

GERMAN STUDIES

Faculty

Associate Professors: Bastian Heinsohn, Rebekah Slodounik (Director)

German studies provides an integrated and interdisciplinary approach to the study of German language, the analysis of artifacts of German culture – literature, art, music, film, etc. – and the use of German for special purposes, for example, in a business setting.

Coursework in the discipline combines the achievement of greater language proficiency in the areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening with a knowledge of German culture and methods of critical interpretation. There have been major thinkers in almost every field, from physics to philosophy, economics and psychology, who were German speakers. In the 21st century, Germany contributes significantly to political, cultural and economic developments in Europe. German studies also furthers critical thinking skills while fostering cross-cultural understanding and cultural humility.

The German studies program has as its goal that all majors achieve an intermediate-high to advanced-low proficiency in the areas of linguistic and cultural knowledge. German majors can communicate in everyday life in a German-speaking country and can understand and articulate positions on social, literary or cultural topics with a reasonable amount of linguistic accuracy. As students progress through the major, they learn various theoretical approaches to the interpretation of cultural artifacts and progress in their German language skills to acquire the vocabulary and syntax necessary to express more complicated ideas and concepts. In general, students' comprehension skills, reading and listening, are further developed than their production skills, speaking and writing, when finishing the major. Additional aspects inherent to this goal include increasing students' understanding of the way in which cultural artifacts (literature, film, theatre, music, art, advertising, etc.) are embedded in a historical context that determines gender, class and race relations within the target culture(s). Simultaneously, comparisons and contrasts are made in regard to the learners' own cultural background(s) in order to foster cross-cultural understanding.

All German majors will work on developing their skills in writing by taking one writing-intensive (W2) course: GRMN 204 Introduction to German Studies. In addition, every course in the major will include a variety of writing assignments, response papers, arguments in regard to a specific question, and/or research papers. In every course a student completes as part of the major, students will give at least one oral presentation (either individually or in a group). All of the courses that count toward the major are discussion-oriented so students get plenty of opportunities to develop their abilities to articulate their interpretation of the material at hand, to ask questions of others, and to respond to questions. The oral and written work will require students to consult online German resources, scholarly journals and other print materials. In GRMN 204 Introduction to German Studies, students will receive discipline-specific instruction on how to locate, evaluate and use scholarly information in the interdisciplinary field of German. These skills will be reviewed and refined in other 200-level and 300-level courses.

A major in German pairs well with students who are studying engineering or business. In combination with other majors in the College of Arts & Sciences, such as economics, neuroscience, and international relations, a German major can prepare one for a career in international business, law or in the foreign service. A major in German may provide the basis for graduate work within the field. Moreover, German is considered a useful second language in many disciplines in the humanities, such as philosophy and art history.

Major in German

The **major** in German consists of the equivalent of seven full-credit courses at the GRMN 104 level and above plus one .25-credit Culminating Experience course.

Conversation and Composition

GRMN 104	Communicating in Context	1
GRMN 104R	Recitation for GRMN 104	0

Introduction to German Studies

GRMN 204	Introduction to German Studies	1
GRMN 204R	Introduction to German Studies Recitation	0

German Cultural Issues

Select at least two of the following:		1
GRMN 276	German Jewish Identities	1
GRMN 278	Sports in German Culture	1
GRMN 251	Achtung Kamera	1
GRMN 269	Germany in Film and Television	1
GRMN 270	The Bourgeois Era: 19th-century Germany	1
GRMN 271	Princesses, Devils, Witches: Fairy tales in a German Context	1
GRMN 272	Modern German Culture 1945-1990	1
GRMN 273	Germany Today	1
GRMN 274	Holocaust Literature	1

GRMN 275	Transnational Culture in Germany	1
GRMN 277	Memory and Memorials in a German Context	1
GRMN 295	Topics in German Studies	1
German Cultural Issues (advanced 300 level)		
Select two of the following:		
GRMN 390	Independent Projects in German Studies	.5-1
GRMN 391	Culture of the Weimar Republic	1
GRMN 393	Advanced Seminar in Selected Cultural Topics	1
Culminating Experience		.25
Courses not applicable to the major:		
GRMN 201	Advanced Conversational German (Fall semester)	.5
GRMN 202	Advanced Conversational German (Spring semester)	.5

The Culminating Experience in German studies can be fulfilled by either:

- writing an honors thesis in German studies, or
- enrolling in a .25 course in their senior year that results in a presentation at the annual German studies mini-conference.

German majors are strongly urged to participate in a study abroad program approved by Bucknell's German studies program. The benefits of such a total immersion experience in attaining linguistic and cultural proficiency cannot be overemphasized. Many abroad programs also offer internship experiences. Students interested in study abroad should consult the faculty of the German studies program at the earliest possible date.

All majors who meet the requirements set by the Honors Council and who wish to earn honors in German are encouraged to do so. Students interested in writing an honors thesis should contact a German faculty member early in the second semester of their junior year to discuss the process and to define a topic.

German majors and minors should supplement their study of German with work in other languages, European history, art history, music, philosophy, or work in European political science and economics.

Students planning to teach German at the secondary level should consult with the German studies program and Bucknell's Department of Education as soon as possible.

Minor in German

German Minor

The **minor** in German consists of the equivalent of five full-credit courses at the GRMN 101 level or above. There are no other specific course requirements for the minor. Students interested in minoring in German should consult a German studies program faculty member for the appropriate sequencing of courses.

Courses that may count toward the minor in addition to any of the other GRMN courses:

GRMN 201	Advanced Conversational German	.5
GRMN 202	Advanced Conversational German	.5

German minors also are strongly encouraged to participate in an approved study abroad program.

Majors in German Studies will be able to:

1. Speak, read, write and understand German at an "Advanced-Low" level as defined by the proficiency criteria of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages ("ACTFL guidelines"). [University Educational Goals: 3, 7, 9]
2. Demonstrate familiarity with cultural artifacts produced in German-speaking countries from the 18th to the 21st century. [University Educational Goals: 3, 4, 5, 9]
3. Demonstrate the ability to adapt to a living/learning/work situation in a German-speaking country. [University Educational Goals: 2, 3, 4, 5, 9]
4. Demonstrate competency in written and oral communication through the production of analytical texts and presentations supported by structured arguments that demonstrate knowledge of the historical context and use appropriate forms of textual, cultural and visual analysis and evidence. Such texts and oral presentations will respect disciplinary norms for evidence and citation. [University Educational Goals: 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9]
5. Demonstrate the ability to synthesize learning from within and outside German studies in order to develop a global view of the discipline and how the knowledge and skills it promotes can be applied beyond Bucknell. [University Educational Goals: 2, 3, 6, 9]

Minors in German Studies who begin in GRMN 101 will be able to:

1. Speak, read, write and understand German at an intermediate-mid level according to ACTFL guidelines. [University Educational Goals: 3, 7, 9]

Minors in German Studies who begin in GRMN 103 will be able to:

1. Speak, read, write, and understand German at an intermediate-high level according to ACTFL guidelines. [University Educational Goals: 3, 7, 9]

Numbers in parentheses reflect related Educational Goals of Bucknell University.

Courses

GRMN 101. German in Everyday Life - elementary level I. 1 Credit.

Offered Fall Semester Only; Lecture hours:3,Recitation:1

Beginning language skills. Practice in listening, speaking, reading, and writing; elementary grammar; and introduction to German culture.

GRMN 102. German in Everyday Life - elementary level II. 1 Credit.

Offered Spring Semester Only; Lecture hours:3,Recitation:1

Continuation of language skills. Practice in listening, speaking, reading, and writing; grammar; reading in culture and literature. Prerequisite: GRMN 101 or equivalent.

GRMN 103. Building Proficiency in German. 1 Credit.

Offered Fall Semester Only; Lecture hours:3,Recitation:1

A continuation and review of basic grammar, emphasizing all four language skills and culture. Prerequisite: GRMN 102 or equivalent.

GRMN 104. Communicating in Context. 1 Credit.

Offered Spring Semester Only; Lecture hours:3,Recitation:1

Review of basic grammar, emphasizing all four language skills and culture. Prerequisite: GRMN 103 or equivalent.

GRMN 201. Advanced Conversational German. .5 Credits.

Offered Fall Semester Only; Lecture hours:2; Repeatable

Concentration on development of speaking skills. Conducted in German. Intended for students enrolled in GRMN 104 or above. Prerequisite: GRMN 103 or equivalent.

GRMN 202. Advanced Conversational German. .5 Credits.

Offered Spring Semester Only; Lecture hours:2; Repeatable

Concentration on development of speaking skills. Conducted in German. Intended for students enrolled in GRMN 104 or above. Prerequisite: GRMN 103 or equivalent.

GRMN 204. Introduction to German Studies. 1 Credit.

Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3,Recitation:1

This course introduces students to the multifaceted, interdisciplinary world of German Studies. Essay writing and conversation practice. Prerequisite: GRMN 104 or equivalent.

GRMN 241. Germans and the World: Colonization, Emigration, Exile. 1 Credit.

Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3

Focuses on recorded experiences of German-language writers, poets, playwrights and filmmakers outside geographical boundaries of German states from 18th-21st C. Introduces concepts of cross-cultural exchange, linguistic assimilation, artistic synthesis and critical analysis of the writer's new cultural and linguistic context and the critical lens that is turned back on Germany. Crosslisted as HUMN 241.

GRMN 251. Achtung Kamera. 1 Credit.

Offered Fall Semester Only; Lecture hours:3,Other:2

This course is an introduction to German film studies. It provides a survey of German films from the beginning until today. Prerequisite: GRMN 204.

GRMN 269. Germany in Film and Television. 1 Credit.

Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3

This course explores German cinema and television from its beginnings to today and examines how feature films and television series and shows reflect the socio-cultural and political developments in Germany in the 20th and 21st century. Taught in German.

GRMN 270. The Bourgeois Era: 19th-century Germany. 1 Credit.

Offered Alternating Spring Semester; Lecture hours:3

An overview of German society from Romanticism to World War I from a cultural-historical perspective.

GRMN 271. Princesses, Devils, Witches: Fairy tales in a German Context. 1 Credit.

Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3

Analysis of the genre of fairy tales in German culture with an emphasis on the Brothers Grimm and their adaptations of an oral folklore tradition, beginning in the nineteenth century into the twenty-first. In German. Prerequisites: GRMN 204 or equivalent.

GRMN 272. Modern German Culture 1945-1990. 1 Credit.

Offered Alternating Spring Semester; Lecture hours:3

An overview of cultural, social, economic, and political issues in the two Germanys. In German. Prerequisite: GRMN 204 or equivalent.

GRMN 273. Germany Today. 1 Credit.

Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3

Exploration of the cultural world of Germany since unification including literature, art, film, music. In German. Prerequisite: GRMN 204 or equivalent.

GRMN 274. Holocaust Literature. 1 Credit.

Lecture hours:3

Exploration of literary responses to the Holocaust, ranging from memoirs published immediately after the Holocaust to texts written in the twenty-first century. In English. No prerequisites. Open to first-years, sophomores, juniors and seniors.

GRMN 275. Transnational Culture in Germany. 1 Credit.

Lecture hours:3

Exploration of the periods of migration to Germany in a broader social, political and historical context, with an emphasis on migration in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. In German. Prerequisite: GRMN 204.

GRMN 276. German Jewish Identities. 1 Credit.

Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3

Exploration of German Jewish literature and culture from the early twentieth-century to contemporary Jewish life in Germany today. Taught in English or German. If in English, no prerequisites. If in German, prerequisite GRMN 204 or equivalent.

GRMN 277. Memory and Memorials in a German Context. 1 Credit.

Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3

Exploration of the processes of memory and memorialization in German culture, with an emphasis on the twentieth and twenty-first century. In English or German. If English, no prerequisites. If German, prerequisites GRMN 204 or equivalent.

GRMN 278. Sports in German Culture. 1 Credit.

Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3

This course examines the role of sports in German culture in the twentieth and twenty-first century. In German. Prerequisites GRMN 204 or equivalent.

GRMN 279. Never Again?: Antisemitism. 1 Credit.

Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3

This course explores antisemitism, yesterday and today, through a variety of texts and provides students with the opportunity to learn about the history of antisemitism in order to become more informed and critically aware of current instances of antisemitism. In English. Crosslisted as HUMN 279.

GRMN 280. New German Cinema. 1 Credit.

Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3

This course examines the influential film movement that took place in Germany from the 1960s to the 1980s. A new generation of filmmakers confronted the legacy of fascism and addressed taboo topics surrounding guilt and the trauma of violence in new visual language. The movement helped shape a new self-aware German identity through its films. Crosslisted as ENFS 232.

GRMN 295. Topics in German Studies. 1 Credit.

Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3; Repeatable

Study of topics in German culture or literature at an intermediate level. Prerequisite: GRMN 204 or concurrent enrollment.

GRMN 320. German Architectural Ideas. 1 Credit.

Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3

This course will expose students to a range of design principles and debates about urban planning as they have shaped communities and life in German-speaking areas outside the USA from the eighteenth to twenty-first centuries.

GRMN 390. Independent Projects in German Studies. .5-1 Credits.

Offered Both Fall and Spring; Lecture hours:Varies; Repeatable

Subject to be selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

GRMN 391. Culture of the Weimar Republic. 1 Credit.

Offered Occasionally; Lecture hours:3

A study of the history, economy, politics, and culture of the Weimar Republic. In German. Prerequisite: GRMN 270 or GRMN 272 or GRMN 273 or equivalent.

GRMN 393. Advanced Seminar in Selected Cultural Topics. 1 Credit.

Offered Alternate Fall and Spring; Lecture hours:3; Repeatable

The course will deal with selected topics in German culture on an advanced level. In German. Prerequisites: GRMN 270 or GRMN 272 or GRMN 273 or equivalent and permission of the instructor.

GRMN 395. Topics in German Studies. 1 Credit.

Offered Either Fall or Spring; Lecture hours:3; Repeatable

Study of topics in German culture or literature at an advanced intermediate level.

GRMN 419. Culminating Experience. .25 Credits.**Offered Both Fall and Spring; Lecture hours:Varies**

Independent study with a faculty member to prepare an oral presentation for annual German Studies Mini-Conference. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.