

LANGUAGE OF THE MONTH

German

Learning about Culture

History and traditions of Karneval

Staff Spotlight Mark Lewis

Eating Authentically in Boston

Restaurant recommendations and recipes to try

Literature and Authors

"Wer anderen eine Grube gräbt, fällt selbst hinein"

"He who digs a pit for others falls into it himself"

Add to Your Playlist and Watchlist

Songs and Movies

Labyrinth of Lies Film Discussion

PRACTICE GERMAN

with the ERC

The ERC offers tutoring for German! Peer Tutoring provides BU students the opportunity to meet with fellow students and ask questions related to their course material. Our tutors are here to guide, encourage, and support you in your learning process.

The ERC also offers Language Link for German! Language Link hosts several informal, half-hour discussions each week. Sessions are led by a native speaker and are offered at three different levels: beginner, intermediate, and advanced.

STUDY ABROAD IN BERLIN

The Berlin Study Abroad Program allow students to explore the city while taking courses in German Language

Visit BU's Study Abroad website to learn more!

CELEBRATE

KARNEVAL | NOV - FEB

Karneval, or in some regions of Germany also called Fasching, can be traced back to ancient pagan celebrations, such as the Roman festival of Saturnalia and the Germanic festival of Yule.

These celebrations marked the end of the old year and the start of the new one, and they typically involved feasting, drinking, and revelry. Over time, these pagan celebrations were Christianized and incorporated into the liturgical calendar.



The most famous and elaborate celebrations take place in the Rhineland, particularly in the cities of Cologne, Dusseldorf, and Mainz. However, the holiday is also celebrated in other parts of Germany, as well as in other parts of Europe, such as the Netherlands and some parts of Switzerland.



Language of the Month Film Discussion

Watch *Labyrinth of Lies*, available through BU Libraries, then join the ERC and BU Libraries for a discussion with special guest, Mark Lewis, Director of Geddes Language Center.

Event is open to current BU students, faculty, and staff.

Thursday, February 23rd @ 5-6 PM ET | Register via [Zoom](#)



Labyrinth of Lies



Set in Germany in 1958, against the will of his immediate superior, young prosecutor Johann Radmann begins to examine the case of a teacher who has recently been identified as a former Auschwitz guard.



STAFF

Spotlight



Mark Lewis, PhD

**DIRECTOR OF GEDDES LANGUAGE CENTER
AND GERMAN LECTURER**

Mark has a BA in International Affairs from Lafayette College and earned his PhD in German from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign while serving as a humanities computing consultant on Project Hermes. Prior to coming to BU, he served as Founding Director of Academic Technologies at Regis College, and Manager of eLearning and Instructional Design Services at UMass Boston.



MARK LEWIS ON 'LABYRINTH OF LIES' AND HIS TRIP TO AUSCHWITZ IN THE 1980S

What historical context do viewers need to know before pressing play?

The film “Labyrinth of Lies” was released less than a decade ago (2015) and tells the story of a young prosecutor, Joseph Radmann, who simply cannot fathom how mainstream Germans in the immediate post-war years could not have known nor admitted that the Nazi regime had perpetrated the Holocaust. Based on true events, we learn how a small group of German prosecutors launched investigations around 1960 that finally brought these horrific war crimes to light. Director Giulio Ricciarelli captures historically relevant turns of fate when ex-SS guards could no longer hide while evidence of their crimes was read out loud to them in a court of law.

What is one key takeaway from the Labyrinth of Lies?

A key takeaway from this film is that one should never give up in the effort to expose and defeat injustice, no matter how many obstacles may present themselves. The film also makes us realize that we cannot look away when tragedy strikes, even when it might seem far removed from our everyday lives.



MARK LEWIS ON 'LABYRINTH OF LIES' AND HIS TRIP TO AUSCHWITZ IN THE 1980S

What experience do you want to share about your visit to Auschwitz?

Like the protagonist of the film, I had the opportunity to visit Auschwitz myself as a student ambassador in Poland. This happened in the early 1980s when few other Westerners had ever set foot in Auschwitz, as it was behind the Iron Curtain from 1945 until 1990. I was with many West Germans who were older than I, and had likely been children during World War II. Seeing the place where the atrocities took place brought tears to their eyes, their heads shaking, in utter horror and disbelief. I will never forget that experience. It reinforced the importance of responsibility and remembrance that each of us must own.

Do you have advice for someone considering learning German?

Today, Germany holds an important position in Europe and in the world at large. Students who go to Germany and interact with modern-day Germans will find a vibrant, multicultural society. The Department of World Languages & Literatures at BU welcomes students at all levels to explore German language, its culture and literature. Even if you are an absolute beginner, there is much to gain as a student of German. The [**German program website**](#) is a great place to start to learn more about the faculty and their offerings.

FILM + TV

1



The Lives of Others

This drama set in East Germany in 1984 and tells the story of a Stasi officer who becomes obsessed with the lives of a couple he is spying on. The film won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film and provides a look at the culture and society of East Germany during the Cold War.

2



Good Bye Lenin!

This German film is a comedy-drama that tells the story of a young man who must keep his mother from learning the truth about the fall of the Berlin Wall. The movie is set in East Germany and provides a glimpse into the culture and society of the country during that period.

3

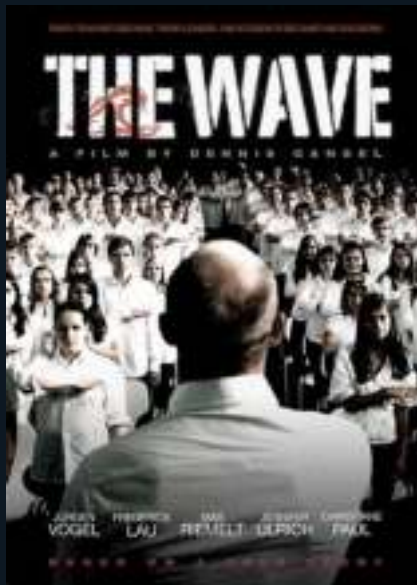


Tin Drum

This film is based on a novel by Günter Grass and tells the story of a young boy who, in protest of the adult world, refuses to grow up. The film won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film and provides a look at the culture and society of Germany during the interwar period.

FILM + TV

4



The Wave

This German film is based on a true story and tells the story of a high school teacher who conducts an experiment to teach his students about fascism. The film explores themes of authoritarianism, group dynamics, and the dangers of extremism.

5



Deutschland 83

This German television series is set in the early 1980s and tells the story of a young East German soldier who is sent to West Germany as a spy. The series provides a look at the culture, society, and politics of East and West Germany during the Cold War.

Check out BU Libraries' Resource Guide
for Krasker Film/Video !

Fastnachtsküchle

What are Fastnachtsküchle (Karneval Doughnuts)?

These deep-fried doughnuts are a staple of Karneval celebrations. They are made with sweet yeast dough, and often dusted with powdered sugar or filled with jam or chocolate.



Ingredients

1/2 cup (120ml) warm milk
2 1/4 tsp active dry yeast
1/4 cup (50g) granulated sugar
1/4 cup (60ml) melted butter
1 tsp salt
1 egg
3 1/2 cups (450g) all-purpose flour
Vegetable oil for frying
Powdered sugar for dusting



**Click [here](#) to make
this recipe!**

Featured recipes

Popular German Cuisine in Boston

1



Swissbäkers

Swissbäkers is a Swiss-German bakery in Allston, MA. They're known for their pretzels and pretzel rolls.

2



Trinktisch

Borrowing its namesake from the fusion of two German words “drink” and “table”, Trinktisch is a new convivial drink and food hall in Belmont, MA. It has a mix of sweet and savory options ranging from German potato salad to the belgian waffles.

3



Bronwyn

Bronwyn is a German-inspired restaurant located in Somerville, it serves a variety of traditional German dishes such as schnitzel, sausages, and spaetzle, as well as a selection of German beers. They also have a variety of events like the Oktoberfest celebration that features live music, games, and of course, German beer.

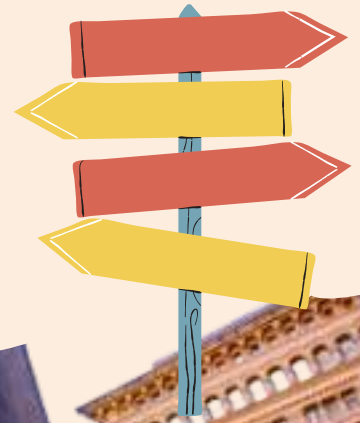
4



Brato

Check out this restaurant for authentic German food, including sausages (a must!), soups, sandwiches, as well as plant-based options!

TRAVEL Excursions



**Goethe-Institut
Boston**



Explore the Goethe-Institut, a German cultural center that hosts classes and events on German language and culture. They also have a wide variety of exhibitions and events throughout the year.

Paul Revere House



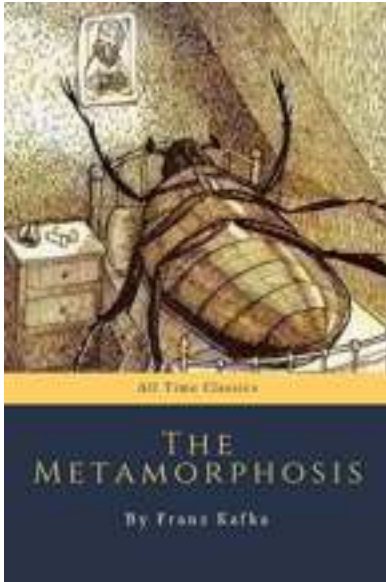
Visit the Paul Revere House, a museum that tells the story of Boston's role in the American Revolution. Paul Revere was French-German, and the museum has a special section dedicated to his heritage.

**Isabella Stewart
Gardner Museum**

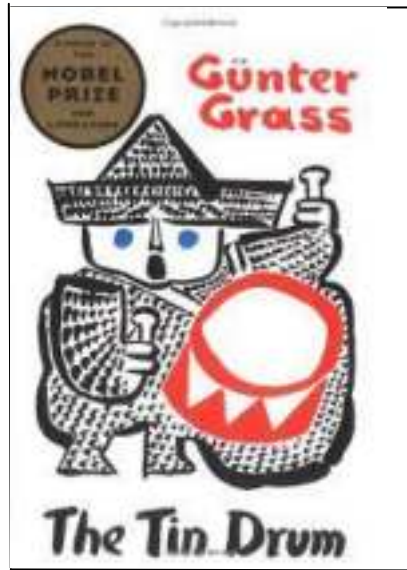


Check out a collection of German art and artifacts, including works by Albrecht Dürer, Hans Holbein the Younger, and Lucas Cranach the Elder. FREE FOR BU STUDENTS! Just bring your ID

LITERATURE



FRANZ KAFKA: **THE METAMORPHOSIS**



GÜNTER GRASS: **THE TIN DRUM**



THOMAS MANN: **BUDDENBROOKS**



PAULLINA SIMONS: **THE BRONZE HORSEMAN**



PATRICK SÜSKIND: **PERFUME THE STORY OF A MURDERER**



Check out BU Libraries' Resource Guide for [German Language & Literature](#)!

MUSIC



Ein bisschen Frieden, released in 1982, won the **Eurovision** Song Contest. The song's lyrics are in German and it's about **peace** and **unity**.



Check out our **German Language of the Month playlist** on Spotify, which is based on recommendations from Axel, one of our **Language Link Leaders**