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 four associated fields.

Both faculty and students also teach and do research in a wide range of related disciplines, including Art History, Comparative Literature, European Studies, Film & Media Studies, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Religious Studies, and the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program.

We consider international exchange to be a crucial component of graduate education. We maintain an exchange agreement on all levels (faculty, graduate, undergraduate) 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 while at the same time enriching 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 discipline for their close mentoring of graduate students, who are also integrated into the department through their participation in numerous activities, from the graduate student symposium and the department's biennial international symposium to outreach programs like German Day. We also give close attention to teacher training through our unique pedagogy internships, through recurring workshops, and through a classroom mentoring program which ensures that all teaching assistants 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, they 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 Collection of Contemporary German Literature, as well as the Suhrkamp/Insel Collection. 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 St. 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 concerning the graduate application process or to request a brochure please contact our Student Coordinator, Empress Sanders, or email our Director of Graduate Studies, Professor Jennifer Kapczynski.

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**E-mail:** esander@wustl.edu

**Departmental website:** http://german.wustl.edu/graduate

**Chair**

Matt Erlin
Professor of German
PhD, University of California, Berkeley
18th- and 19th-century German Literature and Culture, Aesthetic Theory, Economics and Literature, Philosophies of History, Urban Culture

**Endowed Professors**

Paul Michael Lützeler
Rosa May Distinguished University Professor in the Humanities; Director of Max Kade Center
PhD, Indiana University
Contemporary Discourses in the Humanities, Contemporary German Literature, Transatlantic cultural relations, Exile Literature 1933-45, German and European Romanticism, Literature and Culture of the 1920s

Lynne Tatlock
Director, Comparative Literature; Hortense and Tobias Lewin Distinguished Professor in the Humanities
PhD, Indiana University
Book History, Gender Studies and Women's Writing, History of the Novel, Literature and Medicine, Literature and Society, Nationalism, Reading Cultures, Regionalism, Translation and Cultural Mediation, Reception
Gerhild Williams  
Vice Provost; Barbara Schaps Thomas and David M. Thomas  
Professor in the Humanities in Arts and Sciences; Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
PhD in Comparative Literature, University of Washington  
Early Modern German and French Literature, Magic/Daemonlogies/Witch Theory, Media and Culture, Reformation Movements, Translation Theory and Practice, Travel Narratives, Volksbuch/Novel

Associate Professors

Jennifer Kapczynski  
Director of Graduate Studies  
PhD, University of California, Berkeley  
19th- to 21st-century Literature, Film Studies, Gender Theory, Nationalism, War & Representation

Erin McGlothlin  
Director of Undergraduate Studies  
PhD, University of Virginia  
Holocaust Literature and Film, German-Jewish Literature, Postwar and Contemporary German Literature, Narrative Theory, Autobiography, the Graphic Novel

Assistant Professors

Kurt Beals  
PhD, University of California, Berkeley  
20th- and 21st-century German Literature and Culture, Poetry, Translation Theory and Practice, Experimentalism and Avant-Gardes, Digital Media

Caroline Kita  
PhD, Duke University  
19th- and 20th-century German and Austrian Literature and Culture, German-Jewish Studies, Aesthetic Philosophy and Religion, Music and Narrative, the Radio Play (Hörspiel) in German culture

Christian Schneider  
PhD, Heidelberg University  
Medieval and Early Modern German Literature, Medieval Courtly Culture, Narrative Theory, Cultural History of Knowledge and Science, Textual Editing

Professors Emeriti

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

Egon Schwarz  
Rosa May Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Humanities  
PhD, University of Washington  
19th-century Literature, Austrian Literature, Fin-de-siècle, Märchen, Modern Literature, Utopia

Degree Requirements

Graduate Program Requirements

A summary of program requirements is provided below.

German exchange students should contact Empress Sanders for information on the exchange program.

Course Work

PhD candidates must complete 63 hours of course work (including 36 AM-level credits), and 9 hours of dissertation credit for a total of 72 units of graduate credit. 12 of the 63 credits may be taken in related fields outside the department.

Each student must take courses in the full range of German literature and culture, to 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: Introduction to Middle High German Language and Literature (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 5053: Seminar in Theories of Foreign Language Pedagogy (2 units)
- 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 BA. Students entering with an AM degree may already have fulfilled some of these requirements. The fulfillment of Washington University requirements with course work completed elsewhere should be discussed with the Director of Graduate Studies who will make a determination.

Interdisciplinary Studies

Graduate students may wish to take courses in areas other than German. With this in mind, the program is designed so that PhD candidates may take a total of 12 credits in other areas. Of special interest are graduate offerings in Art History, Comparative Literature, English, Film and Media Studies, 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 five additional seminars, two of which may also be counted toward the 63 units of departmental credit.

**Examinations**

**Master's Examination**

Students who enter with a BA 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 in deciding whether the student will receive permission to proceed with his or her graduate studies. The department does not offer a terminal master's degree.

For the [AM Reading List (as of April 2013)](http://german.wustl.edu/graduate/program), please view the document "AM Reading List" (PDF) or visit our website (http://german.wustl.edu/graduate/program).

**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. The Qualifying Exam process consists of three parts: two written qualifying papers and the dissertation prospectus. Students typically choose a team of three faculty members at the beginning of this process who will guide them through the exam process and serve as their readers. In the **first exam**, the student is required to situate his/her primary materials and their author(s) in their respective historical contexts and periods, with specific points of emphasis to be determined together with his or her 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 10-15 page dissertation proposal and then to present it orally to his or her advising team.

**Teaching**

PhD candidates are required to teach at least two years at Washington University under the direction of the supervisor of language instruction.

For more information, please contact our Director of Graduate Studies, Jennifer Kapczynski.