in German at the 300 level or above. At least four credits must be from a course numbered higher than 306 and taken at Whitman College; eight additional credits in German at the 200 level or above or in an approved course in German Studies at the 200 level or above; no independent studies count toward the minor. Courses that count for other majors may be used for the minor.

*Note:* Courses taken P-D-F prior to the declaration of a language major or minor will satisfy course and credit requirements for the

major or minor. Courses taken P-D-F may not be used to satisfy course and credit requirements for the major or minor after the major or minor has been declared.

Students who major in German Studies may choose among the following courses for their required area courses and electives:

- ArTH 355, *German Visual Culture: 1871-1937*  
 Hist 278, *Twentieth-Century Europe*  
 Hist 339, *Modern Germany*  
 Mus 398, *Music History: Eighteenth Century*  
 Mus 399, *Music History: Nineteenth Century*  
 Mus 400, *Music History and Literature of the Twentieth Century*  
 Phil 304, *Kant and the Nineteenth Century*  
 Phil 309, *Heidegger*  
 Phil 322, *Kant's Moral Philosophy*  
 Rel 228, *Modern Western Religious Thought I: Crisis and Renewal*  
 Rel 229, *Modern Western Religious Thought II: The 20th Century*  
 WLit 279, *German Film*

There are also frequently offered special topics courses in German Studies. This year, for instance, the following courses count toward the German Studies major:

- WLit 381, *Modern German Theatre*  
 WLit 387, *German Discovery of Sex*  
 WLit 388, *Faust and the Faustian*  
 WLit 388, *The Holocaust: Documentation and Representations*  
 WLit 390 *Yiddish Literature: Love, Death, and Afterlives*

### 105, 106 Elementary German

4, 4

**Babilon**

Designed to acquaint the student with the sound and the structure of the German idiom, to enable the student to read simple literary materials and to carry on a simple conversation. Four periods per week. Students who have previous work in German are required to take a departmental placement examination for entrance.

### 205, 206 Reading and Speaking

4, 4

**Blau**

Designed for students who wish to improve their reading and speaking knowledge of German. Of prime importance is acquisition of an extensive vocabulary and familiarity with idiomatic usage. German is used

extensively in classroom instruction. Four periods per week. *Prerequisite:* German 106. Students who have not taken German at Whitman previously are required to take a departmental placement examination for entrance.

### 305, 306 Composition and Conversation

4, 4

**Babilon**

Emphasizes speaking and writing. Short oral reports, written compositions and review of grammar as necessary. Three periods per week. *Prerequisite:* German 206. Students who have not taken German at Whitman previously are required to take a departmental placement examination for entrance.

### 370 Advanced Topics in German Studies

4

Intensive study of a particular topic, theme, or author in German.

### 370 ST: Germany and its Others

4, x

**Tobin**

This course will examine the ways in which German culture has constructed itself and its others. We will study such topics as: the emergence of a modern German identity in the *Sturm und Drang* period of the eighteenth century, German orientalism, colonialism, German-Jewish relations, Zionism, German-Turkish relations, and the question of European identity. Some of the authors we read may include Lessing, Goethe, Novalis, Hölderlin, May, Herzl, and Thomas Mann, as well as historical documents such as journalistic accounts of the colonial era.

### 387, 388 Special Studies

4

Designed to permit close study of one or more authors, a movement, or a genre in German literature. Conducted in German or English, at the discretion of the instructor. *Prerequisite:* consent of instructor. The current offerings follow.

### 387 ST: Modern German Theatre

x, 4

**Babilon**

This course examines German, Swiss and Austrian theatre from the mid-19th-century on with an emphasis on modernism since Büchner and 20th-century and contemporary avant-garde styles. Through the reading of plays and theoretical texts we will investigate the historical, social and artistic conditions of German-language theatre. We will also examine influences by innovative directors during the Weimar Republic, those in exile or involved in Nazi collaboration and post-WWII reconstruction, theatre experiments of

the 1960s and 1970s, as well as in East German and post-reunification theatre. Students who read texts in German and complete written assignments in German may elect to take this course for credit in German. Otherwise, all readings, discussion and assignments in English. May be elected as Theatre 382B or WLit 381.

### **388 ST: Faust and the Faustian**

**x, 4** **Tobin**

Johannes Faust, a shadowy historical figure accused of performing acts of necromancy in sixteenth-century Germany, quickly captured the attention of the literary and cultural world, coming to stand in for modernity, technology, progress and all the deals with the devil that those developments entail. In this course, we will study the three most famous literary texts on Faust, by Marlowe, Goethe, and Thomas Mann, as well as cultural documents such as the early chapbooks on Faust, Gounod's opera, and Pabst's film. Students who read Goethe's Faust in German and complete written assignments in German may elect to take this course for credit in German. Otherwise, all readings, discussion and assignments in English. May be elected as WLit 388.

### **391, 392 Independent Study**

**1-3, 1-3** **Staff**

Directed reading and preparation of a critical paper or papers on a topic suggested by the student. The project must be approved by the staff. The number of students accepted for the course will depend on the availability of the staff. *Prerequisite:* consent of instructor.

### **492 Senior Thesis**

**4, 4** **Staff**

In-depth research concluding in the preparation of an undergraduate senior thesis on a specific topic in German literature or German studies. *Required of* German studies and German literature majors.

### **498 Honors Thesis**

**4, 4** **Staff**

Designed to further independent research or project leading to the preparation of an undergraduate thesis or a project report. *Required of* and limited to senior honors candidates in German. *Prerequisite:* admission to honors candidacy.

## **Greek**

*(see Classics)*