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 that provide a healthy balance of theory and the history of German literature and culture. The department offers numerous opportunities for interdisciplinary study, including a one-of-a-kind joint PhD program with Comparative Literature and an innovative certificate program that gives students the option of developing an expertise in one of six 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 maintain an exchange agreement with the University of Tübingen, in addition to graduate student exchanges with the universities of Berlin, Cologne and Munich. These arrangements enable us to guarantee a year abroad for all of our PhD candidates. At the same time, they enrich our program by bringing German exchange students to campus to study and teach alongside the full-time students in our program.

Exchange is further facilitated by the Max Kade Center, which, in addition to numerous other activities, plays host each spring to a writer and a critic-in-residence. The department also invites a distinguished visiting professor to campus every other year.

Departmental faculty are known across campus and across the country. Our faculty pursue a multiplicity of approaches in their 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, but also go on to accept positions at top research universities and liberal arts colleges across the country.

Their success is facilitated by the outstanding research collections available at the Washington University library, including the Mike Lützeler Collection of Contemporary German Literature and the Suhrkamp/Insel Collection. Other resources include the Gontard Collection, the Rare Book Collection of Olin Library, the internationally famous Reformation Collection at Concordia Seminary, and the Vatican Manuscript Collection at Saint Louis University. The Saint Louis Art Museum and the Washington University Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum have extensive holdings in German expressionist and contemporary art.

For questions about the graduate application process, please contact our academic coordinator, Professor Gerhild Williams or Cecily Stewart Hawksworth, or our director of graduate studies, Prof. Gerhild Williams or Cecily Stewart Hawksworth.

Contact: Prof. Gerhild Williams or Cecily Stewart Hawksworth
Phone: 314-935-5151 or 314-935-4276
Email: gerhildwilliams@wustl.edu; cecilyhawksworth@wustl.edu
Website: http://german.wustl.edu/graduate

Faculty

Chair

Erin McGlothlin
Associate Professor of German
PhD, University of Virginia
Contemporary literature; Holocaust studies; Jewish studies; narrative theory
Endowed Professors

Paul Michael Lützeler (https://german.wustl.edu/people/paul-michael-lutzeler)
Rosa May Distinguished University Professor in the Humanities
Director of the Max Kade Center
(Fall 2019: On Leave)
PhD, Indiana University
Contemporary and exile literature; Romanticism; literary discourses on Europe

Lynne Tatlock (https://german.wustl.edu/people/lynne-tatlock)
Hortense and Tobias Lewin Distinguished Professor in the Humanities
(2019-20 Academic Year: On Leave)
PhD, Indiana University
17th-, 19th- & 20th-century novel and book history; gender; nationalism; translation

Gerhild Williams (https://german.wustl.edu/people/gerhild-williams)
Vice Provost
Barbara Schaps Thomas and David M. Thomas Professor in the Humanities
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Director of Graduate Studies
PhD in Comparative Literature, University of Washington
Early modern German and French literature and culture; demonology; Ottoman Eurasia

Professor

Matt Erlin (https://german.wustl.edu/people/matt-erlin)
Professor of German
(Spring 2020: On Leave)
PhD, University of California, Berkeley
18th- & 19th-century German literature; intellectual history; digital humanities; material culture

Assistant Professors

Kurt Beals (https://german.wustl.edu/people/kurt-beals)
PhD, University of California, Berkeley
20th- and 21st-century German literature and media; poetry; translation; experimentalism; digital media

André Fischer (https://german.wustl.edu/people/andr%C3%A9-fischer)
PhD, Stanford University
19th and 20th-century German literature and thought; European cinema; practices of modern myth-making; aesthetics of modernism; film philosophy

Lecturer

Mary Allison (https://german.wustl.edu/people/mary-allison)
PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow

Claire Ross (https://german.wustl.edu/people/claire-ross)
PhD, Washington University
Migrant and minority discourses; intertextuality

Professor Emeritus

James Fitzgerald Poag (https://german.wustl.edu/people/james-fitgerald-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, the student will 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)
- An elective related to HEA from a designated list (3 units)

**Spring semester, 1st year:**
- Two graduate-level German courses (6 units)
- Educ 4022 Higher Education Administration: History, Research, and Practice (3 units)
- Internship

**Summer, after 1st year:**
- Internship at a higher education institution, possibly in Germany or Austria (depending on student interest and objectives)

**Fall semester, 2nd year:**
- Two graduate-level German courses (6 units)
- An elective relating to HEA from a designated list (3 units)
- Internship

**Spring semester, 2nd year:**
- Two graduate-level German courses (6 units)
- Capstone project (3 units)
- Internship

**HEA 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, and this 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.

**Summer Internship**

For students with a strong interest in international education, the German department can (depending on adequate funding) provide opportunities for them to intern at another university or higher education institution in a German-speaking country. In other cases, it may be in the student's best interest to intern at a North American institution.

**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 contact Cecily Stewart Hawksworth (cecilyhawksworth@wustl.edu) for more information.

**Courses**

The PhD requires 51 units of courses (including 36 AM credits) 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 hours of course credit.

Each student must take courses in the full range of German literature and culture, and these will be chosen in consultation with the director of graduate studies. The following courses are required (exceptions are only possible upon review by the Graduate Committee):

- German 453 Theories of Literary and Cultural Analysis (3 units)
- German 456 History of the German Language (3 units)
- German 457 Introduction to Linguistics and the Structure of German (3 units)
- German 5051 Introduction to the Teaching of German (1 unit)
- German 5052 Teaching Practicum (1 unit)
- German 5061 Apprenticeship in the Teaching of Literature and Culture I (1 unit)
- German 5062 Apprenticeship in the Teaching of Literature and Culture II (1 unit)

In addition, students are required to take one additional course in German literature prior to 1700.

These rules regarding required courses to be 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 transfer units.

**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.

**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 the exam serves the faculty as one important element affecting the decision of whether the student will receive permission to proceed with their graduate studies.

**Qualifying Examinations and Dissertation Proposal**

Students taking the 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. This process consists of three parts: two written qualifying papers and the dissertation proposal. Students typically choose a team of three faculty members at the beginning of the process, and this team will guide them through the exam procedure and serve as their readers. In 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 their advising team. The **second exam** serves to frame the student's primary materials in theoretical terms. Within two months after passing the second qualifying exam, the student is required to write a 10- to 15-page dissertation proposal and present it orally to their advising team.

**Foreign Language Requirement**

Students planning to work primarily on post-1700 materials must display reading proficiency in French. The requirement may be satisfied by examination or by enrolling in and successfully completing French 400-401. Students are strongly encouraged to pursue reading knowledge in languages other than French if necessary to conduct particular research for their dissertation.

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

**Teaching**

PhD candidates are required to complete a minimum of six semesters and a maximum of eight semesters of mentored teaching experiences (or the equivalent) at Washington University under the guidance of the pedagogy specialist.

For information beyond what is presented here, please contact our director of graduate studies, Gerhild Williams, by email at gerhildwilliams@wustl.edu.