

# German Program Data Based Decisions

## German 2020 Data Based Decisions

1. Based on student feedback formally in our surveys and informally we have added more “contemporary courses.” For example, we revamped the GERM 3300 to deal with more contemporary issues and we developed the new GERM 4900 which is being offered in the Spring of 2021 as a contemporary film course. I offer this term as a Film Course.
2. We also had students in the College of Natural Resources and the Natural Sciences and Engineering) express interest in classes that connect more directly with their majors. We taught a special topics class on sustainability in the Spring of 2020 and we are assessing the role this may have in our future offerings.

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## Summary of German Data Based Decisions from past years

### Courses/Curriculum

Doris McGonagill teaches GERM 4900 as a class on “Memory and Identity: Literature and Discourse in Contemporary Germany”

Claudia Schwabe teaches GERM 4900 as a class on the German fairy tale tradition.

Since the arrival of Claudia Schwabe, the German section has regularly offered more technical courses (GERM 3540 Techniques in Translating German Texts, and GERM 3510 Business German).

Claudia Schwabe teaches GERM 4900 as a conversation/film class.

N.B: All new course designs for GERM 4900 filled gaps in our curriculum. For example, the class on Nature-Landscape-Environment is a bridge-course that encourages interdisciplinary dialog beyond the humanities (and has met with great interests from students majoring in the sciences, engineering, biology, Ag Sci etc.). The conversation/film class greatly enhances listening comprehension, conversational abilities, and serves as an introduction to contemporary visual/film culture in Germany.

The number of upper-division German classes offered per semester has varied (2-4? per semester).

Almost every semester (especially in the Spring), a number of students enroll in Individual Readings courses (GERM 3880 or 4880). In these course, faculty has offered individualized course designs addressing a wide range of topics/interests. Here is a selection of some Individual Readings classes that have been offered in the past:

German Art After 1945: Post-War, Post-Wall, Post-Union

The relationship of Cultural Studies and Natural Sciences in the GermanSpeaking Countries  
Language Acquisition for Young Learners (Project with Edith Bowen Laboratory School) Memrise & Duolingo: Language Apps in the Language Classroom Romantic Philosophy and Art Military History: The US Armed Forces and the German Bundeswehr Survey of Architectural and Literary Styles: Middle Ages to the Present Specific Translation Projects

Note: The labels for Individual Readings courses (GERM 4880 and GERM 3880) have also been used for the credits our students get for the culture class of the Study Abroad program. (I don't think this provides an accurate description of the experiences made and competences gained though the Study Abroad, and would like to see this changed.)

### **GERM 4920 German Language Tutoring**

In the past, German tutors only offered their help to our students in the TALC language lab. Over the last two years, we have attempted to find more open and effective formats. Students now have the possibility to either work in the lab, or assist in one of our lower-division German language classes (GERM 1010, 1020, 2010, or 2020), or help out in the Edith Bowen After School Language program, which offers to students not only the opportunity to employ and improve their language abilities, but also to experience first-hand an L2 classroom.

Independent Study Courses (LING 6940) have been offered in the Fall 2014 and in Spring 2015 to a graduate student (Aliza Kroek) from the MSLT program. These independent study classes focus on German topics (The End of Multiculturalism? and Comparative Literature: Examples from Contemporary American and German Contexts).

### **GERM 1800, 2800, 3800, 4800 Study Abroad**

Summer 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and planned for 2015: faculty-lead 4-week program (max. of 6 credits) or 8-week program (max. of 10 credits) in Freiburg, Germany.

Since 2010, we have a completely new and ever evolving Study Abroad design with two key components: the offer of language instruction (all levels), provided by the Goethe Institute), and the offer of a culture class (labeled as GERM 3880), taught by the USU faculty leader.

The culture class itself has over the last years developed in two significant ways: first, it has become increasingly "hands-on". Although there are still substantial reading assignments (which are available to students before the program officially begins) and weekly written quizzes plus a final exam, the actual instruction in Freiburg has evolved from a traditional lecture-style format to a more open format, which allows for students to go on "scavenger hunts" through the city and find assigned sites of cultural interest. Students are then expected to research these sites and present their findings to the entire class. Numerous excursions to museums, churches, institutions etc. complement the cultural mosaic to form a more rounded, nuanced, and detailed image of the guest culture and its history. Second, for 2015, I am planning to tie our USU Study Abroad experience more closely to the University of Freiburg (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität), one of Germany's top-ranking institutions of higher learning, and a center of Environmental Studies. I have established contact with the Department of German (Germanistisches Seminar) and the Faculty of Environment and Natural Resources (Fakultät für Umwelt und Natürliche Ressourcen), and both departments will host events tailored particularly to our USU group).

### **Courses not offered lately (could possibly be dropped or replaced by new course designs)**

GERM 3050 (incorporated into GERM 3040 Advanced German Grammar and Composition, which is our one intensive grammar bootcamp).

GERM 4200 (possibly some material of this course is covered in courses offered as LING classes; I have some background in linguistics, but neither current faculty member is a specialist in linguistics, so this a hard one for us to offer in the near future).

GERM 4600 Faust's Legacy

**Other Changes:**

In the course of the last year (2014-15), we have changed our requirements in a way that would allow German majors/minors more flexibility and to enroll in a wider variety of classes. Some classes (such as GERM 3000 Introduction) cannot be offered regularly enough to make them requirements for enrollment in other upper-division classwork.

Ideas for courses to design/include (after approval) into our curriculum:

A course on German Film

A course on Nature, Landscape, Environment

A course on Nordic Myths and German Fairy Tales