

Individualized Major in German Studies

The Individualized major in German studies combines study of the German language through at least the intermediate level with further studies in language, literature, film, history, and culture. Although not required, study abroad in a German-speaking country is strongly recommended. Classes taken while studying abroad may be used to satisfy major requirements.

Core Classes

GCS150: Introduction to Global Cultural Studies

GERM 132 Elementary German II

GERM 231 Intermediate German I

GERM 232 Intermediate German II

GERM 496W Senior Thesis

Electives:

Sixteen additional credits in German language, history, or culture, of which at least eight must be at the 300 level or above

Current options include:

GERM 241 German Cinema and Visual Culture

GERM 331W German Composition and Discussion

GERM 333 Contemporary German Culture

GERM 340 Introduction to German Literature

GERM 432 Media in Context: Literature, Film and Art

GERM 433 Modernism in Vienna and Berlin

HIST 390W Germany from Bismarck to Hitler

HIST 391 Germany Since 1945

Additional special topics courses may be added to the college's offerings from time to time. Students may also, with advance permission, gain major credit for courses taken at other colleges and universities, including through the NW5C consortial exchange.

Student Learning Outcomes for the German Studies Major

1. Language Proficiency

- Students will be able to initiate, maintain, and close a general conversation in German. [speaking]
- Students will be able to understand written examples of a variety of texts that treat familiar and unfamiliar topics and situations. [reading]
- Students will be able to understand main ideas and details of discourse that they hear. [listening]
- Students will be able to write informal and formal texts about familiar topics using simple discourse. [writing]
- Students will be able to describe the grammar they are using, reading, or listening to. [analyzing]

2. Knowledge of Cultural Contexts

- Students will be able to appreciate the stylistic features that distinguish texts (from non-fiction and from the literary, visual, and performance arts).
- Students will be able to comment on the place of texts and genres within the cultural tradition.
- Students will be familiar with great works in the cultural tradition.
- Students will be able to discuss historical developments and periods in these cultures.

3. Senior Project

- Students will have such familiarity with research methods that they can produce scholarly writings that draw on texts or other resources in German and in English.
- Students will demonstrate their ability to read those texts/resources critically.
- Students will demonstrate their ability to synthesize shared and opposing views.
- Students will demonstrate their ability to present their research findings effectively in a public setting.