
GERMAN STUDIES

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About the Department

In the age of globalization, the cultural experience of the migrant is defining more and more what it means to be human. This is why the German Studies faculty believes that sustained immersion in a different culture is essential to a modern education, regardless of major. Adjusting to different customs, perspectives, and values *as an individual* within a group of native speakers allows our students to experience the dynamics of social integration from a marginal position, thus enabling them to see their own cultures in a different light.

Language has meaning only in its cultural context. That's why we teach as much about mentalities in our German courses as we do vocabulary and grammar. After four semesters of German, most students qualify for study in Germany and Austria, which, along with Switzerland, are multicultural societies with distinct histories, unique cultures, and different perspectives on immigration and the political process. Although many Germans speak excellent English, and graduate curricula are now taught in English, the American graduate students we interviewed in Germany were unanimous in the opinion that proficiency in German was essential to their success.

Germany is actively recruiting students for graduate programs across the curriculum, especially in STEM disciplines. Germany offers more financial support to foreign students than any other country. German-speaking countries also offer unique job opportunities. In an increasingly international and competitive job market, studies and internships in Germany open the doors to markets in the EU, where Germany is the dominant economic power, and in Russia and China, where Germany has developed a strong presence. Knowing German also gives you unmediated access to the greatest literature humankind has produced. Alumni and alumnae report that their German finds regular application in disciplines such as philosophy, history, art history, international studies, religious studies, and musicology.

In choosing to major or minor in German Studies, you will be joining an elite. Of over one hundred international fellowships and scholarships awarded to Puget Sound students since 2003 (Fulbright, DAAD, Congress-Bundestag Exchanges etc.), German students have won over thirty!

Study Abroad

Regardless of their majors, students are strongly encouraged to participate in approved study abroad programs. Details of these programs may be obtained from department advisors and the Office of International Programs.

Transfer Units and Placement

Students with previous high school language study may enroll in higher-level language courses by estimating that three years of high school concentration are approximately equivalent to one year of college work in foreign languages. Other factors such as study abroad, living with exchange students or foreign parents, and other intensive studies may warrant special consideration on a case-by-case basis.

All transfer students, especially those who have had prolonged periods of time elapse since their last academic coursework, will be evaluated on an individual basis. Their placement will be based on observation in courses at the Tacoma campus.

German coursework completed at other accredited institutions may be accepted toward major or minor requirements subject to the following conditions:

1. Campus Course Requirement: All German Studies majors must take a minimum of four courses taught in German at the Tacoma campus.
2. All minors must take a minimum of three units at the Tacoma campus.

General Requirements for the Major or Minor

General university degree requirements stipulate that 1) at least four units of the major or three units of the minor be taken in residence at Puget Sound; 2) students earn a GPA of 2.0 in courses taken for the major or the minor; and 3) all courses taken for a major or minor must be taken for graded credit. Any exceptions to these stipulations are indicated in the major and minor degree requirements listed below.

Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in German Studies

1. A minimum of eight units to include
 - a. Proficiency in elementary and intermediate German demonstrated by completing GERM 101-102 and GERM 201-202 or by successful completion of higher level German courses.
 - b. At least seven units in German Studies above GERM 102.
 - c. One unit, taught in German at or above GERM 350, to be taken during the senior year.
 - d. No more than two units taught in English (GERM 300-349, CONN 330) may count toward the major.
2. At least one semester in an immersion study abroad program in Germany, Austria, or Switzerland with one year **strongly** recommended (see Note 4 below).
3. A senior paper (see Note 2 below).
4. A senior portfolio (see Note 3 below).

Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in German and East European Culture and History

1. A minimum of ten units to include
 - a. Proficiency in elementary and intermediate German demonstrated by completing GERM 101-102 and GERM 201-202 or by successful completion of higher level.
 - b. HIST 102 or 103
 - c. GERM 350, 360, or 380
 - d. At least four units from GERM 300, 305, 310, 315, 330, 420, 450; CONN 330, 333; HIST 224, 317, 320, 322, 325, 335; P&G 321. Of these four units, during the senior year students must enroll in one GERM upper-level seminar conducted in German; and in one HIST 3xx-level seminar (or CONN 333). At least one unit, but no more than two units, must come from GERM or CONN 330.
2. At least one semester in an immersion study abroad program in Germany, Austria, or Switzerland (with one year strongly recommended), or on a program in an Eastern European country that includes courses in the foreign language at some level (including Elementary).
3. A senior paper (see Note 2 below).
4. A senior portfolio (see Note 3 below).

Requirements for the Minor in German Studies

At least five units to include

1. Proficiency in elementary and intermediate German demonstrated by completing GERM 101-102 and GERM 201-202 or by successful completion of higher level German courses.
2. At least four units in German Studies above GERM 102 to include at least one unit, taught in German, at or above GERM 350.
3. No more than one unit taught in English (GERM 300-349, CONN 330) may count toward the minor.

Notes

1. Students must earn a grade of C (2.0) or above in all courses taken for a major or minor in the German Studies Department.
2. The senior paper is completed during a seminar taken during the senior year.
3. Majors are required to compile a portfolio of their work, submitted to the department by April 1 of their senior year. When students declare their major, they should seek a faculty advisor in the department who will advise them on the creation of their portfolio. The portfolio serves to assess the student's progress in the curriculum and to synthesize the student's total experience as a major.
4. Financial or personal circumstances may preclude a student from studying abroad. A student may petition to waive this requirement or replace it by participation in a nationally recognized total immersion program, such as Middlebury or the *Deutsche Sommerschule am Pazifik*, or successful completion of CONN 330.
5. The German Studies Department does not accept or award credit for distance learning courses.
6. The German Studies Department reserves the right to exclude a course from a major or minor based on the time elapsed since the course was completed.

Course Offerings

Unless otherwise specified, each course carries 1 unit of credit and is offered at least once each academic year. Please see "Frequency of Course Offerings" on page 10.

The proper course sequence of foreign language instruction is Elementary Level 101, 102, Intermediate Level 201, 202. A student who has received a C (2.00) grade or better in any course of this sequence or its equivalent cannot subsequently receive credit for a course which appears before it in the sequence.

Other courses offered by German Studies faculty. See Connections in the Core Curriculum section of this Bulletin for course description.

CONN 330 Finding Germany: Memory, History, and Identity in Berlin

Satisfies the Connections core requirement.

101/102 Elementary German Classroom and laboratory practice to develop basic listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. This course is taught in German. The course sequence of foreign language instruction is Elementary Level 101, 102, Intermediate Level 201, 202. A student who has received a C (2.00) grade or better in any course in this sequence or its equivalent cannot subsequently receive credit for a course which appears before it in the sequence. Proficiency range after German 102: Novice Mid to Novice High (ACTFL); A1 (CEFR); 0/0+ (ILR). *Prerequisite: 101 and 102 are sequential courses; 101 or permission of the instructor required for 102. 101 offered Fall term only; 102 offered Spring term only.*

201/202 Intermediate German Students continue to develop German language skills at the intermediate level, with emphasis on reading authentic texts, building a more sophisticated vocabulary, expanding grammar, honing their speaking and listening skills, and writing strategies that focus on long-term and short-term assignments. Greater emphasis

on cultural competency and acquisition. GERM 201 and 202 prepare students for advanced coursework in German Studies and study abroad in a German-speaking country. These courses are taught in German. The course sequence of foreign language instruction is Elementary Level 101, 102, Intermediate Level 201, 202. A student who has received a C (2.00) grade or better in any course in this sequence or its equivalent cannot subsequently receive credit for a course which appears before it in the sequence. Proficiency range after German 202: Intermediate Mid to Intermediate High (ACTFL); A2-B1 (CEFR); 1/1+ (ILR). *Prerequisite: 201 and 202 are sequential courses: 201 or permission of instructor required for 202. 201 offered Fall only; 202 offered Spring only. GERM 202 satisfies the Humanistic Approaches core requirement.*

299 Experiential Teaching Practicum in German 0.25 activity unit This course is intended for advanced students of German in their junior or senior years who participate in the undergraduate experiential teaching partnership at Washington Elementary School in Tacoma. *Pass/fail grading. Prerequisite: German major or minor with junior or senior standing.*

Courses taught in English (GERM 300-349)

300 German Cinema of the Weimar Republic and under National Socialism, 1919-1945 The focus is to document, in what is sometimes referred to as self-conscious art cinema of the eras of the Weimar Republic (1919-1933) and National Socialism (1933-1945), the prevalence of aestheticized violence that seems inevitably to stem from extreme imbalances of power between individuals or groups in a society in crisis. Course taught in English. *Satisfies the Artistic Approaches core requirement. Satisfies the Knowledge, Identity, and Power graduation requirement. Prerequisite: German 101 or concurrent enrollment in German 101. Offered every other year.*

305 Culture in the Third Reich Was National Socialism the incarnation of evil in the modern world? How could twelve years of Nazi control in Germany alter world history? Did its culture consist only of propaganda and party rallies? Why did the Nazi leadership consider art and culture so central to its political goals? In the past 25 years scholars have taken a serious look at Nazi culture and revealed a much more complex set of factors at work in all areas of cultural life. This interdisciplinary course introduces students to the often contradictory but fascinating historical, social, and economic conditions that led to cultural shifts when the Nazis came to power in 1933 and then examines how Nazi policies simultaneously and systematically influenced all aspects of life in Nazi Germany (*Gleichschaltung*). Students consider both the 'lowbrow' culture and everyday life as well as the more traditional and sophisticated domains of 'high' culture. Topics include: religion, youth education, the 'camp system,' Fascism, environmentalism, racial theories, disability and discrimination, propaganda and entertainment films, music and theatre, art and architecture, gender roles and family, and consumer culture. Course taught in English. *Offered every other year. Satisfies the Artistic Approaches core requirement. Satisfies the Knowledge, Identity, and Power graduation requirement.*

310 WWI in Literature and the Other Arts, 1908-1938 This course explores the words, actions, thoughts and feelings of the individual amidst the catastrophe of war. The course treats a wide variety of materials that relate to WWI, including lyric poetry, novels, memoirs, visual art, film, and deliberative and commemorative oratory. Students explore the ways in which various rhetorical and narrative treatments of soldiers and of war offer us understandings of the subjective experiences and ethical choices of ordinary and extraordinary people under extreme stress and facing horrendous challenges. The course also intends to consider no-

tions of the individual, the community, and civilization (with all that word implies), against the backdrop of the chaotic action of war and combat. Course taught in English. *Offered every other year. Satisfies the Artistic Approaches core requirement.*

315 Talking about the Weather: Subversion, Counter-Culture, and Resistance This course considers a wide variety of materials from film, literature, theoretical texts, and the Internet in order to examine the influence of protest, revolt, and the power of resistance on post-war German society from the 1960s to the present. Major themes and questions from this course include: To what extent is the “spirit of the sixties” still alive and to what end? What are the legacies, and perhaps myths, that coalesce around such movements in the contemporary imagination? How does this triumvirate continue to shape Germany today? Course taught in English. *Offered every other year.*

Mid-level courses taught in German (GERM 350-399)

Proficiency range: Intermediate Mid to Advanced Low (ACTFL); A2-B2 (CEFR); 1-2 (ILR).

350 From Rubble to New Reality: German Cinema after World War Two This course surveys the history and development of German cinema after 1945, including canonical works by Staudte, Schloendorff, Wenders, Kluge, and Fassbinder. We begin in the immediate post-WWII era and continue through contemporary films, examining major trends of German cinematography during four major periods: the *Truemmerfilm*, the New German Cinema of the Federal Republic, DEFA films in the GDR, and the cinematic trends after German reunification. In order to come to a better understanding of how one can define German cinema, our focus will be on both thematic and formal aspects. Class discussions will focus on questions such as: What is the relationship between a specific film and its historical-cultural context? Is this relationship overt or hidden? What does (or did) a German audience see in the film? How can we analyze and interpret these films from today’s standpoint? German films might reflect on German issues, but is there a distinct German film language/style and what position do these films occupy within world cinema? What are the theoretical and formal concerns of German filmmakers? The course will also question and challenge the notion that something like a German national cinema exists at all. *Prerequisite: GERM 202 or instructor permission. Offered every other year.*

360 German Cultural History and Politics No one can hope to comprehend the challenges Germany faces today without confronting the triumphs and tragedies of the German past. Questions of sovereignty and individual freedom, as argued by bloggers and in the press, acquire supreme significance when viewed in light of Germany under Bismarck, the failure of the Weimar Republic, the nightmare of National Socialism, forty years of division, the Pandora’s box of unification, and Germany’s crucial role in the European Union. Students study the evolution of the German political system even as they develop the basic vocabulary of history and politics. *Prerequisite: GERM 202 or instructor permission. Offered every three years.*

370 Fables, Fairy Tales, and Parables The focus of this course is on didactic literature: fables, fairy tales—many of which serve both to teach and to entertain (*docet et delectat*, the Latin dictum)—and the modern-day parables of authors such as Franz Kafka. *Prerequisite: GERM 202 or instructor permission.*

365 Images of the GDR in Literature and Film since the Fall of the Wall Thirty years ago, on November 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall opened. Less than a year later East and West Germany were politically and economically united, and the German Democratic Republic officially ceased to exist. Yet scholars, journalists, writers and filmmakers have continued

explore the 40 years of divided Germany, including tensions that continued after unification. This seminar explores some of the many literary and cinematic representations of the East both as a place many are glad to have left behind as well as a place of longing for others. The course begins with a brief discussion of the history the GDR, the “Wende,” or time of transition leading up to the fall of the fall, and German unification. Among other questions, the course considers these questions: What aspects of the GDR past are thematized in texts? Which aspects are glorified or denigrated? Which aspects are remembered wistfully and which angrily? How do western and eastern authors/filmmakers differ in their treatment of the GDR past? What do these differences suggest about unification and the future of Germany? Class will be conducted in German in a supportive environment. All assignments will be written or presented in German. *Prerequisite: GERM 201 or permission of the instructor.*

380 Green Germany: Nature and Environment in German Culture Being green is not a new trend for Germans. In fact, Germany has consistently led the way, not only within Europe but also throughout the world, in how to be environmentally friendly and natural resource conscious. Germany is (and has been) a world leader in solar and wind technologies and boasts one of the smallest carbon footprints of any industrialized major economy in the world. Why are Germans so green? What is Germany’s position on today’s major debates surrounding global warming, climate change, conservation, urban planning, public transportation, sustainable agriculture, and environmental protection? How do Germans see themselves vis-à-vis nature as represented in the arts? In this course students explore these and other questions related to nature and the environment from a German perspective, from the mid-eighteenth century through today. The course introduces students to a wide variety of subject matter and topics in literature, film, news items/current events, science, art, politics, language, and contemporary consumerism. The course also highlights the university city of Freiburg in Baden-Wuerttemberg, often called Germany’s greenest city, as a special case study. *Prerequisite: GERM 202 or instructor permission. Offered every three years.*

Advanced seminars taught in German

Proficiency range: Intermediate High to Advanced Medium (ACTFL); B1-B2 (CEFR); 1+-2+ (ILR)

405 Novellas of the 19th and early 20th Centuries The history, theory, and development of the literary genre *Novelle*, featuring some of the more bizarre and fascinating works of the greatest German authors. Emphasis upon the function and limits of genre in literary analysis. *Prerequisite: One mid-level German course (GERM 350-399) or instructor permission. Offered every other year.*

415 Theory and Practice of German Drama This course exposes students to representative German-language dramatic works, with the intention of staging a public performance at the end of the semester. Additional shorter texts on dramatic theory and visual and/or videos will supplement course materials. As a practical component to the course, we will also conduct technical acting exercises and in-class readings of the dramatic texts. Emphasis will be on closely reading texts, on discussing them in German, and providing opportunities to systematically advance and improve articulation of spoken German. Students participate in all facets of theatrical production, from character development, acting and performing, directing, requisitions and props, and promoting our play. *Prerequisite: One mid-level German course (GERM 350-399) or instructor permission. Offered every three years.*

420 Nobel-Prize-Winning Authors Students read a selection of works

by German, Austrian, Swiss, and Romanian Nobel-prize-winning authors, including Gerhart Hauptmann, Thomas Mann, Hermann Hesse, Nelly Sachs, Heinrich Böll, Günter Grass, Elfriede Jelinek, and Herta Müller. *Prerequisite: One mid-level German course (GERM 350-399) or instructor permission. Offered every three years.*

450 Contemporary Voices in German Literature and Film since

1989 This seminar seeks to interrogate assumptions about contemporary German and American culture and examine how one can better define what German and 'Germanness' means today (if at all possible) from the perspective of the outsider, the foreigner, and the other. What do the words '*Heimat*' and 'Nation' mean to Germans today and why have these notions remained so fluid – even undefinable – in the German context? In this course, students engage with various literary texts, film, news items, and other media from Germany after reunification (1989/90). The course begins by touching on current events and debates surrounding the nation-state, immigrants, and multiculturalism in Germany's increasingly evolving social and political landscape in the twenty-first century. Then it explores these questions and topics in several units, focusing on the following themes: Germany's ever-changing capital Berlin and its role within the European and German cultural landscape; perspectives on contemporary Germany and the problems of identity, assimilation, and integration into the *Leitkultur*/dominant culture from German-Jewish, German-Turkish, and Afro-German writers, artists, and their communities; the on-going reassessment of life in the former German Democratic Republic and the phenomenon of so-called '*Ostalgie*'; and finally, Germany's legacy of and continued struggle with fascism. *Prerequisite: One mid-level German course (GERM 350-399) or instructor permission. Offered every three years.*

470 Writing with Light: Literature and Photography From the very beginning of its history, photography has served as a device to reflect on and about representation. In this seminar students explore the many interrelations between literature and photography specifically in the German context as they are represented in genres of fiction, illustrated texts, autobiography, photo books, and others. Students will read and discuss selected texts, photo narratives, and combinations of photos and texts, as well as the supposed affinities and analogies between story-telling and photographic images. The course highlights theoretical texts about photography and its inclusion (or intrusion) into the literary discourse, including a short history of the medium. *Prerequisite: One mid-level German course (GERM 350-399) or instructor permission. Offered every three years.*

480 Seminar in German Literature Synthesis of various aspects of literary studies. Since content changes, this course may be repeated for credit. This course is taught in German. *Prerequisite: One mid-level German course (GERM 350-399) or instructor permission. Offered occasionally.*

495/496 Independent Study Independent study is available to students who wish to continue their study of German after completing the regularly offered courses in the department.