

## **G574: History of the German Language**

*MWF 3:00-3:50*

*Bondurant W-116*

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### **Course Description and Objectives**

This course is designed to introduce you to the history of the German language, from its Indo-European roots through the present. By the end of this course:

- You will be familiar with the historical, social, and cultural context that shaped the German language and its dialects.
- You will know the major linguistic changes that separate the Germanic languages from the other Indo-European languages, that make German distinct from the other Germanic languages, and that characterize Modern Standard German as opposed to various German dialects.
- You will have read some of the most important works of literature from each major period in the original language.

The course is divided into 5 periods, with two to three weeks spent on each:

- Indo-European and Germanic
- Old High German
- Middle High German
- Early New High German
- Modern German

Class time will consist of the following activities:

- Short lectures on cultural topics, including audio-visual materials, etc.
- Short lectures on linguistic issues, with problem sets for practice and discussion.
- Translation and discussion of excerpts of literary works.
- Student presentations on background information or important figures in German-language history.

### **Prerequisites**

This course will be taught in German, so you need to have taken G571.

No background in linguistics or medieval German is required or assumed.

### **Required book**

- Peter Ernst. 2005. *Deutsche Sprachgeschichte*. UTB Basics. Vienna: WUV.
- There will also be instructor-generated handouts and audio-visual materials.

## **Grading**

The final grade for this course will be based on the following:

- homework / participation (25%)
- 2 presentations and short paper (20%)
- mid-term exam (25%)
- final exam (30%)

## **Assignments and Course Policies**

### **Homework / Participation**

Homework will consist of background reading in the textbook, problem sets, and short translations of literary works, and will be due at the beginning of the next class period. Since we will discuss the answers to the homework in class, no late work will be accepted, except in the case of an excused absence.

Unexcused absences will count against your homework/participation grade. Excused absence will be granted only in case of a documented sickness, family emergency, or university-related activity.

### **Presentations and paper**

You will give two ten-minute presentations in German (with a handout for your fellow students), providing the class with background information about a topic or an important literary figure. The presentations take place during the relevant unit. By the end of the course, you will write a short paper (5-7 pages) in German based on a topic arranged with the instructor, presumably based on one of your presentations. Presentation topics will be chosen at the beginning of each unit. We will devote some class time to talking about how to design a handout and give a linguistics presentation.

### **Exams**

You cannot make up a test if you miss it, except in the case of an excused absence.

The mid-term exam covers the first half of the course. The final exam mainly covers the second half of the course, plus two essays that will be cumulative (you will be notified of possible essay topics in advance).

## Tentative schedule

Einheit	Tag	Thema	Text	Aufgabe
<b>Einführung</b>	Mo (21.08)	Einführung in die Phonologie		
	Mi	Was ist Deutsch?	Ernst 1.1	Phonologische Übung
	Fr	Prinzipien des Sprachwandels	E 1.2-1.3	
<b>Indo-Europäisch und Germanisch</b>	Mo (28.08)	Die Indo-Europäer: Urheimat und Sprache(n)	E 2.1	Text: Indoeuropäische Fabel Referat: Sir William Jones
	Mi	Die Germanen: Urheimat, Stämme, Wanderungen	E 2.2.1-2.2.2	Referat: Entstehung der Runen
	Fr (1.09)	Die germanische Lautverschiebung	E 2.2.3	Runeninschriften
	Mo (4.09)	<i>Tag der Arbeit—keine Sitzung</i>		
	Mi	Andere Entwicklungen	E 2.2.4	Vergleich English-Latein
	Fr	Die älteren germanischen Sprachen	E 72	Das Vaterunser in den germ. Sprachen
<b>Althochdeutsch</b>	Mo (11.09)	Die Begriffe "Deutsch" und "Althochdeutsch", Geschichte	E 3.1, 86	Referat: Jakob Grimm
	Mi	Die hochdeutsche Lautverschiebung	E 3.2.2	Das Vaterunser im Ahd.
	Fr	Umlaut; ahd. Grammatik	E 3.2.1; Robinson	Vergleich English-Deutsch
	Mo (18.09)	Literatur: Bibelübersetzungen		Übersetzung
	Mi	Literatur: Zaubersprüche und andere Segen		"
	Fr	Literatur: Hildebrandslied		" Referat: Notker
<b>Mittelhochdeutsch</b>	Mo (25.09)	Geschichte, Kultur, Schreibkultur	E 4.1	Referat: Die franz. Troubadourtradition
	Mi	Veränderungen Ahd-Mittelhochdeutsch, Aussprache	E 4.2.1	
	Fr	Mittelhochdeutsche Grammatik	E 4.2.2	Das mhd. Verbalsystem
	Mo (2.10)	Literatur: Minnesang	E 4.2.3	Übersetzung Referat: Walter v.d. Vogelweide
	Mi	Literatur: Nibelungenlied		"
	Fr	Literatur: Nibelungenlied		"
	Mo (9.10)	Literatur: Der Arme Heinrich		Übersetzung Referat: Hartman von Aue
	Mi	Literatur: Der Arme Heinrich		"
	Fr	<i>SEMA Conference</i>		
<b>Frühneuhochdeutsch</b>	Mo (16.10)	Midterm		
	Mi	Dialekte, Phonologie, Grammatik	5.1.1, 5.1.2	
	Fr	Morphologie, Syntax,	5.1.3, 5.1.4	

		soziolinguistische Variation		
	Mo (23.10)	Geschichte, Kultur	5.1.5, 5.2.1	Das fnhd. Nominalsystem Referat: historischer Überblick
	Mi	Literatur: Luther	5.2.2	Referat: Luther Übersetzung
	Fr	Literatur: Luther		"
	Mo (30.10)	Literatur: Der Ackermann		Übersetzung
	Mi (1.11)	Literatur: Der Ackermann		"
	Fr	Literatur: Hans Sachs		" Referat: Nürnberg in fnhd. Zeit
<b>Neuhochdeutsch</b>	Mo (6.11)	Entwicklungen Fnhd.-Nhd.	E 6.1.1, 6.1.2	
	Mi	Entstehung des Standarddt., Standardisierung	6.1.3, 6.2	Referat: Sprachgesellschaften
	Fr	Phonologie und Grammatik des Standarddt.		
	Mo (13.11)	Dialekt, Standard, und andere Arten von Soziolinguistische Variation	Ernst 16-18 7.1.5	Morphologie und Phonologie
	Mi	Deutsch in Österreich, in der Schweiz, und als Minderheitssprache	7.1.1, 7.1.2	Referat: das österr. Deutsch
	Fr	Deutsch im 20. Jh	7.1.6, 7.2	
<b><i>Thanksgiving Holidays</i></b>				
	Mo (27.11)	Die neue Rechtschreibung		Referat: wo gibt es jetzt (nicht) die neue R.?
	Mi	Deutsch und Englisch		<i>Anglizismen</i>
	Fr (1.12)	Wiederholung für Final		
<b>Klausur</b>		Donnerstag, den 7.12, 16:00 Uhr		