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Office hours: Monday and Friday 1:30-2:30 p.m.  
(and by appointment)

**History of the German Language**  
German 415  
Course syllabus  
Fall 2017

A. Required text:

Salmons, Joseph. 2012. A History of German. Oxford University Press.

B. Course requirements:

1. Regular attendance, preparation and participation (20% of semester grade)
2. Assignments (see scoring system below) (40% of semester grade)
3. Two short tests (one required, one optional) (15% of semester grade)
4. A final project to be completed in the following stages (25% of semester grade):
  1. By October 11: Decide on topic.
  2. October 18: Turn in a one-paragraph description of the topic chosen.
  3. November 20: Turn in a rough draft of the project.
  4. December 4-6: In-class presentations and discussion of projects.
  5. December 13: Turn in the final version of the project.

Most students will probably do research papers as their projects, but I am very open to other ideas. Papers should be approximately 15-20 pages for graduate students and 8-10 pages for undergrads.

All students must present their projects in class at the end of the semester (in German). Term papers may be written in English or German, but students wishing to write in German should clear this with me in advance.

C. Scoring system for assignments

- 1st 80 points: 1 pt. = 1%
- 81-110 pts.: 2 pts. = 1%
- 111-140 pts: 7.5 pts. = 1%
- 141-150 pts: 10 pts. = 1%

This means: 80 pts. = 80%; 100 pts. = 90%; 110 pts. = 95%; 140 pts. = 99%; 150 pts. = 100%

### Learning outcomes and assessment for History of the German Language

By the end of this course, students should be able to ...	Method of assessment
Explain how German is related to other Indo-European languages and to other Germanic languages	test 1, branches of IE and branches of Germanic assignments
Give the approximate start and end dates of the major periods in the history of the German language	test 1
Identify the dates and achievements of major historical, literary, and intellectual figures in the history of German	text 1
Decipher Runic inscriptions written in the elder futhark or Old and Middle High German manuscripts.	Runic inscriptions assignment or manuscript transcription assignment
Recite Old and Middle High German and/or Old Saxon poetry with correct pronunciation and meter	Reciting assignments
Use etymological dictionaries to produce narrative accounts of the origins and histories of German words	Etymology assignment
Use online corpora to explore frequencies of use of words and collocations.	ANNIS assignments
Describe key historical developments in English phonology, morphology, and syntax	test 1
Produce a well-researched and well-organized presentation and/or paper on a topic of personal interest	term projects

## Semester schedule for History of the German Language – Fall 2017

Date	Class topic	Special Assignments	Salmons	Deadlines and test
Aug. 28	Introduction			
Aug. 30	Indo-European		Chap. 1, 2	
Sept. 4	LABOR DAY	(NO CLASS)		
Sept. 6	Intro to Germanic family	Branches of IE	Chap. 3	
Sept. 11	Early runic texts	Branches of Germanic		
Sept. 13	Gothic	Runic inscriptions		
Sept. 18	North Germanic	Gothic alphabet		
Sept. 20	Ingvaeonic	Tacitus		
Sept. 25	Low Franconian			
Sept. 27	Old Saxon			
Oct. 2	Old High German	Reciting OHG/OS verse	Chap. 4	
Oct. 4	Old High German	ANNIS 1		
Oct. 9	Middle High German	Manuscr. transcription	Chap. 5	
Oct. 11	Middle High German			Topics
Oct. 16	Middle High German	Reciting MHG verse		
Oct. 18	Early New High German			Paragraphs
Oct. 23	Early New High German	ANNIS 2	Chap. 6	
Oct. 25	Early New High German			<b>Test 1</b>
Oct. 30	German 1650-1900		Chap. 7	
Nov. 1	German since 1900			
Nov. 6	(Changing) German today	Etymologies	Chap. 8	
Nov. 8	German dialects			
Nov. 13	German dialects	Dialect maps		
Nov. 15	German dialects			
Nov. 20	Yiddish			Rough drafts
Nov. 22	THANKSGIVING	VACATION	(NO	CLASS)
Nov. 27	German lang. islands in Europe			
Nov. 29	German in America			
Dec. 4	Presentations			
Dec. 6	Presentations			