

MODERN LANGUAGES SPECIAL TOPICS SPRING 2021

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures is offering two special topics courses next semester that are cross-listed and open to students without a background in a modern language.



Dr. Jake van der Kolk
Lectures in English.
Hybrid delivery.

Culture and civilization of the German people from first attestations to the Nazi period. Students examine representative periods and thinkers in German history. Beginning with the first encounters of Germanic tribes with the Roman Empire, the course proceeds to successive changes brought on by migration, Christianization, the Reformation, the Enlightenment, Nationalism, the Industrial Revolution, and political unification, with a special eye on the persistent issue of German national identity.

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Spring 2020
FRE 277 / ENG 270
T/TH 9:45–11am
Dr. Karen Quandt



This course will trace the paradoxes and contradictions that emerge as the ideal of *fraternité* clashes with oppressive regimes, economic disparity, misogyny, colonialism, xenophobia, homophobia, and racism. A sampling of authors and film directors include Voltaire, George Sand, Victor Hugo, Emile Zola, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Aimé Césaire, Louis Malle, and Agnès Varda.

This course will be taught in English, and we will use English translations of French texts. Those taking the course for credit towards the French major or minor will be expected to do the readings and written assignments in French.

Fulfills the PPE diversity requirement, and counts towards the minor in Film & Digital Media.