

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%