

Germanic Languages and Literatures

The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures offers a comprehensive program in the language, literature and culture — past and present — of Germany and German-speaking countries. Our faculty pursue a multiplicity of approaches in their research and offer seminars (<https://german.wustl.edu/recent-seminars/>) that provide a healthy balance of theory and the history of German literature and culture. The department offers numerous opportunities for interdisciplinary study (<https://german.wustl.edu/interdisciplinary-certificates/>), including a one-of-a-kind joint PhD program with Comparative Literature (<http://bulletin.wustl.edu/grad/artsci/comparativeliterature/>) and an innovative certificate program that gives students the option of developing an expertise in one of seven associated fields.

Both faculty and students teach and do research in a wide range of related disciplines, including art history; comparative literature; digital humanities; European studies; film and media studies; higher education administration; Jewish studies; Medieval and Renaissance studies; religious studies; and women, gender, and sexuality studies.

We consider international exchange to be a crucial component of graduate education. We have a long-standing relationship with the University of Cologne that brings students to St. Louis to study and teach alongside the PhD students in our program, and our PhD students often pursue research at universities throughout the German-speaking world. Exchange is further facilitated by the Max Kade Center (<http://german.wustl.edu/max-kade-center/>), which, in addition to numerous other activities, plays host each spring to a writer- and a critic-in-residence.

Departmental faculty are known across campus and across the discipline for their close mentoring of graduate students, who are integrated into the department through their participation in numerous activities, from the graduate student symposium and the department's biennial international symposium (<https://german.wustl.edu/biennial-symposium/>) to outreach programs like German Day. We also give close attention to instructor development through our unique pedagogy internships, through recurring workshops, and through a classroom mentoring program that ensures that all assistants in instruction receive feedback and advice from a large number of faculty members. Graduate students have the opportunity to teach in our undergraduate German program at all levels, in both German and English, and many also have a chance to teach courses or sections in other programs.

The combination of our extremely competitive funding packages and the low cost of living in St. Louis ensures that students have the resources they need to stay focused on their academic work. As a consequence, our graduate students not only produce first-rate dissertations (<https://german.wustl.edu/recent-dissertations/>), they also go on to accept positions at top universities and liberal arts colleges across the country.

Their success is facilitated by the outstanding research collections available at the Washington University library (<http://library.wustl.edu/>), including the Mike Lützel Contemporary German Literature Collection (<https://libguides.wustl.edu/contemporarygermanliteraturecollection/>) and the Suhrkamp/Insel Collection (<http://libguides.wustl.edu/c.php?g=47129&p=302734>). Other resources include the Gontard Collection (18th to 20th centuries) in the Rare Book Collection of Olin Library, the internationally famous Reformation Collection at Concordia Seminary, and the Vatican Manuscript Collection at Saint Louis University. In addition, the Saint Louis Art Museum (<http://www.slam.org/>) and the Washington University Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum (<http://kemperartmuseum.wustl.edu/>) have extensive holdings in German expressionist and contemporary art.

For questions about the graduate application process, please visit the Graduate Admissions page (<https://german.wustl.edu/graduate-application-and-admissions/>) of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures website.

Phone: 314-935-4276
Email: german@wustl.edu
Website: <http://german.wustl.edu/graduate>

Faculty

Chair

Lynne Tatlock (<https://german.wustl.edu/people/lynne-tatlock/>)
Hortense and Tobias Lewin Distinguished Professor in the Humanities
Director, Comparative Literature
PhD, Indiana University
17th-, 19th- and 20th-century novel and book history; gender; nationalism; translation

Endowed Professor

Gerhild Williams (<https://german.wustl.edu/people/gerhild-williams/>)
Barbara Schaps Thomas and David M. Thomas Professor in the Humanities
PhD in Comparative Literature, University of Washington
Early modern German and French literature and culture; demonology; Ottoman Eurasia

Professors

Matt Erlin (<https://german.wustl.edu/people/matt-erlin/>)
Professor of German
PhD, University of California, Berkeley
18th- and 19th-century German literature; intellectual history; digital humanities; material culture

Erin McGlothlin (<https://german.wustl.edu/people/erin-mcglathlin-0/>)
Vice Dean of Undergraduate Affairs
PhD, University of Virginia
Contemporary literature; Holocaust studies; Jewish studies; narrative theory

Associate Professor

Caroline Kita (<https://german.wustl.edu/people/caroline-kita/>)
PhD, Duke University
Austrian literature; Jewish studies; music and sound studies; theater

Assistant Professors

Aylin Bademsoy (<https://german.wustl.edu/people/aylin-bademsoy/>)
PhD, University of California, Davis

André Fischer (<https://german.wustl.edu/people/andre-fischer/>)
PhD, Stanford University
20th- and 21st-century German literature; German cinema; myth-making; aesthetics and politics

Sarah Koellner (<https://german.wustl.edu/people/sarah-koellner/>)
PhD, Vanderbilt University

Lecturers

Carol Jenkins (<https://german.wustl.edu/people/carol-jenkins/>)
PhD, Washington University in St. Louis
The history of reception; Weimar, Germany; literature and society; foreign language pedagogy

Katherine Kerschen (<https://german.wustl.edu/people/katherine-kerschen/>)
PhD, Penn State University
Second language acquisition; vocabulary learning; psycholinguistics; foreign language pedagogy; inclusive teaching practices

Professors Emeriti

Paul Michael Lützel (<https://german.wustl.edu/people/paul-michael-lutzel/>)
Rosa May Distinguished University Professor in the Humanities
PhD, Indiana University
Contemporary and exile literature; Romanticism; literary discourses on Europe

James Fitzgerald Poag (<https://german.wustl.edu/people/james-fitzgerald-poag/>)
PhD, University of Illinois
Early and high Middle Ages; history of the German language; medieval Bible exegesis; medieval law and literature; medieval romance; middle high German; mysticism

Degree Requirements

Master of Arts (AM) in German and Higher Education Administration

The AM in German and Higher Education Administration (HEA) offers qualified students with a strong background in German the opportunity to combine advanced study of German language, literature and culture with courses in higher education administration. In its fusion of discipline-specific postgraduate study with practical career-oriented preparation in a rapidly growing area of higher education, the program enables students to develop new career paths while further expanding their knowledge of German language, literature and culture.

Program Requirements

The AM requires 24 graduate-level course units in German language and culture and at least 12 units of higher education administration and other relevant courses in psychological and brain sciences, statistics, education, business, social work, nonprofit management and other disciplines. Courses will be supplemented by internships with academic and administrative units on the Washington University campus and with other higher education institutions in North America or the German-speaking world. During the final semester of courses, students complete a capstone project.

Suggested Sequence of Courses

(actual course progression may follow a different schedule)

Fall semester, 1st year:

- Two graduate-level German courses (6 units)
- One course in higher education administration or related areas (3 units)

Spring semester, 1st year:

- Two graduate-level German courses (6 units)
- One course in higher education administration or related areas (3 units)
- Internship

Fall semester, 2nd year:

- Two graduate-level German courses (6 units)
- One course in higher education administration or related areas (3 units)
- Internship

Spring semester, 2nd year:

- Two graduate-level German courses (6 units)
- Capstone project (3 units)
- Internship

Higher Education Administration Electives

These electives must be chosen from an approved list of courses in psychological and brain sciences, statistics, education, business, social work, nonprofit management and other disciplines. At least one of the chosen electives must focus on management/leadership, financial management or legal issues in the field.

Semester Internships

Students in the program intern in various units on campus, which results in a total of three Washington University internship experiences over the course of the degree. These internships in units such as Student Affairs, Residential Life, Admissions, and the College of Arts & Sciences entail approximately 10 to 15 hours of mentored engagement per week.

Capstone Project

During their last semester, each student produces an individual project (e.g., a research paper, a proposed initiative or program) under the guidance of a faculty member. Although this project does not have the same length or scope as a traditional AM thesis, it is considered a significant and meaningful capstone experience.

PhD in Germanic Languages & Literatures

A summary of program requirements is provided below.

German students who are interested in our exchange programs should send an email to german@wustl.edu for more information.

Course Work

The PhD requires 51 units of courses (including 36 AM credits) that are home-based in German. Students who complete interdisciplinary graduate certificates will be required to enroll in additional units as specified by the certificate-granting department or program. Students may not exceed 72 units of course credit.

These rules regarding required courses taken at Washington University apply to students joining the department with a bachelor's degree. Students entering with a master's degree may already have fulfilled some of these requirements. The fulfillment of Washington University requirements with courses completed elsewhere should be discussed with the Director of Graduate Studies, who will make a determination about the transfer of credits.

Students are encouraged to take courses covering the full historical and thematic range of German-speaking literature and culture; these courses should be chosen in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies. In addition, the following courses are required of all students:

Theory and Methods

- One seminar addressing theories of literary and cultural analysis (German 553 or equivalent)

Pedagogy

Code	Title	Units
German 5051	Introduction to the Teaching of German (normally taken during the second semester of the first year at Washington University)	1
German 5052	Teaching Practicum	1
German 5053	Theory and Practice of Foreign Language Pedagogy	2
German 5061	Apprenticeship in the Teaching of Literature and Culture I	1
German 5062	Apprenticeship in the Teaching of Literature and Culture II	1
Total Units		6

Thematic and Methodological Areas

At least one seminar must be taken from any three of the following four categories. In rare cases, subject to the approval of the department chair and the Director of Graduate Studies, a course from outside of German might fulfill one of these categories. Course descriptions for each seminar offered in the department will indicate which of these categories is covered in the seminar.

Category I: Translation Studies

Translation theory and practice are central to literary and cultural studies. With its interest in the cross-cultural exchange and circulation of texts, themes, motifs, genres, and ideas, Germanic Languages and Literatures is committed to performing and assessing theoretically the function and value of “translation” in the widest sense of the term, including both interlingual translation and other forms of textual transformation and adaptation.

Category II: Media Studies

Courses in this category facilitate broad, theoretically informed, and historically grounded thinking about the effects of media transformation on cultural production and consumption as well as on the self-conceptions of authors (artists, composers), producers, and consumers (readers/viewers/listeners). They explore how media — including manuscripts, books, periodicals, photography, radio, television, film, digital media, and other forms — not only “mediate” but also structure knowledge, cultural exchange, artistic expression, perception, and indeed experience itself. They also build on the frameworks of media theory, critical theory, and media ecology to ask timely questions about the aesthetics, ethics, and politics of media. Attention may be given to competitions between media; to remediation, intermediality, and the mutual incorporations of media; and to the ways that new media reconfigure the conception, function, and imagined provenance of older media, both in the past and in the 21st century.

Category III: Nationalism, Ethnicity, and Race

Courses in this category examine the concepts of nationalism, ethnicity, and race — and, more broadly, historical and contemporary mechanisms, ideologies, and processes of group formation — through the historically contextualized study of literature, film, and other cultural artifacts, agents, and institutions. Perspectives examined could include those of insiders as well as those of outsiders or the deliberately excluded. Courses may focus on historical and contemporary cases and/or on the cultural and aesthetic responses to them. Possible topics include historical and theoretical perspectives on race and ethnicity; the experiences of Jews in German-speaking Europe, including acculturation, antisemitism, and the Shoah; relations between the Habsburg and Ottoman Empires; German emigration to the United States and related aesthetic responses; contemporary immigration and immigrant communities in the German-speaking world; and new subcultures, new power relations, and new ideas of citizenship created by patterns of migration.

Category IV: Digital Humanities

Digital humanities is a diverse and evolving field that uses digital tools and computational methods both to answer existing research questions and to generate new questions in humanistic disciplines. Courses in this area may address topics ranging from the construction of digital archives to the analysis of macroscopic trends in cultural change, and they will often employ techniques from the field of data science. Courses in this category may also reflect on the broader impact of information technology on society and culture, including the ways in which new technologies can reshape our conventional understandings of key aesthetic, political, and anthropological categories such as authorship, creativity, privacy, influence, agency, and even the category of the human itself.

Interdisciplinary Studies

Graduate students may wish to take courses in areas other than German. Of special interest are graduate offerings in art history; comparative literature; English; the digital humanities; film and media studies; higher education administration; history; music; philosophy; romance languages; and women, gender, and sexuality studies.

Students interested in completing one of our interdisciplinary certificates are generally required to complete additional seminars.

Foreign Language Requirement

Students planning to work primarily on post-1700 materials must display reading proficiency in at least one language other than German and English. In most cases this language will be French, and the requirement may be satisfied by examination or by enrolling in and successfully completing French 400 and French 401. If a language other than French is particularly relevant to a student's research interests and planned dissertation topic, the foreign language requirement may be fulfilled by the achievement of an equivalent level of reading proficiency in that language, upon approval by the Director of Graduate Studies.

Students planning to work on pre-1700 materials must pass a reading exam in Latin. Reading knowledge of French is also strongly encouraged.

Examinations

Master's Examination

Students who enter with a bachelor's degree must complete an oral and written master's examination at the end of their second year. A student's performance on both the oral and written exams is one important element affecting the faculty's decision about whether the student will receive permission to proceed with their graduate studies.

Qualifying Examinations and Dissertation Prospectus

Students taking qualifying exams should display general knowledge and understanding of the primary materials, historical contexts, scholarly questions and theoretical frameworks that are likely to drive their future dissertations. The qualifying exam is usually taken during the fourth year of study for students entering with a bachelor's degree and during the third year for students entering with a master's degree. The qualifying exam process consists of four phases:

Phase 1: Development of a bibliography for the exams

Phase 2: Preparation for and completion of two exams, each of which consists of a written portion and an oral portion

Phase 3: Creation and defense of a dissertation prospectus

Phase 4: Preparation and circulation of the dissertation abstract; filing of the Research Advisory Committee Form, which must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies, Arts & Sciences, no later than the end of the third year of graduate study; and filing of the Title, Scope and Procedure Form, which must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies, Arts & Sciences, no later than at the end of the fourth year of graduate study.

For the **first exam**, the student is required to situate their primary materials and their author(s) in their respective historical contexts and periods with specific points of emphasis to be determined together with the exam committee. The **second exam** serves to frame the student's primary materials in theoretical terms; it is meant to discuss in general terms the methodological approaches for the planned dissertation.

Teaching

Doctoral candidates are required to complete a minimum of six semesters (or the equivalent) of mentored teaching experiences (MTEs) within the German department in order to be eligible for the degree; some students may have the opportunity to complete additional MTEs in other departments. Most of our students (particularly students who do not enter with a master's degree in German and with experience teaching German at the university level) will complete eight semesters of MTEs (the maximum allowable number) in order to prepare themselves for the rigorous demands of the job market in German.

For information beyond what is presented here, please contact
german@wustl.edu.