

# GERM 500

## History of the German Language

This course introduces students to the historical development of the German language from the earliest times until the modern period. We shall look at some of the phonological and morphosyntactic changes that differentiate German from English, Dutch and other related languages, and give the modern language its hallmark linguistic features.

We shall further examine the historical and cultural context in which German developed, noting the impact of important events, from Christianization to the Reformation, from courtly poetry to the invention of printing, on language use.

Students will read short texts in the main historical forms of the language — Old Saxon, Old High German, Middle Low German, Middle High German and Early New High German.

Taught in English.

Prerequisites:

Undergraduates: GERM 301, 302, and 303 (or equivalent).

Graduate students from other departments: Advanced reading proficiency (minimally) in German.

**Spring 2016**

**Dr Paul Roberge**

**Mon/Wed 3:10 - 4:25 pm**

