

German Studies

Make a Gift

[Home](#) >

Program Description

Learning German is more than learning a language; it's also the study of a culture and its history. The German Studies program offers a wide range of courses so that the student of German can become proficient in understanding German literature, history, culture, and politics in the context of modern society. At all levels, we encourage a partnership between the study of language and culture.

- [Program Requirements](#)
- [Course Listing](#)
- [German Studies website](#)

Courses are offered at all levels, from beginning to advanced, for majors and non-majors. We encourage all of our students, and require majors, to study abroad in either Berlin or Heidelberg, Germany.

FU-BEST, the Berlin European Studies Program of the Freie Universität, is open to students with no language training in German, as well as to intermediate or advanced speakers. While partaking in a cutting-edge curriculum on European Studies in Germany's cultural and political capital, students live with families who give them personal insights into the cultural diversity of this great city. Advanced language students may choose to study abroad in the Gettysburg College-affiliated American Junior Year immersion program in Heidelberg. There, qualified students can take courses either within the Heidelberg College program or enroll directly in classes at the University of Heidelberg.

A resident German assistant, sponsored through the Fulbright Program, assists students in grammar and arranges various co-curricular activities such as films, Stammtisch, and Kaffeeklatsch. The German Club, German House, and excursions to cultural centers in Washington and Baltimore all foster a close working relationship between students and faculty. The Gettysburg library holds an impressive collection of contemporary literary texts, films, journals, and newspapers, and critical work in German Studies.

Many German Studies majors and minors choose to double major in fields as diverse as Anthropology, Biology, Globalization Studies, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, or Religion, to name just a few. The German Studies Department has a strong record of sending graduating majors and minors as Fulbright Teaching Assistants to Germany and Austria. Recent German Studies graduates are in graduate school for law, public health, German Studies, and student affairs; they pursue careers ranging from teaching to working for the U.S. Government in Washington.

Program Requirements

Goals for the German Studies major and minor are threefold:

- German Studies majors and minors should acquire an understanding of the discipline of German Studies and its conceptual frameworks. They should know how the discipline is positioned in the United States, meaning how it works and what its major organizations and publications are.
- German Studies majors should attain at minimum the language proficiency level defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) as Advanced Mid. German Studies minors should attain at least the ACTFL proficiency level of Advanced Low. Graduating major and minors should develop a fluency and a critical vocabulary to be able to converse, read, and write about German culture and cultural texts in a scholarly way.
- German Studies majors and minors should be familiar with the scope of German cultural history and the major and minor traditions within German-speaking regions in the modern period.

German Studies majors are further required to participate in the CAPSTONE experience, GER 400: Senior Seminar, in which they demonstrate and integrate learned skills in a senior thesis and a public presentation of the thesis.

For students completing their degree May 2015 and later

Requirements

German 202 or equivalent proficiency is considered a prerequisite to all higher-numbered German courses, unless specified otherwise.

Major Requirements:

A major consists of a minimum of eleven courses beyond the elementary language level, including:

- 201: Intermediate German (if relevant)
- 202: Intermediate German (if relevant)
- 240: Introduction to German Studies: Methods and Theories
- 301: Advanced German
- 302: Advanced German
- A minimum of three 300-level courses taught in German above the 302 level
- 400: Senior Seminar
- No more than two courses taught in English, selected from the following list of courses:
 - First-Year Seminars taught by members of the German Department
 - 120: German Literature in Translation
 - 270: Transnational Writing and Film: Gender, Race, and Ethnicity in the New European Context
 - 280: European Cinema
 - 351: The German-Jewish Experience
 - HIST-218: Modern Germany
 - PHIL-208: Kant and the 19th Century
 - PHIL-366: Great Philosophers – Nietzsche

Majors must spend at least one semester studying in an approved program in a German-speaking country.

Majors may count no more than two courses per semester abroad toward the major, or four courses for a year abroad. All majors are required to take at least two German courses in their senior year.

Majors who, by the end of the junior year, have not demonstrated a satisfactory level of competency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening comprehension of German, as determined by the department's staff, will be assigned additional work as necessary and appropriate to the attainment of such competency by the end of the senior year.

Minor Requirements:

A minor consists of a minimum of six courses, including:

- 201: Intermediate German (if relevant)
- 202: Intermediate German (if relevant)
- 301: Advanced German
- 302: Advanced German
- Any 300-level course taught in German above the 302 level.

Students who place into 201 will be permitted to take no more than one course in English that counts toward the minor. Students who place into 301 will be permitted to take two courses in English that count toward the minor. These courses are listed above under the German Major and include GER-240.

For students completing their degree prior to May 2014

Requirements

German 202 or equivalent proficiency is considered a prerequisite to all higher-numbered German courses, unless specified otherwise.

Major Requirements:

A major consists of a minimum of ten courses beyond the intermediate language level, including:

- 301(or 303-304)
- 302 (for students entering in the Fall 2010 or after)
- 305 and 306
- 312 and 400
- at least two courses from those numbered 240, 325, 331, 333, 335, or 340
- one course from History 218, History 218-GC, or German 120.

Majors must spend at least one semester studying in an approved program in a German-speaking country. Majors who take a study abroad program may count no more than three courses per semester or six courses for the year toward the major and must take at least two German courses in their senior year.

Majors who, by the end of the junior year, have not demonstrated a satisfactory level of competency in the reading, writing, speaking, and listening comprehension of German, as determined by the department's staff, will be assigned such additional work as considered necessary and appropriate to the

attainment of such competency by the end of the senior year.

Minor Requirements:

For students beginning at 202 or below, the German minor consists of 202 , 301, and four additional courses. For students beginning at the 301 level, the minor consists of 301 and five additional courses.

Course Listing

Course level:

[100](#) | [200](#) | [300](#) | [400](#)

***GER-101* Elementary German**

Essentials of grammar, composition, pronunciation. Course includes oral and written work, graded elementary reading, and use of audiovisual cultural materials and correlative drill in the language laboratory. Prepares for German 201, 202.

***GER-102* Elementary German**

Essentials of grammar, composition, pronunciation. Course includes oral and written work, graded elementary reading, and use of audiovisual cultural materials and correlative drill in the language laboratory. Prepares for German 201, 202.

***GER-120* German Literature in Translation**

Critical analysis and appreciation of form and content of selected German literary texts from the eighteenth century to the present, together with an examination of the cultural, socio-historical, and political circumstances that produced these works. Conducted in English.

[Back to the top of course listing](#)

***GER-201* Intermediate German**

Continuation of the work of German 101, 102. Progressively more difficult readings introduce the student to German literature and civilization. Course includes use of audiovisual cultural materials and correlative drill in the language laboratory.

***GER-202* Intermediate German**

Continuation of the work of German 101, 102. Progressively more difficult readings introduce the student to German literature and civilization. Course includes use of audiovisual cultural materials and correlative drill in the language laboratory.

GER-240 Introduction to German Studies: Methods and Theories

Examines the concept of German Studies as a branch of Cultural Studies. A critical theory seminar that trains students in the analysis of texts from different disciplines and helps to develop a critical vocabulary for scholarly reflection. Aims to develop an awareness and understanding of the manifold linguistic and cultural contexts that have contributed to the body of theory at our disposal in studying culture, and German culture in particular. Conducted in English. Open to all students, but required for all German majors. As a foundational course, it should be taken as early as possible along the major track.

GER-270 Transnational Writing and Film: Gender, Race, and Ethnicity in the New European Context

Introduction to transnational writing and film in the European context. Applies theoretical writings on transnationalism to the artistic works of transnational writers and filmmakers living primarily in German-speaking lands. Contemplates the cultural aspects of globalization and mass migrations in the European context and examines the roles gender, race, and ethnicity play in transnational identifications. Conducted in English.

GER-280 European Cinema

Introduction to the cinemas of Europe of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Study of well-known movements such as Weimar Expressionism, Italian Neorealism, French Nouvelle Vague, etc. The course challenges the widely accepted binary opposition between European Art Cinema and Hollywood by also considering popular genre cinema. Similarities and differences between national cinemas are studied in their respective historical, cultural, and commercial contexts. Conducted in English. Cross-listed with Film Studies.

[Back to the top of course listing](#)

GER-301 Advanced Stylistics, Composition, and Conversation.

Continuation of the work of German 201, 201. Designed for advanced work in language and intended for students who have successfully completed German 202 or its equivalent. 301, 302 offers the opportunity to increase sophistication of written and spoken German in a variety of contexts. Students work at writing professional letters, creative pieces, editorials, film reviews, etc. Media and popular culture provide insight into contemporary German life. Collaborative learning is encouraged; students read and edit each other's work.

GER-302 Advanced Stylistics, Composition, and Conversation.

Continuation of the work of German 201, 201. Designed for advanced work in language and intended for students who have successfully completed German 202 or its equivalent. 301, 302 offers the opportunity to increase sophistication of written and spoken German in a variety of contexts. Students work at writing professional letters, creative pieces, editorials, film reviews, etc. Media and popular culture provide insight into contemporary German life. Collaborative learning is encouraged; students read and edit each other's work.

GER-305 Germany Today

Study of the cultural, social, economic, and political developments in postwar German from 1949 to the present. Extensive use of critical/analytical readings, memoirs, literature, film, newspapers/magazines, and German television via satellite. Conducted in German, with additional language practice integrated into the course. Recommended as a bridge course between advanced German language and other 300-level courses.

GER-306 Introduction to German Cinema

This course introduces students to the history of German film from its origins in the late nineteenth century to the present. Study of basic film terminology and theory in order to create the vocabulary and conceptual frameworks necessary to discuss the films under consideration. This course explores the film cultures of the Weimar period, the Third Reich, the postwar era in East and West, and post-unification Germany in their respective social, political, and cultural contexts. Conducted in German, with additional language practice integrated into the course. Recommended as a bridge course between advanced German language and other 300-level courses.

GER-312 Cultural History from Hegel to Hitler

Examines issues in German cultural history from the Enlightenment through World War II. An endeavor in interdisciplinary cultural studies, this course examines social, political, philosophical, and artistic traditions for the two centuries under consideration. It engages a variety of documents: manifestos, literary and journalistic texts, paintings, films, scholarly articles, etc. It explores broader social and cultural trends, conflicts, and debates, many of which continue to shape Germany today. Conducted in German.

GER-320 Generational Shifts in Contemporary German Culture

Exploration of different generational perspectives on key events in twentieth-century German history using contemporary cultural texts. Highlighted are first- and second-, sometimes even third generation views on World War Two, the Holocaust, East Germany, the student movement, and migration. The

course offers insight into both the contemporary German cultural landscape as well as ongoing debates on national identity in the post-unification era.

GER-325 German Lit Since 1945

Study of the literature of German-speaking countries from the end of World War II to the present. Course introduces students to authors and genres representing important literary currents and historical developments of the postwar era. Conducted in German. Individualized Study Guided reading or research under the supervision of a faculty member. Prerequisite: Permission of department.

GER-331 The Politics of Memory in German Media

A study of contemporary literary, filmic, and journalistic texts as well as monuments and architecture that represent the German history of the twentieth century. What is remembered? What is forgotten? Analysis aims to understand the processes that form cultural memory and national identity, and the tensions inherent in private memory and public commemoration. Conducted in German.

GER-333 German Intellectual History between Utopia and Catastrophe

This course is designed to familiarize students with intellectual traditions and formations such as German idealism, Marxism, anarchism, psychoanalysis, the Frankfurt School, environmentalism, etc. The main focus lies on how these traditions have informed and shaped larger cultural developments not only within Germany but across the globe. Conducted in German.

GER-335 Redefining German: Gender, Nation, Migration

Critical inquiry into changing notions of Germany, Germanness, and the German language. What does it mean to be German in the twenty-first century? Through close examination of literature, film, and other cultural texts, this course considers current topics such as citizenship, national pride, guest workers, religion, ethnicity, gender, and minority visibility. It addresses the pressing question of multiculturalism versus integration. Conducted in German.

GER-340 Modernity and the Metropolis

Investigation of cities such as Berlin, Vienna, and Prague as sites of early twentieth-century cultural development and contestation that have shaped contemporary notions of urban space in today's globalizing world. Taking the modern city as a point of departure, this seminar examines various media forms popularized within German-speaking metropolitan centers. Topics covered include avant-garde literary and artistic movements; coffeehouse culture; theater and cinema; the role of mass transportation;

and shifting paradigms of gender, work, and economic class. Conducted in German.

GER-351 The German-Jewish Experience

Exploration of the history, literature, and culture of Jews in German-speaking lands. With a focus on topics including emancipation, acculturation, religion, race, women and gender, identity, anti-Semitism, and Zionism, this course also considers the impact of East European Jews and Yiddish on German culture. Texts examined range from memoirs and fiction to film, music, and art. Conducted in English; additional German component available for German majors and minors.

[Back to the top of course listing](#)

GER-400 Senior Seminar

Capstone course for German majors. Intensive study of selected aspects of German culture and civilization. Students begin working with instructor at the end of their Junior year to choose individual senior thesis topics. The course culminates in a written thesis and oral presentation of the thesis to a public assembly. Conducted in German.

GER-450 Individualized Study-Tutorial

Individualized tutorial counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

GER-451 Individualized Study-Tutorial

Individualized tutorial counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U

GER-452 Individualized Study-Tutorial

Individualized tutorial not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

GER-453 Individualized Study-Tutorial

Individualized tutorial not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U

GER-460 Individualized Study-Research

Individualized research counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

GER-461 Individualized Study-Research

Individualized research counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U

GER-462 Individualized Study-Research

Individualized research not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

GER-463 Individualized Study-Research

Individualized research not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor graded S/U

GER-470 Individualized Study-Internship

Internship counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

GER-471 Individualized Study-Intern

Internship counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U

GER-472 Individualized Study-Internship

Internship not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

GER-473 Individualized Study-Internship

Internship not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U

GER-474 Summer Internship

Summer Internship graded A-F, counting in the minimum requirements for a major or minor only with written permission filed in the Registrar's Office.

GER-475 Summer Internship

Summer Internship graded S/U, counting in the minimum requirements for a major or minor only with written permission filed in the Registrar's Office

[Students](#)

[Faculty](#)

[Employees](#)

[Alumni](#)

[Families](#)

[Visitors](#)

[Employment](#)

[Directory](#)

[News](#)

[Calendars & Events](#)

[myGettysburg](#)

[Giving](#)

[About this Site](#)

[Email via the Web](#)

[Moodle](#)

[CNAV](#)

[Student Center](#)

[Library](#)

[Bookstore](#)

[Mobile](#)



[Gettysburg College](#)

[300 North Washington Street](#)

[Gettysburg , Pennsylvania 17325](#)

[717.337.6300](#)

[Back to top](#)