

# German

Associate Professor Lorna Sopcak (*Chair, on leave spring 2016*)

**Departmental Mission Statement:** The Department of German develops students' understanding and appreciation of the world through the study of German language and literature in cultural and historical contexts. Students acquire linguistic skills enabling them to communicate with native speakers, learn theoretical and analytical approaches to texts, and develop perspectives for interpreting and evaluating global issues and cultural environments other than their own.

**Foreign Language Placement:** Placement in language courses (French, German, Spanish) is determined by an online evaluation which may be taken at any time, preferably before registration. Contact the German department or the Office of the Registrar for information.

**Foreign Language Retroactive Credit:** Students whose high school or other background permits them to enroll in a language course beyond 111 will, after completing the course with a grade of B or above, receive credit for previous courses in the sequence. The maximum credit granted retroactively shall be 12 credits for any one language; credit may be earned for more than one language. The credits will not carry a grade, but count toward the degree.

**Study Abroad:** For information on Ripon College's Bonn Program, see the program's description in the Off-Campus Study section of this catalog.

## 111, 112. Introductory German I and II

Staff

Four credits each semester.

Acquisition of the essentials needed to use the German language, including oral communication, reading, and writing. Since the 111, 112 sequence is a yearlong course, it is highly inadvisable to continue into the 112 level without having received a C- or better in 111. GER 112 may count toward the global and cultural studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information.

## 200. Topics

Staff

Variable credit course, 2-4 credits.

Designed to acquaint the student with a topic not covered by regular courses. Students can repeat the course for credit when the topics change. Please see the pertinent Schedule of Courses for the listing of topics courses and possible prerequisites.

## 211, 222. Intermediate German I and II

Sopcak

Four credits each semester

Instruction is content- and task-based, focusing on contemporary politics, the environment, history, film, music, fine art, literature, and technology. Each chapter features a different city in Germany, Austria or Switzerland. Authentic texts, video blogs and internet activities allow students to practice their skills by discussing cultural issues. Grammar is integrated and contextualized, sensitizing students to aspects of genre and style. Students learn to communicate in interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes and are encouraged to compare and contrast information, analyze structures and content, and predict outcomes. May count toward the global and cultural studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information. *Prerequisite for GER 211: GER 112 or consent of instructor. Prerequisite for GER 222: GER 211 or consent of instructor.*

### 300. Departmental Studies

Sopcak/Staff

Four credits.

Special subjects in German not covered by regular courses. This course may be repeated for credit when topics change. Please see the pertinent Schedule of Courses for the listing of topics courses and possible prerequisites. Some topics may count toward the global and cultural studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information. *Prerequisite: GER 222 or consent of instructor.*

### 310. Bonn and Berlin: Cultural and Political Centers of Germany, Past and Present

Sopcak

Variable credit course, 2-4 credits. An *In Focus* course in Germany.

This course offers students an intense immersion experience in contemporary German culture and language. Students meet during spring semester in Ripon for an introduction to the history and culture of Bonn and Berlin through literature, film, discussion, and internet research. Students define a specific photo-essay project to conduct during the two-week stay in Germany. Possible projects include a study of regional art, architecture, monuments, music, theater, advertising, tourism, economy or environmental issues. Students also record their experiences in a journal and complete a reflective essay upon their return to the United States. Offered as registration permits. May count toward the global and cultural studies requirement; refer to the Academic Policies: Global and Cultural Studies Requirement section for more information. *Prerequisite: parallel enrollment in GER 222 (4th semester) or higher or consent of instructor.*

### 314. Conversation and Composition

Sopcak

Four credits. Offered fall semester.

Students improve and refine their speaking and writing skills through the study of a variety of written texts, discussion based on those readings, advanced grammar exercises, and systematic vocabulary building. The primary work of the course involves composing (in multiple drafts) texts that fall into diverse genre categories, including descriptive, argumentative and persuasive essays. In preparation for upper-level literature and culture courses, this course pays special attention to the style, language and techniques used in writing textual and cultural analysis for specific audiences. *Prerequisite: GER 222 or consent of instructor.*

### 315. Reading Texts and Contexts

Sopcak

Four credits. Offered spring semester.

This course serves as a transition from the language sequence to courses in German literature and culture. It stresses the central role literature plays in fostering an understanding of German society, while it provides students with an introduction to the tools and theories of literary and cultural analysis. Because context is central to any "close reading," texts are chosen from various genres but remain focused on a single theme. Focus is on class discussion and the practice of critical and comparative writing. *Prerequisite: GER 314 or consent of instructor.*

### 316. German Theater Workshop

Staff

Variable credit course, 1-2 credits. Offered spring semester.

Introduction to the basics of acting through dramatic readings in German. Final project is the preparation and performance of a German play. *Prerequisite: GER 315 or consent of instructor.*

### **318. German Theater Workshop**

**Staff**

Variable credit course, 1-2 credits. Offered spring semester.  
Same as GER 316 but designed for students wishing to repeat the theater experience.  
*Prerequisite: GER 316.*

### **320. Culture of Business in Germany**

**Sopcak**

Two credits.  
This course is designed for students wanting to combine their interest in German with the study of international business. Students learn about the culture of the German business world through texts and class discussion which focus particularly on differences between German and American business traditions and perspectives. The course also offers students an opportunity to practice the language skills needed to communicate effectively in German in a business setting. *Prerequisite: GER 315 or consent of instructor.*

### **330. Munich-Vienna: Music, Museums, Memorials**

**Sopcak**

Variable credit course, 2-4 credits. An *In Focus* course in Germany and Austria.  
This course employs a German studies approach focusing on the city as text. The study of Vienna's and Munich's history, politics, art, music, and architecture is combined with literary and filmic representations. Students gain an understanding of the crises, challenges, triumphs and key roles these cities have played in Austrian and German history. Offered as registration permits. Taught in English.

### **344. Film in Germany**

**Sopcak**

Four credits.  
This course offers an overview of 100 years of German filmmaking -- from the early days of silent film to contemporary works by some of the world's most influential directors. Germans produced films with a wide range of aesthetic and political perspectives, ranging from expressionism to Nazi propaganda and from escapist comedies to avant-garde art. Learning how to "read" German films equips students with the skills for critically viewing and "reading" today's Hollywood and independent movies as well. The course comprises a tour of German cultural and political history through the medium of film. *Prerequisite: GER 315 or consent of instructor.*

### **345. German History through Film**

**Sopcak**

Four credits.  
Employed as a medium for remembering, film has the capacity to document, distort, romanticize, and trivialize historical events. In some instances, the visual images of a film will stand in for and replace real historical events. From the anxieties portrayed in early silent films to Nazi propaganda to taboo-breaking contemporary works portraying the victimization of Germans during World War II, this course selects representative films with a wide range of political perspectives from some 90 years of filmmaking in Germany. Students will develop critical viewing skills and be challenged to "read" films for historical authenticity. *Prerequisite: GER 315 or consent of instructor.*

### **347. Fairy Tales: Critical Approaches**

**Sopcak**

Four credits.  
Did Disney get it wrong? After examining the cultural context that inspired Jakob and Wilhelm Grimm to begin recording folk tales in the early 19th century, this course focuses on how the Grimm brothers' fairy tales can be read and interpreted today. Through an exploration of various critical approaches to the texts, including historical, feminist, and psychoanalytic interpretations, students gain insight into the array of meanings that fairy tales still generate for modern audiences. *Prerequisite: GER 315 or consent of instructor.*

### **354. Representations of the Holocaust**

**Sopcak**

Four credits.

The course provides an historical context of the Holocaust and examines primarily literary and filmic but also musical and artistic representations of the Holocaust from the immediate postwar period to the present day. The starting point is a discussion of the difficulty - and necessity - of representing the Holocaust in art and literature. Other topics include the depiction of victims and oppressors, the role of the Holocaust in the narrative construction of Jewish identity, and the impact of the Holocaust on postwar German culture. *Prerequisite: GER 315 or consent of instructor.*

### **360. Studies in 18th- and 19th-Century Literature and Culture**

**Sopcak**

Four credits.

Germany's tumultuous political history produced parallel developments in literature and culture. Important milestones include the secularization of society that culminated in the Enlightenment, the Romantic revolt against the philosophical and literary limits of rationalism, the rise of the novel as a quintessential bourgeois genre, the development of politically engaged literary forms that coincided with the Revolution of 1848, and the struggle to define and practice realistic representation, which foreshadowed literary modernism. Although topics vary, they remain situated in the context of cultural and social change. *Prerequisite: GER 315 or consent of instructor.*

### **361. Studies in Early 20th-Century Literature and Culture (1900-1944)**

**Sopcak**

Four credits.

The course explores various cultural themes in the first half of the 20th century, most importantly the impact of modernity on the German cultural imagination. Additional topics include avant-garde artistic movements such as Expressionism and Dada, the Weimar Republic and the rise of popular culture, and Nazi aesthetics. *Prerequisite: GER 315 or consent of instructor.*

### **362. Studies in Contemporary Literature and Culture (1945-present)**

**Sopcak**

Four credits.

The course centers around themes related to post WWII cultural, economic, political and social issues in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria, including art and politics in the 1950's and 60's, the literatures of a divided Germany, the ongoing process of German unification, reckoning with the Nazi past, the situation of women and minorities, and the European Union. *Prerequisite: GER 315 or consent of instructor.*

### **400. Senior Seminar**

**Sopcak**

One credit.

In conjunction with a 300- or 400-level course, the seminar serves as a capstone experience for graduating German majors. Students undertake a research project and develop it into a major paper through a collaborative writing process. *Prerequisite: GER 315 or consent of instructor.*

## **402. The Teaching of Modern Languages**

**Staff**

Variable credit course, 2-4 credits. Offered spring 2015 and alternate years.

Exploration of the most recent theories about foreign language methodology and acquisition with practical applications for use in the classroom. This course is designed for prospective teachers of French, German, or Spanish and does not count toward the major. Lectures, readings, and demonstration teaching. Open to second-semester juniors and seniors. Same as SPA 402 and FRE 402. Taught in English. *Prerequisites or Corequisites: EDU 250 and 344 or permission of the instructor.*

## **424. "Woman" and Women Writers**

**Sopcak**

Four credits.

This course examines changing gender roles in texts authored by both male and female writers. Using feminist literary theory as a point of departure, students examine selected works in terms of the images and myths of woman they either reflect or subvert. The study of the works of women writers facilitates discussion of what constitutes "great" literature, how literary canons are constructed, and whether or not "women's writing" can or should exist as a literary genre. *Prerequisite: GER 315 or consent of instructor.*

## **434. The Devil's Pact**

**Sopcak**

Four credits.

Goethe's Faust remains the centerpiece in this examination of the Faust legend, but the context of Goethe's masterpiece includes both his predecessors and more recent versions of the Faust story in literature, music, and film. The course pays particular attention to the decade-long development of Goethe's text and the place his Faust occupies in German culture. *Prerequisite: GER 315 or consent of instructor.*

## **541, 542. Independent Study**

**Sopcak**

Variable credit course, 1-4 credits each semester.

Supervised reading or research projects on selected aspects of German literature and culture. No more than twelve credit hours of independent study or internship may be taken, and no more than eight credit hours may be in one department. A registration form is required. *Prerequisites: junior or senior standing, consent of the department chair and a department project director, and 12 credits toward the major.*