

# The German Experience in America

**German 360 Spring 2012**  
( German 3253 upon semester conversion )

5 Credit Hours  
GEC course  
*taught in English*

**Prof. Becker-Cantarino**  
becker-cantarino.1@osu.edu

M W 11:30 ~ 1:18 pm



This course serves as an introduction to the literature, culture, and history of German immigrants to North America, especially to the Midwest and Ohio, from the seventeenth century into the twenty-first. We study reasons for migration, selected settlements (like Schoenbrunn, Zoar, Gnadenhuetten) and selected individuals (from Ohio missionary David Zeisberger, exile writer Bertolt Brecht, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to Arnold Schwarzenegger) and their (auto)biographies and letters, as well as stories and tales of German pioneer authors (like Sealsfield). A field trip to Schoenbrunn and Zoar in Eastern Ohio (funds permitting), and to German Village in Columbus will provide a first-hand encounter with the culture and life of the early settlers – and how it has been 'gentrified' into a vibrant commercial and/or cultural enterprise today. A discussion of contemporary issues of migration and immigration to the US concludes the course. Students develop and present individually a research project of their interest relating to German immigrant experience (a biography; oral history or interview; history of an institution or town; or issue related to immigration like language use, multiculturalism, nativism).

*Readings provided in a course pack. Visual and other materials in PP files in CARMEN.  
Taught in English; knowledge of German is not required.*