

# GERMAN-CANADIAN STUDIES (GCS)

Updated Jan 4, 2013

**Note: The department/program codes HIST and GERM replace the former codes 29 and 26 respectively. Students cannot hold credit in HIST-xxxx and the former 29.xxxx or GERM-xxxx and the former 26.xxxx having the same course number (e.g., HIST-1010(6) and 29.1010(6)).**

**Chair:** Associate Professor A. Freund

The establishment of the Chair in German-Canadian Studies was made possible through the generous gifts of the Ernst Hansch, Martin Bergen, Rubin and Christel Spletzer families and Ernie Keller, and the Federal Department of the Secretary of State.

## INTRODUCTION

The Chair in German-Canadian Studies was established to give students an opportunity to study the history and culture of German-speaking immigrants and their descendants in Canada and around the world. As an interdisciplinary program, German-Canadian Studies encompass approaches from all the disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, but has been influenced particularly by History and Literature. In the courses and seminars students seek to understand the worldwide migrations from German-speaking Europe and the multiple migrations of German-speakers from all over the world to Canada. One major focus is the study of German immigrants' various forms of acculturation and identity-formation in Canada.

Course offerings are listed within the Department of History. Credit can be obtained towards the Major programs of both the History and German Studies Departments.

Students will find courses in German-Canadian Studies a useful and informative addition to a liberal arts education. While the Program itself is not aimed at any particular vocational preparation, the background it provides will be especially relevant to students interested in the complexities of migration, immigration, and multiculturalism as well as to students of a German ethnic background. The courses also prepare students who intend to write MA theses and PhD dissertations in German-Canadian Studies. Students may choose some area of German-Canadian Studies to pursue further scholarly work in such disciplines as German Studies, History, and Sociology.

## COURSE LISTINGS

Students are advised to consult the appropriate Timetable or WebAdvisor for courses offered during the current term.

HIST-1010(6)	Canadian Immigration and Settlement
HIST-2133(3)	Global Migration History
HIST-2331(3)	History of Modern Germany
HIST-3130(3)	History of International Migration: The German Experience
HIST-3560(6)	The German-Canadian Presence in Canadian History
HIST-3561(3)	German-Canadian Identity—Historical Perspectives
HIST-4560(6)	Topics in the German-Canadian Presence in Canadian History

### Experimental Courses

HIST-2125(3)	Eyewitnesses to World History
HIST-2525(3)	Eyewitnesses to Canadian History

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**HIST-1010(6) CANADIAN IMMIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT (Le3)** This section traces the development of modern Canada through immigration. We will examine the provincial and federal policies that determine the immigration and settlement process and explore the social, economic, cultural, and international factors that shaped the experiences of immigrants.

**HIST-2133(3) GLOBAL MIGRATION HISTORY (Le3)** This lecture course surveys the diversity of worldwide migrations in the modern period. Topics include exploration and conquest; merchants, mercenaries, and missionaries; slavery and unfree migration; imperialism, settlement and labour migrations, and refugees. Concepts discussed include international migration systems; transnational life, culture, and society; diaspora; voluntary and forced migration.

**HIST-2331(3) HISTORY OF MODERN GERMANY (Le3)** This survey of political, economic, social, and cultural developments in Germany from the Holy Roman Empire to the Berlin Republic focuses on developments after the Congress of Vienna (1815), including the 1848 Revolution, Bismarck and German unification 1871, Wilhelmine Germany and imperialism, World War One, the Weimar

Republic, Hitler and National Socialism, World War Two and the Holocaust, the two Germanies in the Cold War, and reunification in 189/90. Major historiographical controversies and methods of interpreting and analyzing German history are examined through lectures, explication of primary sources and critical reading of secondary sources, group and class discussions, and films.

**HIST-3130(3) HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION: THE GERMAN EXPERIENCE (Le,S3)** This course offers a survey of historical and current migration patterns, using the example of German-speaking migrants from the 18th to the 20th century. Students will explore migration processes, different types of migration, and the resulting cross-cultural encounters as well as the interaction of states and minorities. The lecture/seminar course will study Germany as a country of emigration and immigration, and discuss the existence of a German diaspora. A knowledge of German is not required.

**HIST-3560(6) THE GERMAN-CANADIAN PRESENCE IN CANADIAN HISTORY (Le,S3)** This lecture/seminar course will focus upon the European origins of German-speaking immigrants to Canada, their settlement patterns, and their social, political, and economic roles. In addition, the course

will examine both the effects of international events upon the German-speaking population and their place in the Canadian cultural mosaic. Please see the Department for a specific course description. A knowledge of German is not required.

**HIST-3561(3) GERMAN-CANADIAN IDENTITY - HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES (Le, S3)**

This lecture/seminar course will explore questions of ethnic identity, using the example of German Canadians. While students will develop their individual research projects related to the broader issue of ethnicity, class discussion will focus on the historical presence of German speakers in Canada, their settlement patterns, their relationship to political culture and the Canadian state, and perceptions and self-images of German Canadians. A knowledge of German is not required.

**RESTRICTIONS:** Students with standing in the former HIST-3560(6) may not receive credit for HIST-3561(3).

**HIST-4560(6) TOPICS IN THE GERMAN-CANADIAN PRESENCE IN CANADIAN HISTORY (S3)**

In this course, students will undertake research on a variety of specialized subjects relating to the political, social, and economic experiences of German speaking immigrants to Canada. In addition, students may also examine cultural and literary topics. While students will find at least a rudimentary knowledge of German useful, it is not a requirement for the course. Please see the Department for a specific course description.

## EXPERIMENTAL COURSES

Experimental Courses are new courses offered on a trial basis to gauge interest in various topics. Students who successfully complete any experimental course receive credit as indicated.

**HIST-2125(3) EYEWITNESSES TO WORLD HISTORY**

**(Le3)** This lecture course explores modern World history through eyewitness accounts in the form of oral history testimonies. Oral histories are interviews with people about their lives. Using such first-person accounts, the course surveys women's and men's experiences of war, genocide, and state violence; work and globalization; discrimination and resistance; and forced and voluntary migration. Students work with oral history interviews in the form of transcripts and audio-visual media, and learn to critically examine them as forms of evidence, expressions of memory, constructions of identity, and negotiations of power relations.

**HIST-2525(3) EYEWITNESSES TO CANADIAN HISTORY**

**(Le3)** This lecture course explores modern Canadian history through eyewitness testimonies and other first-person accounts (so-called ego-documents) such as letters, diaries, and, in particular, oral histories. The course surveys Canadian experiences such as Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal relations, immigration and settlement experiences, the Great Depression and rural life, times of peace and war, women's and workers' perspectives, and refugees' and minorities' experiences of discrimination and resistance. Emphasis is placed on working with primary sources such as interviews, testimonies, eyewitness accounts, and memoirs.