How to make Germans?

This course introduces students to major developments and figures in German cultural history from the Medieval Period to the Enlightenment. The course utilizes a variety of media (written texts as well as audio-visual materials) and genres (prose, poetry, drama) in order to analyze how the past informs the present.

Topics of discussion include: the individual’s place in society, the role of women and the notion of love in courtly literature, Martin Luther and the Reformation, the 30 Years War and the Peace of Westphalia as the beginning of a new world order, the radical change of European worldview by the Enlightenment and more recent reception and interpretation of the Medieval, Renaissance, and Enlightenment periods.

This course is conducted entirely in German, and gives students ample opportunity to practice all four language skills (speaking, reading, writing, and listening). All assignments are to be completed in German. Prerequisite: successful completion of at least one German 1000-level course.