

German

In addition to training teachers and scholars in German language, literature, and critical theory, the Department of German offers a wide range of courses for nonspecialists. A solid foundation in German is valuable to students planning to do scientific research in all disciplines or enter such fields as international law, business, or diplomacy, and the study of the language and literature of another culture broadens the student's human understanding.

Courses and seminars cover the full range of German language, literary history, and critical theory. Students in the department are encouraged to widen their perspective by studying in other departments and are allowed to plan interdisciplinary courses of study.

Because the Department of German is relatively small, the faculty-student relationship is close on both graduate and undergraduate levels. Each undergraduate German major and minor, as well as each graduate student, is assigned to a faculty adviser with whom a program is planned on an individual basis.

The Department of German offers programs leading to the B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees. Exceptionally able students can work for the B.A. and M.A. concurrently.

The Faculty

Rüdiger Campe, Professor (Chair): German literature from the 17th century to the present, rhetoric and aesthetics, literature and history of science, Baroque theatre, Age of Goethe, 1900.

Donald J. Clark, Senior Lecturer: graduate language instruction.

Deborah McGee Mifflin, Lecturer; Coordinator of German Language Instruction: pedagogy of language teaching, theories of second language acquisition.

Rainer Nägele, Professor: literary theory and aesthetics, poetry and poetics, psychoanalysis, Age of Goethe and German Idealism, modernism.

Katrin Pahl, Assistant Professor: German Idealism and Romanticism, gender studies, feminist literary theory.

Rochelle Tobias, Assistant Professor: modern literature, literary theory, comparatist studies, history of German-Jewish culture, Paul Celan.

Heidi L. Wheeler, Lecturer: Vice Coordinator of German Language Instruction.

Associated Faculty

Hent deVries, Professor (Humanities Center): modern European thought, history and critique of metaphysics, philosophies of religion, political theologies, concepts of violence, literature and temporality.

Eckart Förster, Professor (Philosophy): Kant, German Idealism, Goethe's philosophy of science, the Pythagorean tradition, and Hölderlin.

Peter Jelavich, Professor (History): Modern European cultural and intellectual history.

Visiting Faculty

Wolfram Groddeck, Visiting Professor (University of Basel): German literature from Romanticism to present, Hölderlin, Heine, Nietzsche, Walser, Swiss literature, rhetoric, textual philology.

Marcus Twellmann, Visiting Professor (University of Bonn): 20th century literature and philosophy.

Klaus Weimar, Visiting Professor (University of Zürich): German literature from the 18th century to the present, hermeneutics and literary theory, history and systematics of literary study, Klopstock, Goethe, Jean Paul, Brentano.

Faculty Emerita

Lieselotte E. Kurth, Professor Emerita

Undergraduate Programs

Overseas Study for Undergraduates

Johns Hopkins participates, together with five other universities, in the Berlin Consortium for German Studies. This program is open to students from all fields of study who meet the following qualifications: at least sophomore standing, two years of college-level German or the equivalent, and a minimum average of B in all course work. The program includes intense preparation in the German language and culture, participation in the course offerings of the Free University of Berlin as well as other Berlin universities, tutoring, and advisement. For additional information, please visit the Consortium Web site: <http://www.ce.columbia.edu/berlin>. Students interested in this program should contact the chair of the Department of German as early in their studies at Hopkins as possible.

Requirements for the B.A. Degree

(See also General Requirements for Departmental Majors, page 46.)

Students majoring in German must become reasonably proficient in the language and acquire a good knowledge of German literature and some familiarity with the culture and history of the West. Twenty-seven credits (9 courses) are required for the major, beyond 091.101-102 Elementary German and also beyond two semesters of second-year courses (091.201-202). The required Advanced German sequence (091.301-302) counts toward the major. The department strongly advises its majors to gain a knowledge of a second foreign language, either ancient or modern.

Minor in German

Students minoring in German will need 18 credits in German language and literature beyond the first semester of second-year language instruction (091.201). Students who plan to minor in German should declare their intention before the beginning of their junior year.

B.A./M.A. Degree

The department offers highly qualified students the option to complete a combined degree in five years. To receive the B.A./M.A. degree, the student must complete advanced courses in German literature and pass the departmental written and oral masters examinations. Students interested in this option should make an appointment with the Director of Undergraduate Studies no later than the spring of their junior year to discuss the options available to them.

Honors Program

The Department of German offers an Honors Program for highly qualified undergraduates. Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.5 to qualify for the program. Students will work on a project in German literature and thought under the guidance of a faculty adviser. The program is completed by a senior essay more comprehensive in scope than a seminar paper. Students interested in the honors program should meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies no later than the spring semester of their junior year to discuss the requirements and outline the research project to be conducted the following year.

Graduate Programs

The Department of German offers programs of advanced study and research in German language and literature leading to the Ph.D. Although an M.A. degree is granted, candidates who seek only that degree are not ordinarily admitted.

The research interests of the faculty make possible a special emphasis on comparative literary studies. The series of courses regularly offered provides a well-balanced program of German literary history and critical theory. Because of strong interdisciplinary cooperation at Johns Hopkins, students have a broad range of possibilities to work with faculty in other departments.

Teacher training and apprentice teaching are considered essential parts of the graduate program. Candidates for advanced degrees in German are required to teach.

Exchange Programs

Exchange programs with the University of Hamburg, the Humboldt University, and the University of Konstanz offer the opportunity for graduate students to study in Germany. In addition, a special agreement with the University of Münster in Westphalia makes it possible periodically for a group of graduate students to spend several months studying there.

Requirements for the M.A. and Ph.D. Degrees

In addition to fulfilling the general University requirements for advanced degrees, candidates for the M.A. must demonstrate fluency in spoken German, be able to write German reasonably well, have a good knowledge of the history of German language and literature, be familiar with the general cultural background, and have read extensively in German literature, particularly in the periods after 1600. During their first two years at Hopkins, candidates for the M.A. degree must pass a series of three topical examinations. After the M.A., two major qualifying papers are required under the supervision of two advisers, chosen by the candidate, before work on the dissertation can be undertaken.

Undergraduate Courses

Please note that the sequenced language courses are numbered with the prefix 091. The literature courses are numbered with the prefix 090. For current course offerings, visit www.jhu.edu/~german.

Sequenced Language Courses

Final placement in language courses is determined by a placement exam taken during orientation week or by the completion of the prerequisite courses at Johns Hopkins.

091.101-102 Elementary German

An introduction to the German language and a development of reading, speaking, writing, and listening skills through the use of basic texts. Language lab is required. Both semesters must be completed with passing grades to receive credit. May not be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.

Staff 4.5 credits

091.201-202 (H) Intermediate German

This course is designed to continue the four skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) approach to learning German. Readings and discussions are topically based and expanded upon through audio-visual materials. Students will also review and deepen their understanding of the grammatical concepts of German. In the second semester, the capital city of Berlin is highlighted. Language lab is required. Conducted in German. Prerequisites: 091.101-102 or equivalent.

Staff 3.5 credits

091.203 (H) German for Professional Communication in Science and Engineering

This Intermediate level course is designed to provide students in engineering and sciences with “real life skills” and cultural background necessary for internship or research trips to Germany. Taught in German.

Staff 3 credits

091.301 (H,W) Advanced German Composition and Conversation I. Culture and Politics in Postwar Germany

Typically, this course focuses on the political and societal developments in Germany from 1945 to the fall of the Berlin Wall. Topics covered include reconstruction, (re)development of the party system, the student protests of the 1960s, and developments in West and East Germany. Students analyze literary and journalistic texts, films and print media. Emphasis on style and clarity in both written and oral expression. Review of advanced grammar. Taught in German. Prerequisites: 091.201-202 or equivalent.

Staff 3 credits

091.302 (H,W) Advanced German Composition and Conversation II. Introduction to Contemporary German Issues

Typically, this course focuses on contemporary issues such as national identity, multiculturalism, and the effects of globalization. Pertinent historical and cultural develop-

ments of the 19th and 20th centuries are highlighted to help students understand contemporary German society. Readings include literary and journalistic texts. Emphasis on style and clarity in both written and oral expression. Review of advanced grammar. Taught in German. Prerequisite: 091.301 or equivalent.

Staff 3 credits

091.303-304 (H) Business German

This course sequence is designed as a two-semester intensive introduction into the language and culture of German business, commerce, and industry. Combines the study of foreign language (with its four essential skills: reading, speaking, writing, and listening comprehension) with business skills, including Web publishing through the design and maintenance of a course web page. Students will learn basic economic and business vocabulary; investigate the current status of the German and European economy; and become familiar with economic and political structures as well as specific business practices, customs, and codes of behavior in the business world. Analysis and discussion of German economic and business texts and translation of economic and business materials. Taught in German. Prerequisites: 091.201-202 or equivalent.

Staff 3 credits

091.305 or 091.306 (H) German for Science and Engineering

This course is designed as an introduction to the language used by scientists and engineers. Analysis of texts, preparation of presentations, and discussion of topics. Specific areas of interest to the course members will guide the selection of materials. While focusing on the language of science, students will develop their skills in reading, writing, and oral expression. Prerequisites: 091.201-202 or equivalent.

Staff 3 credits

091.351 or 091.352 (H) Introduction to German Literature and Culture: 1900–1945

Introduction to analysis of literary and cultural topics. Early 20th-century texts and visual media will form the basis for discussion of literature and cultural phenomena specific to the time period. Attention given to student writing. Readings, discussions, and written assignments in German. Prerequisites: 091.301-302 or equivalent.

Staff 3 credits

Literature Courses

These courses count as advanced courses for the major and minor.

090.250 (H) German Modernity

We will read and discuss masterpieces by four German writers and four German philosophers who have defined and redefined modernity: Goethe and Kant; Büchner and Nietzsche; Kafka and Benjamin; Bachmann and Adorno. Reading and discussion in English. Freshman only.

Campe 3 credits

090.314 (H) Berlin and Modernity

Explanation of literature and film from early 20th century. Focus will be on literary movements which developed in Berlin (Expressionism, Neue, Sachlichkeit, Agitprop) and effects of urban life on artistic technique. Readings in German, discussion in English.

Tobias 3 credits

090.318 (H) Kafka and Robert Walser: Narrating the Institution

Kafka, writing in German in Prague, and Robert Walser, a Swiss author living in Berlin, created their own type of novel at the beginning of the last century. The subjects of their narration are not persons or protagonists, but institutions that frame their being in the world: bureaucracy in Kafka's *Castle*, pedagogy in Walser's *Institute Benjamin*. Reading will focus on what can still be narrated under modern conditions. Readings and discussion in German.

Campe 3 credits

090.322 (H) Fin de siècle Vienna

Exploration of the major currents in turn-of-the-century Viennese culture: dreams, eroticism, violence, literary experimentation and crisis in paternity. Authors to include Freud, Musil, Schnitzler, Zweig, Trakl and Wittgenstein. Readings and discussion in English.

Tobias 3 credits

090.324 (H) The Origins of Conscience

Where does the inner voice come from which admonishes us not only about our actions but also about our thoughts and desires? This question has received different answers; in our discussions we will focus on those given by Kant, Nietzsche and Freud. Readings and discussion in English.

Twellmann 3 credits

090.332 (H) German Poetry in the Age of Romanticism

Introduction into one of the most flourishing periods of German poetry, when revolutionary new modes of expressions emerged with lasting impact not only on German, but on European poetry up to the 20th century. Reading of poems by Goethe, Hölderlin, Novalis, etc., combines formal analysis with historical perspectives. Texts in German; discussion in English. Prerequisites: 091.201-202 or equivalent.

Nägele 3 credits

090.334 (H) Goethe's Faust

A close reading of Goethe's major masterwork.

Nägele 3 credits

090.335 (H) Modern German Poetry

A close reading of some of the representative German poets of the 20th century, among them Rilke, Trakl, Celan, and others. Prerequisites: 091.201-202 or equivalent.

Nägele 3 credits

090.345 (H) Chess Games

Chess surfaces frequently in literary and philosophical works as metaphor or allegory of battle of pure wits. Course will examine status assigned chess and, more generally, games in texts by Hoffmann, Zweig, Nabokov,

Wittgenstein, Lyotard, Beckett, Freud. Texts available in original and translation; discussions in English. Prerequisites: 091.201-202 or equivalent.

Tobias 3 credits

090.348 (H) Speaking Philosophically: Introduction to German Philosophy from Kant to Nietzsche

Examination of crucial positions in German philosophy in works by Kant, Hegel, and Nietzsche. Discussion of the question: what did it mean to speak as a philosopher? Attention given to areas of law and poetics. Speaking philosophically—meaning both to speak as a philosopher and to speak philosophically. Lectures in English and discussions in English and/or German. Prerequisites: 091.201-202 or equivalent.

Campe 3 credits

090.349 (H) Speaking Philosophically: Enlightenment

In the Enlightenment philosophers take on a role in public affairs. What have been their basic claims? What were their fundamental ways of making those claims? Readings of selections from Leibniz to Kant. Conducted in English with a reading section in German.

Campe 3 credits

090.353 (H) Realism

Introduction to mid- and late-19th-century literature focusing on the reinvention of the sentimental narrative, the tension between the natural and the supernatural, and the emphasis on local or regional folklore. Authors include Keller, Stifter, Droste-Hülshoff, Storm, Fontane. Readings and discussion in German. Prerequisites: 091.201-202 or equivalent.

Tobias 3 credits

090.365 (H) Questions of Accountability in Law and Literature

Examination of how the development of our modern notion of legal accountability during the Romantic period is refracted in central literary texts. Selected tales from E.T.A. Hoffmann's *Seraphionsbrüde*, in which the modern detective story originates, and Georg Büchner's *Woyzeck* will be closely studied. Adaptations of the latter in film and opera will also be studied. Readings in German. Prerequisites: 091.201-202 or equivalent.

Campe 3 credits

090.369-370 (H) Modernism in German Literature

Covering major texts, authors (Kafka, Brecht, and others), and movements (Expressionism and others) that changed literary paradigms and constituted "Modernism" between 1890 and 1930. Readings in German; discussion in English. Prerequisites: 091.201-202 or equivalent.

Nägele 3 credits

090.371 (H) Franz Kafka: Writer of Modernity

Introduction to Franz Kafka's prose and its position in 20th-century literature, the relationship between autobiography, history, and writing. Emphasis will be on close readings. Readings in German; discussion in English and German. Prerequisites: 091.201-202 or equivalent.

Nägele 3 credits

090.373 (H) Thomas Mann *Doktor Faustus*

Thomas Mann's monumental novel *Doktor Faustus* is one of the first important literary responses to the horrors of Nazi-Germany. It does so in a complex way: weaving together the mythic figure of Faust embodied in the figure of modern composer and musician, with traits of the philosopher Nietzsche, and all this before the background of German cultural and political history from Luther to Third Reich. Readings in German, lecture and discussion in German and English.

Nägele 3 credits

090.375 (H) Georg Büchner

Will investigate the works of one of the most unsettling German writers between romanticism and modernism in its political context and introduce to the analysis of narrative and dramatic texts. Readings and discussion in German.

Twellmann 3 credits

090.384 (H, N, S, W) A Dialogue Between Old and New Theories of the Origin of Language

This course examines the similarities and differences between answers to the question of the origin of language given by philosophical writings from the 18th century and recent scientific research. *Dean's Teaching Fellowship Course.*

Wilczek 3 credits

090.385 (H) In Transit: German-Jewish Literature of Exile

Examination of 20th-century German-Jewish works which were written in exile and which write of exile as existential condition and literacy space. Authors include Roth, Canetti, Becher, Seghers, Zweig, Döblin. Readings and discussions in German. Prerequisites: 091.201-202 or equivalent.

Tobias 3 credits

090.386 (H) German-Jewish Thought Since the Enlightenment

Survey of trends in German-Jewish thought since Has-kala (Enlightenment). Emphasis on debate regarding "Deutschtum" and "Judentum" in 18th and 19th centuries; rationalist interpretations of Judaism; rediscovery of mysticism in 20th-century and anti-rationalist tendencies. Readings in German and English; discussion in English. Prerequisites: 091.201-202 or equivalent.

Tobias 3 credits

090.400 (H) German Literature after 1989

The course focuses on topics of cultural and political relevance after 1989—the fall of the Berlin wall—and how they are presented in contemporary German literature, including drama and fiction. Close readings will investigate into the concepts of generation, nationality, and gender and the textual strategies to develop and actualize them in the literary texts; in this context we will outline a poetics of observation. Readings will refer to recent theoretical approaches such as poststructuralism and gender studies and include the following authors: Grass, Sebald, Jirgl, Christa Wolf, Rainald Goetz, the post-Shoah generation (Billig, Menasse), Turkish-German voices, pop

literature, plays and productions by Jelinek, Pollesch, and Schlingensief.

Strowick 3 credits

090.402 (H) Small Prose of the Classical Modern 1900-1933

We will read shorter narrative texts and essays from 1900-1933 which then flourished in the feuilleton sections of the print press (Kafka, Benn, Musil, Walser, and others). Reading focuses on their specific contribution to modern writing and the cultural and political contexts. Readings and discussion in German.

Groddeck 3 credits

090.405 (H) From Print to Electronic Media

Introduction to the history of media, tracing the transformation triggered by the invention of the printing press in the early modern period to the impact that media as diverse as the microscope, camera, radio, film, and television have had on 20th-century culture.

Campe 3 credits

090.429 (H) The Lyric

Survey of 19th- and 20th-century German lyric poetry for beginning graduate students and advanced undergraduates. Course will focus on intersection of theoretical writings on the lyric with lyric form itself. Authors include Eichendorf, Brentano, Heine, Droste-Hülshoff, Hoffmannstahl, George, Trakl, Rilke, Bachmann, Celan. Prerequisites: 091.201-202 or equivalent.

Tobias 3 credits

090.460 (H) Reading Nietzsche in German

Course series introducing major thinkers in German in the original. Introduction to philosophical and theoretical language and modes of thought through close reading of representative samples of Nietzsche's writings. Use of text translations encouraged. Prerequisites: 091.201-202 or equivalent.

Nägele 3 credits

090.501-502 Independent Study

Staff

090.509-510 (H) German Honors Program

Staff

Graduate Courses

091.601-602 Special Introduction to German

This course is designed for graduate students in other departments who wish to gain a reading knowledge of the German language. The first semester assumes no knowledge of German and covers the grammatical principles of the language. The second semester assumes a basic knowledge of German grammar and vocabulary and concentrates on reading practice. For certification or credit.

Clark

091.608 Principles and Practice of German Foreign Language Instruction

This course will familiarize students with pedagogic principles and teaching methodologies in the field of foreign language instruction. Readings will provide a foundation to assess best practices in the teaching of listening, reading, speaking, writing, and culture in the second language classroom. It will emphasize topics such as teacher and student roles in learning, reflective teaching, individual learner differences, classroom management, lesson planning, task-based activities, test design, and technology enhanced language learning. All incoming T.A.s are required to participate in the workshop which includes class observations and in-class presentations.

Mifflin

090.605 (H) The Life of Stones: Geology in the Works of Goethe, Novalis, and Celan

Examination of the geological motifs in all three authors literary works. Emphasis on geological theories of the 18th and 19th centuries, particularly the debates between the neptunists and plutonists. Consideration of theological, aesthetic, and philosophical ramifications of debate.

Tobias

090.607 Places of Sovereignty

Modern drama's stage often is specifically related to sovereignty—as the antechamber of the king, as the place of acclamation or expulsion, or the ambivalent zone between territories. Readings from 16th to 20th century will include Shakespeare's *Richard II*, Racine's *Britannicus*, Hölderlin's *Empedokles*, and Handke's *Königsdrama*. They will be supplemented by materials from legal and theatrical history. Readings in English and German; discussion in English.

Campe

090.615 Narrative Theory: A Critical Reevaluation

A commonplace of narrative theory is that narratives produce a semblance of life. We will analyze the notions of semblance and life that permit such a statement in works by Lukacs, Genette, Hamburger, Benjamin, Ricoeur and Barthes.

Tobias

090.617 Robert Walser's *Mikrogramme*

The course concentrates on Walser's *Mikrogramme*, a five-hundred-page convolute, which Walser left behind in microscopic handwriting. Readings will focus on the challenges involved in editing this unique ensemble and on broader issues relating to writing and textuality. Readings and discussion in German.

Groddeck

090.620 Modern Verse: Individual Poems, Poetic Cycles

Consideration of the questions of composition in the case of poetic works by Rilke, George, Heym, and Celan. Examination of different strategies required in reading an individual poem and a series or cycle.

Tobias

090.622 Negative Theologies: Meister Eckhart and Georges Bataille

Examination of Meister Eckhart's sermons with attention to tension between a God identified with Being and one identified with Not-Being, such that this God is removed from the realm of all lived or conscious experience.

Tobias

090.624 On Tolerance

The course examines political and juridical aspects of tolerance as it was conceived in the 18th century by Lessing, Dohm, Mendelssohn, and Hamann. Additional readings include Hobbes, Spinoza, and Locke. Readings and discussion in German.

Twellman

090.625 Redemption and Utopia: The History of a Concept

An examination of the concepts of redemption and utopia as they appear in the works of 20th-century German-Jewish thinkers, including Adorno, Benjamin, Rosenzweig, Scholem, and Buber. To what extent is redemption presented as a specifically Jewish concept in these authors works, one which is opposed to the Western metaphysical tradition?

Tobias

090.630 Novalis, Hölderlin, and the Philosophy of Poetry

Once consigned to literary legend, Novalis and Hölderlin are now recognized as rigorous thinkers in their own right. This seminar examines their attempts to elaborate theories of poetry and poeticizing following their critiques of Fichte's *Wissenschaftslehre*; we will also consider their significance for such commentators as Benjamin, Heidegger, de Man, and Lacoue-Labarthe. Texts include *Hyperion*, "Die Vefahrungsweise des poetischen Geistes," *Heinrich von Ofterdingen*, *Hymnen an die Nacht*, *Fichte-Studien*, and selected poems.

Gold

090.632 Celan

Examination of Celan's work from middle/late period with attention to temporal aspects of his verse, i.e., treatment of time in his work and experience of time fostered. Investigation of distinctions "early," "middle," and "late" period, assumptions underlying distinctions, and relevance of such genealogical categories in Celan's case.

Tobias

090.635 Guilt in Heidegger and Kafka

Investigation of concept of guilt in Heidegger and Kafka with emphasis on theological precedents and ramifications of concept. Primary texts: *Sein und Zeit* and *Octavhefte*; ancillary readings in Augustine and Kierkegaard.

Tobias

090.645 Rhetorics of Visuality

We will explore figures of visuality such as evidence, ekphrasis, and graphic metaphor along with their epistemological contexts and media effects; poetic examples range from Baroque to Romanticism.

Campe

090.655 'Beautiful Soul' and Romantic Irony: Feeling, Gender, and Theory

One might be tempted to oppose the critical attitudes of Sensibility and early Romanticism: one allegedly simpler and more conservative, complementing enlightened rationality by cultivating feeling, and the other playful and sophisticated, bending the Enlightenment's firm stance with its complex theory and practice of irony. In this course, we will try to mix up the two discourses of the 'beautiful soul' and of Romantic irony and, since they tend to fall along gender lines, this will also be a way of troubling gender constructions. Readings and discussion in English.

Pahl

090.664 Theater of Institution: German Baroque Trauerspiele (Gryphius, Lohenstein)

Institutionality is at the heart of the baroque Trauerspiele: Gryphius' and Lohenstein's plays were mostly staged in pedagogical institutions, the protestant gymnasium. Institution of sovereignty is the centerpiece of their theological/political debates; institutionality, finally, characterizes the status of the language spoken on the stage. "Institutionality" may be the key term for an intensive reading of the most important Trauerspiele in the same way as "negotiation" is said to be the key term for Elizabethan theater.

Campe

090.672 Einfhlung - Verfremdung - Katharsis

Discussion of three terms and their conflictual constellation in Modernity, not only in modern drama and theater but as constitutive elements of shifts in cultural representation. Readings/discussions center on texts of Brecht, Artaud, Benjamin, Bataille, Freud.

Nägele

090.691 Proseminar

Introduction to research techniques and resources in Germanistik.

Weimar

090.700-701 Introduction to Nietzsche I, II

Introduction to Nietzsche's work. Focus on Nietzsche's diverse literary styles from the Birth of Tragedy to Zarathustra.

Groddeck

090.702 Aphoristic Writing Around 1800

Focus on Lichtenberg's Waste books. Readings include the ancient (Hippocrates), early modern (Montaigne) traditions, and Romanticism (Schlegel, Novalis). Key issues: poetics of aphorism as form; concept of 'literary technology' and science.

Campe

090.706 Archives of the Present: Grammatology

(Re-) reading of Ferdinand de Saussure's Cours de linguistique générale and its reception in Jacques Derrida's De la grammatologie. Further readings include Roman Jakobson, Jacques Lacan, and Paul de Man. Readings and discussion in German.

Twellmann

090.709 Catharsis and Contamination

Discourses about pure/impure play a foundational role in constitution of cultural systems, and define various concepts of ethics/aesthetics/poetics. Last but not least, they underlie all kinds of fundamentalisms in politics/religion/academia. Course will address these questions through texts from Aristotle through Nietzsche to Brecht/Kafka/Bataille. Concentration on texts and areas of choice concerning this question is encouraged.

Nägele

090.716 Contingencies: Semantics of Probability & Narrative Forms in the 18th Century

Focuses on Wieland's Agathon and Kleist's novellas for exploring variants of a poetics of contingency. Discussion on event, chance and probability from philosophy, science and poetics of the time will be included. Readings and discussion in German.

Campe

090.721-722 Dialectics of Enlightenment I, II

Nägele

090.723-724 Poetry and Poetics I, II

Investigation of the relationship between specific poetic and aesthetic projects and poetic praxis with emphasis on poets such as Hölderlin, Rilke, Celan, and others where the poetic praxis is especially strongly linked to the articulation of poetics.

Nägele

090.745 (H) Ontological Aesthetics

Comparison of Heidegger's and Benjamin's claims about the work of art as purveyor of truth and truth as event. Primary emphasis will be on ontological value assigned art in modernity.

Tobias

090.757-758 Studies in 20th-Century German Literature I, II

Nägele

090.759 Constructions of Modernity I: Heine and Baudelaire

Through an intensive reading of Heine and Baudelaire, the seminar will investigate problems of text and history, of periodization and transformation with a particular view on the status of construction and de(con)struction in Modernism.

Nägele

090.760 Constructions of Modernity II: Freud, Benjamin, Adorno

Construction as a key concept in the theories of Modernity and in the rethinking of memory and history.

Nägele

090.764 Rücksicht auf Darstellbarkeit

"Rücksicht auf Darstellbarkeit"—consideration for (re-)presentability—is a phrase coined by Freud denoting one of the four labors of the dream. But this "consideration" is obviously one that is at the constitutive basis

of any (re-)presentation. We will pursue the questions through close readings of texts beginning with Aristotle and Plato through Lessing, Klopstock, Hölderlin, Kleist to Freud and Benjamin (and others).
Nägele

090.765 Theatrical Bodies and Gestural Language: Brecht and Artaud

Brecht and Artaud are the most paradigmatic writers rethinking and reshaping the concept of theater and gesture as a rethinking both of language and the political space. Other authors and texts, however, will be included in the discussion, such as Benjamin's essay on surrealism, and texts by Bataille, Kafka, and Heiner Müller, among others.
Nägele

090.766 Theatrical Theories: Hölderlin's *Notes on Sophocles*, Kierkegaard's *Either/Or*, Nietzsche's *Birth of Tragedy*, and Benjamin's *Origin of the German Trauerspiel*
Nägele

090.769 Walter Benjamin: The Parisian Arcades - *Passagen Arbeit*

Walter Benjamin's unfinished project on the Parisian Arcades is one of the most daring experiments in reading the traces of history and texts. We will focus particularly on Benjamin's procedures in presenting his material and in his methods of reading it.
Nägele

090.773-774 History and Theory of Tragedy I, II
Nägele

090.775-776 Special Problems in Aesthetics and Literary Theory

Nägele

090.779 Thinking Poetry: The Late Hölderlin and Rilke

Nägele

090.780 Writing as Auto-Bio-Graphy: The Case of Kafka/Kafka's K's

Readings include both 'fictional' and 'non-fictional' writings of Kafka, analyzing their interrelation in view of question: what is at stake in writing?

Nägele

090.781 (H) Theory of Meaning, History of Science

The emergence of post-phenomenological studies on the history of science in the 1960s made a strong impact on theories of meaning and representation in literature. Readings and discussion in English.

Campe

090.800-801 Independent Study

Staff

090.811-812 Directed Dissertation Research

Nägele

090.813-814 Directed Dissertation Research

Campe

090.819-820 Directed Dissertation Research

Tobias