

# BRYSON TEDFORD

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## EDUCATION

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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, New York

Department of Germanic Languages

**Ph.D.** Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, February 2026

Dissertation: “Illusion beyond the Fourth Wall: Ludwig Tieck’s Unstageable Theater”

Advisors: Claudia Breger and Stefan Andriopoulos

**M.Phil.** May 2020

**M.A.** January 2018

BARNARD COLLEGE, New York

**B.A.** Cum Laude, Louise Stabenau Prize, May 2010

German Languages and Literature Major, Biology Minor

## TEACHING

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LECTURER, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

2025 – present

Department of Germanic Studies

**Elementary German I**, Fall 2025

LECTURER, HAMILTON COLLEGE

2023 – 2025

Department of Germanic, Russian, Italian and Arabic

**World Views: Environmental Thought and German Romanticism**, Spring 2025

I designed this survey of German romanticism as a seminar for advanced undergraduates from all majors around the concept of the environment. Readings included selections from Kant, Novalis, Hoffmann, Goethe and Humboldt. Through discussions, papers and a final project, students explored how artists and scientists created new visions of nature in response to the fractured philosophical landscape around 1800. At the end of the semester, our class visited the Caspar David Friedrich exhibition at The MET and the “Invisible Worlds” installation at the Museum of Natural History to develop research projects on the relevance of Romantic “worldviews” today. (Cross-listed with Environmental Studies and Literature)

**Tyranny of Greece: German Aesthetics and the Ancient World**, Fall 2023

To introduce students to philosophical aesthetics, I developed this undergraduate seminar around the question: What is “Classicism”? Beginning with Winckelmann’s study of ancient Greek culture, this course traced the evolution of ideas, styles and motifs adopted from antiquity, like the principle of “imitating nature” and the genre of tragedy. Students read theoretical texts, plays and poems by Lessing, Schiller, Nietzsche, Heidegger and Hölderlin to examine how they mobilize classical aesthetics in the service of cultural ideals. For the final project, students identified and analyzed contemporary iterations of classical aesthetics. (Cross-listed with Classics)

## **Instructor for the German Language Sequence**

In addition to my teaching responsibilities, I have generated syllabi, tests and quizzes for Intermediate I and II; developed additional units on the Allied occupation and Turkish migration to thematically motivate supplemental grammar instruction; created a common writing pedagogy for the department intended to disincentivize translation software; designed multi-stage drafting exercises with group writing components; and produced standardized rubrics and correction keys. I organized TA sessions for both Intermediate I sections and developed complementary activities with the TA.

### **Intermediate German II, Spring 2024**

Students work intensively with textbook materials to refine listening, reading and grammar skills on a daily basis; practice these skills by engaging authentic cultural materials in class discussions, group research projects and independent writing assignments; and critically reflect on postwar German culture. A unit on “Vergangenheitsbewältigung” introduces students to the histories and identities of German-language countries, and students trace these themes through the novella, *Eine Liebe aus Nichts* by Barbara Honigmann. (Textbook: *Weiter geht's!*)

### **Intermediate German I, Fall 2024**

This course begins with an intensive review of grammar topics that introduces students to its central theme of identity. Students learn to use complex compositional structures as they explore contemporary German culture from the perspective of recent immigrants, the World War II generation and residents of the former GDR. Reading, listening and grammar exercises along with targeted skill assessments require students to practice daily, which prepares them for increasingly open-ended discussion formats and writing assignments. (Textbook: *Weiter geht's!*)

TEACHING FELLOW, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
Department of Germanic Languages and Literature

2017 - 2023

### **Intermediate German I and II, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Spring 2023**

In this sequence, students explore twentieth century German culture through literature, internet research, and films like *The Comedian Harmonists*, eventually reading *The Visit* by Friedrich Dürrenmatt. In addition to formal grammar instruction, students generate portfolios of essays, creative writing, progress reflections, and vocabulary lists to consciously develop their language skills. In response to student interest, I also organized field trips to galleries and created a supplemental unit on the politics of the student movement. (Textbook: *Anders gedacht*)

### **Reading and Translation, Summer 2022**

A rapid reading course that teaches graduate students major grammatical concepts and incorporates weekly translation projects as preparation for their departmental German requirement. (Textbook: *German for Reading Knowledge*, R. A. Korb)

### **Intermediate Conversation II, Spring 2022**

To build the syllabus for this course, I developed units on topics proposed by students, from the Holy Roman Empire to cooking shows, by selecting and adapting authentic materials; generating targeted grammar exercises; creating scaffolded conversation scenarios; and helping students devise complementary research presentations.

### **Elementary German I and II, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Spring 2020**

In this sequence, students acquire basic language skills and encounter authentic cultural materials, as they learn to discuss themselves and everyday life. Taught exclusively in the target language, this sequence invites students to develop a range of communicative strategies and culminates in a unit based on the Fatih Akin film, *In July*. (Textbook: *Kontakte*)

## LANGUAGE PEDAGOGY

**Pedagogy in Practice Program**, Hamilton College, Spring 2024

**AATG Annual Convention**, Washington D.C., November 2019

“Design of Authentic Materials for ACTFL World Readiness Standards,” *Presenter*

**Pedagogy Seminar**, Columbia University, Fall 2017

## CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

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### AS PANEL ORGANIZER

**Modern Languages Association**, New Orleans, January 2025

Unperformable Drama, “Unstageable Plays and Critical Dramaturgy”

**German Studies Association Conference**, Houston, September 2022

“Modelling (Ir)reality: Theories and Practices of Simulation”

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**German Studies Association Conference**, Montreal, September 2023

Literature and Social Critique, *New German Critique*

“Aesthetics without Politics: Erika Fischer-Lichte and Joseph North”

**My Bauhaus: Trans-medial Encounters**, Yale School of Architecture, October 2019

“Exhibiting Reflective Space: Literary Form at the »Bauhaus« Exhibition in Paris 1930”

**Architecture In and Of the Museum**, Columbia University, December 2018

“A life-size Model for model Living: the *Section Allemande*, Paris 1930”

**System / Fragment: Epistemic Collisions 19<sup>th</sup> Century**, Columbia University, November 2018

“Vicissitudes of Idealism,” *Respondent*

## WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

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### German Studies Association Seminars

“Unperformable Dramas: Embodiments of Unstageable” *Participant*, September 2023

**International Visiting Researcher Programme**, University of Passau, June 2020

“Between Commodity and Art: the »Bauhaus« Exhibition in Paris 1930” (postponed)

**The Letter as Fictional and Non-Fictional Genre**, Freie Universität, June 2017

**Annual Goethe Workshop** with David Wellbery, Dorothea von Mücke and Joel Lande

Columbia University: *Faust I*, March 2017

Princeton University: *Hermann and Dorothea*, March 2018

University of Chicago: *Iphigenia auf Tauris*, March 2019

Columbia University: *Die Natürliche Tochter*, postponed

## TRANSLATIONS

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Martina Wagner-Egelhaaf (Münster), “Signatures of Decision-Making. Keller and *Der grüne Heinrich*.” (Translated for Submissions, Spring 2023)

Eva Geulen, “Pseudemorphosis.” *Concepts of Culture*. Berghahn, 2025. (Translated with Cosima Mattner, Spring 2024)

## DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

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### **Pedagogy in Practice Program**, Hamilton College, 2023 - 2024

Intradepartmental Proseminar Syllabus Workshop

Identified and obtained funding to develop a course with colleagues from the Department of German, Russian, Italian and Arabic; organized 7 lunch meetings; documented progress; circulated drafts and invited visitors; produced a report for the Chair and Dean of Faculty.

### **Levitt Center Summer Research Grant**, Hamilton College, Summer 2024

Aubrey Wallen, “Faustian Pacts: Goethe, Mann, Leipzig”

Supported student’s application to develop a project proposal for summer research grant; met with the student weekly to discuss scholarship, read drafts and provide feedback as student produced a research paper and visual presentation; currently advising on adapting for publication.

### **Assistant Event Coordinator**, Deutsches Haus, Columbia University, Spring 2018

Duties included designing and executing events to engage undergraduate students and the general community in language acquisition and intercultural exploration.

### **Recommendations**, Columbia University and Hamilton College

Aubrey Wallen, PhD Programs in Comparative Literature, 2025

Anton Crawford, Colgate in Freiburg, 2024

Hannah Dietrich, Tufts in Tübingen, 2024

Aubrey Wallen, Tufts in Tübingen, 2023

Mason McVey, Center for Undergraduate Global Engagement, 2024

Clayton Ketcher, Center for Undergraduate Global Engagement, 2023

Emeline Keuther, Law School, 2023

Ciera Martinez, Fulbright Scholars, 2023

Iker Viega, Whitney Museum of American Art, 2023

Devon Davey, Hospice of New York Internship, 2023

Sumar Frejat, Knight Hennessy Scholars, Stanford University, 2022

## REFERENCES

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**Marianne Janack**, John Stewart Kennedy Professor of Philosophy at Hamilton College  
315.859.4127, [mjanack@hamilton.edu](mailto:mjanack@hamilton.edu)

**Stefan Andriopoulos**, Director of Graduate German Studies at Columbia University  
212.854.7802, [sa610@columbia.edu](mailto:sa610@columbia.edu)

**Jutta Schmiers-Heller**, Director of German Language Program at Columbia University  
212.854.4824, [js2331@columbia.edu](mailto:js2331@columbia.edu)

## AFFILIATIONS

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Modern Language Association, German Studies Association, G. E. Lessing Society,  
American Association of Teachers of German, Goethe Society of North America