

German: Learn with Songs

Course Content

Each week, we will explore 4-5 German songs. For each song we will:

- Introduce the song and provide some background information (singer, date, connection to German history or culture, etc.)
- Listen to or watch a video of the song that will contain German subtitles
- Read through the lyrics in German and translate them into English (presented on-screen as a PowerPoint document.)
- Discuss issues arising from the lyrics concerning German grammar and word usage, particularly differences between the way something is said in German and how it is said in English.
- Point out and discuss any German idioms.
- Answer any other questions that arise regarding the lyrics.
- Watch a second video of the song, again containing the German language lyrics as subtitles. (For most songs, we will listen to two different versions of the song, such as a studio recording and a concert performance by the same artist or versions sung by different singers.)

We will also watch a handful of short documentaries or news clips about some of the songs, singers, or bands.

Weekly theme topics will include many of the most popular German and Austrian singers of the past 70 years. I anticipate 5-7 topics for this semester selected from the following list:

- Happy (and Very Easy to Understand) Songs [for the first class]
- Udo Juergens – Life and Songs
- Freddy Quinn – Life and songs
- Daliah Lavi – Life and Songs
- Die Prinzen [a band originating out of the former East Germany]
- Peace Songs
- Lullabies
- Songs from the Sea
- Folk Songs
- Songs for Retirees
- Duets
- The Beatles in Germany