

BYU History 409 R
Germanic Family History Research — Methodologies and Sources

Winter 2004
T, Th 8:00 - 9:15 in SWKT 285

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Course objectives:

Students will be able to name, describe, locate, and use the main reference works essential to conducting family history research in German-language regions of Europe and among German immigrants in North America. They will be capable of answering common Germanic research questions asked by genealogical hobbyists and clients and will compile biographies on European emigrants in North America.

Required texts (available in the BYU Bookstore):

Minert, Roger P. *Spelling Variations in German Names*. Woods Cross, UT: GRT Publications, 2000 (*SP* below).

Riemer, Shirley J. *German Research Companion*. Sacramento, CA: Lorelei Press, 2000 (*GRC*).

Uncapher, Wendy. *Lands of the German Empire and Before*. Janesville, WI: Origins, 2000 (*LGE*).

Available in the internet at www.familysearch.org, in the Family History Library/family history center as a booklet:

Family History Library: *Hamburg Passenger Lists (HPL)* [34047000]

Family History Library: *German Handwriting Guide (GHG)* [36316000]

Family History Library: *Germany Research Outline (RGR)* [34061000]

Family History Library: *Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestor (TIA)* [34111000]

Family History Library: *German Letter-writing Guide (GLG)* [34066000]

Recommended texts:

A dictionary of terms specific to old German documents, such as: Thode, Ernest. *German-English Genealogical Dictionary*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1996 [HBL Reserve Library].

A German handwriting manual such as: Minert, Roger P. *Deciphering Handwriting in German Documents*. Woods Cross, UT: GRT Publications, 2001 [HBL Reserve Library].

HBL Reserve (2-hour or overnight check-out) **or UVRFHC Reserve:**

Minert, Roger P.: *Deciphering Handwriting in German Documents* (Woods Cross, UT: GRT Publications, 2001)

Minert, Roger P.: *Baden Place Name Indexes* (Woods Cross, UT: GRT Publications, 2001); 13 other books in this series are available in the UVRFHC in the HBL.

Minert, Roger P. and Shirley J. Riemer: *Researching in Germany* (Sacramento, CA: Lorelei Press, 2001).

Examinations:

Both the mid-term and the final examination will consist of essay questions, many formulated from the standpoint of a client addressing a professional researcher. Both examinations will be done outside of class on an open-book basis, but no assistance may be solicited or accepted from other persons.

Late work:

Any assignment received after the due date will accrue a penalty of 20% of the possible points per late class day, unless the student presents an acceptable excuse to the instructor. Students missing class are responsible for determining what assignment(s) was/were given and completing it/them on schedule.

Immigrant Case Study:

Each student will select or be assigned a European immigrant in North America and will write a case study incorporating the following elements: two generations of ancestors in Europe, life in Europe before emigration, travel from the European home town to the North American port city, detail regarding the arrival of the immigrant in North America and his/her travel to places of residence in North America, a description of the life and death of that immigrant in North America, and a family group record for the immigrant and his/her spouse and children. The immigrant case studies will be printed and bound for all class members some time following the end of the semester. A class member may volunteer to serve as the editor of the collection under the title *Immigrant Case Studies: Volume II*.

Grading:

The course grade will consist of the following elements:

Mid-term examination	20%
Final examination	20
Immigration Case Study (ICS)	25
Attendance/participation	10
Assignments/quizzes/classroom presentations	25

	100%

Schedule Change:

On Saturday, 6 March, we will meet in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City at 10 a.m. This session will replace class sessions on 9 March and 30 March. Please make arrangements well ahead of time to be there. This session will be devoted to developing familiarity with the FHL and advancing each student's immigrant case study.

Instructor Consultation:

The instructor is available for personal or group consultation during the hours listed above. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this option in cases where assignments do not seem to be applicable and alternates need to be determined. When submitting messages via email, please put **409** on the **subject** line.

The following schedule is subject to revision. Not all assignments are listed. Rev. 4 Dec 2003

Day & Date	Class Discussion Topics	Pre-discussion Readings, Assignments
Tue 6 Jan	Course introduction, procedures, and details on the case study; introduction to the German Empire 1871-1918	[Buy/procure the books!] Biographical essay
Thu 8 Jan	German Empire cont.; introduction to <i>LGE</i> and <i>GRC</i>	<i>GRC</i> 12, 16-17 10 <i>GRC</i> sources for [province X]
Tue 13 Jan	Name spelling variations — Problem #1 in Germanic FH research	<i>SP</i> 1.0 through 3.5.5 Spelling variations in U.S. sources
Thu 15 Jan	Spelling variations cont.	<i>SP</i> 3.6 thru 3.11.12 Spelling variations in Europ. sources
Tue 20 Jan	Spelling variations cont.	<i>SP</i> 4.0 thru 6.5, pp. 57-71 Variations of student/ICS surnames
Thu 22 Jan	Tracing Immigrant Ancestors — Problem #2 in Germanic FH research	“Country of Arrival” <i>TIA</i> <i>GRC</i> 63-64, 8-72 (A-D,F)
Tue 27 Jan	<i>Hamburg Passenger Lists</i> and other European port/departure sources; correspondence with European offices	<i>GRC</i> 97-98 HPL search; <i>GRC</i> 73-75; Write a letter to Europe
Thu 29 Jan	Strassburger/Hinke, <i>Germans to America</i> [G>A] and other North American port/arrival sources	<i>GRC</i> 112-114, 128-136; Strassburger/Hinke search; G>A search; select European home town for case study
Tue 3 Feb	Tracing Immigrant Ancestors cont.	“Country of Origin” <i>TIA</i>
Thu 5 Feb	European emigration records by province	<i>GRC</i> 90-96, 114-120 sample
Tue 10 Feb	<i>Meyers Orts- und Verkehrslexikon</i> ; introduction to §aktur typeset	<i>GRC</i> 328-334, 307-308, 250, 252 copy Empire Map sector(s) showing your immigrant’s home town
Thu 12 Feb	Provincial gazetteers, maps, border changes	<i>GRC</i> 62, 343-346, Midterm examination (return by 19 Feb at 9 a.m.)
Tue 17 Feb	No Class—Monday schedule	
Thu 19 Feb	Church book inventories; introduction to church records – why, when, where, by whom?	Midterm due; <i>GRC</i> 311-313, 318-322, 339-343 Date church records started (10 parishes from province X)
Tue 24 Feb	Church records: language, content and analysis — Problem #3 in Germanic FHL research	Find sample church record from province X
Thu 26 Feb	Introduction to Latin and French in vital records	<i>GRC</i> 298-306
Tue 2 Mar	Civil records — why, when, where, by whom?	<i>GRC</i> 313-314
Thu 4 Mar	Pedigree analysis and population mobility	Pedigree chart by place
Sat 6 Mar	Family History Library Visit	Meet at 8:00 for carpools

Tue 9 Mar	No Class	Continue ICS
Thu 11 Mar	Calendars, dictionaries, reverse alphabetical indexes	<i>GRC</i> 482-490; Baden "How to Use..." RAI count
Tue 16 Mar	<i>Ortssippenbuch</i> ; census; <i>status animarum</i> ; records in major cities; police and resident registries	<i>GRC</i> 98, 370-375, 322-326
Thu 18 Mar	<i>Ahnenstammkartei</i> , <i>DGB/GLB</i> , nobility & heraldry	<i>GRC</i> 358-361, 555-567 Find European website
Tue 23 Mar	FHR in the internet: Hanacek, <i>Cindi's List</i> , other internet sites	<i>GRC</i> 58-61, 437-448
Thu 25 Mar	FHR societies; major journals in the field	<i>Blumenbaum</i>
Tue 30 Mar	No Class	Continue ICS
Thu 1 Apr	Military records Review	<i>GRC</i> 659-580; Final examination (return by 8 Apr at 9 a.m.) ICS Draft due
Tue 6 Apr	Researching in Germany	<i>RIG</i> 1-3 Cost estimate for research trip
Thu 8 Apr	FH research as a career	Complete ICS
Mon 19 Apr	By 2 p.m. at 210L JSB	Submit ICS April