History of the German Language

In this course we will investigate the development of the German language over the past 1500 or so years with a look both at structural changes as well as the cultural context in which they took place. Sample topics to be covered:

- Indo-European Beginnings
- German and English: First Cousins
- The Carolingian Written Word
- The Language of Knights, Ladies, Minstrels and Merchants
- Printing and Other Revolutions
- Gentrifying German in the 16th century
- 19th-Century Language and Nation
- 20th-Century Language in Crisis

Taught in German.

Assessment:
- Class participation - 15%
- Homework - 20%
- Project (oral presentation + web page) - 35% (15 + 20)
- 3 exams - 30%

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