

**Topic of Guest Professorship:**  
**“Linguistic and Social Perspectives on Germanic Varieties in North America”**  
**Planned Contributions during Guest Professorship of Prof. Dr. Mark Loudon (UW–Madison)**  
**Summer Semester 2026**

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**Master Werbung Interkulturell** (Sebastian Kürschner)

**Selling Pennsylvania Dutch Language and Culture**

<https://kuei.zoom-x.de/j/69256156215>

Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12.30 – 2 pm (5.30 – 7 am CDT)

This talk will explore the ways that Pennsylvania Dutch language and culture have been deployed for commercial purposes, including to sell products and promote tourism. Examples will be shared from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the first examples of written Pennsylvania Dutch emerged, to the present.

**BA Seminar European Languages and Cultures** (Julia Wiedemann)

**Pennsylvania Dutch Language and Literature**

<https://kuei.zoom-x.de/j/69256156215>

Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 12.30 – 2 pm (5.30 – 7 am CDT)

This talk will introduce Pennsylvania Dutch, a German-related language that has been spoken continuously in North America for nearly three hundred years. We will consider how the language has developed away from its European German roots and served as a vehicle for literary expression.

**MA Seminar European Languages and Cultures** (Julia Wiedemann)

**A Linguistic Overview of the History and Present State of Yiddish**

<https://kuei.zoom-x.de/j/69256156215>

Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2.15 – 3.45 pm (7.15 – 8.45 am CDT)

Yiddish is a Germanic language spoken historically by Ashkenazic Jews that also includes structural elements from Semitic, Romance, and Slavic languages. After an overview of the history of the language, we will discuss how Yiddish is used today by both the highly traditional Hasidim and more secular-minded “Yiddishists”.

**Linguistics Colloquium** (miscellaneous faculty in linguistics).

**The Semantic Influence of English on Pennsylvania Dutch**

<https://kuei.zoom-x.de/j/69256156215>

Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 4.15 – 5.45 pm (9.15 – 10.45 am CDT)

A constant over the nearly 300-year history of Pennsylvania Dutch, a German-related heritage language in North America, has been the influence of English due to the bilingualism of its speakers. Scholars have long recognized the lexical influence of English on Pennsylvania Dutch in the form of borrowed vocabulary, however less visible is the semantic imprint of the former language on the latter.

**German in North America** (David Hünlich, Blockseminar)

**1) The Amish and Their Languages**

<https://kuei.zoom-x.de/j/62960603608>

Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2 – 3.30 pm (7– 9.30 am CDT)

The most widely spoken German-related language in North America today is Pennsylvania Dutch, which is the first language of most Amish. This presentation will trace the origins of this language from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present, showing how it has come to be an important symbolic expression of the connection of the Amish to their spiritual heritage. We will also

consider the status of standard German in Amish society, as well the use of other Germanic vernacular languages used by Amish subgroups.

## **2) The Midwestern German Experience (Focus on Wisconsin)**

<https://kuei.zoom-x.de/j/62960603608>

Wednesday, July 22<sup>th</sup>, 2 – 3.30 pm (7– 9.30 am CDT)

For over a century, Wisconsin has had the distinction of being one of the “most German” of US states. This presentation will explore the historic diversity of varieties of German spoken in Wisconsin, with an emphasis on Low German dialects spoken in mostly rural communities across the state.

## **3) German American Dialect Humor**

<https://kuei.zoom-x.de/j/62960603608>

Thursday, July 23<sup>th</sup>, 2 – 3.30 pm (7– 9.30 am CDT)

In the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, stylized and actual forms of German served as a vehicle for humor in both writing, speech, and music. Many expressions of German American humor emphasized the mutual influence of German and English on one another through bilingualism. This presentation will consider the functions of German American dialect humor against the backdrop of multicultural American society.

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