German Studies

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Program Description

German Studies is an interdisciplinary program that offers both a major and a minor for students with broad academic interests in the German-speaking world.

In consultation with a faculty adviser in the program, students design individual plans of study from the many core courses offered in the Departments of History, Literature, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, and Theatre and Dance. Further courses, including some offered by other departments, may be incorporated into the student’s program, if they bear directly on German studies. Students considering a major or minor should consult a member of the German Studies faculty as early as possible.

Students need to attain competence in German (two years of university-level language courses or the equivalent) before they can take certain required upper-division courses. It is recommended that students attain this level of competence early in the program.

Study Abroad

All German Studies students are strongly encouraged to make overseas study an integral part of their program. The UC Education Abroad Program (EAP) conducts formal programs of study in Berlin, Göttingen, and Bayreuth ranging from one-quarter, intensive beginning language programs to a full year of study at a German university. In addition, Eleanor Roosevelt College administers a full-year exchange program with Augsburg University. Students may petition to use up to five courses completed while studying abroad in their major, and three in their minor.

Senior Honors Thesis

At the beginning of his or her senior year, a student major in German Studies may elect to write a Senior Honor’s Thesis. To be eligible, the student must have a GPA of 3.5 in the German Studies major at the beginning of the senior year.

To begin work, the student forms a committee of three appropriate faculty members, including a committee chair, who is chosen from among the German Studies Core Faculty. The chair supervises the student in a two-quarter program of independent study to research and write an Honor’s Thesis of approximately thirty to fifty pages (GMST 196A/B; the two courses count among the required twelve for the major). The student defends the thesis in a one-hour oral exam with the full committee, which is charged with recommending the degree of honors that will appear on the student’s transcript and diploma.

The Major

The major in German Studies requires twelve upper-division courses chosen from the core course list, and includes:

- German Studies 100 and 101 (Literature Department)
- three courses in German Literature
- two courses in History
- five additional core courses, taken in at least two different departments. At least two of these courses must be taken outside the literature department.

Students plan their major in consultation with their German Studies faculty adviser, and submit it to the program director for approval.

The Minor

The minor in German Studies consists of seven courses, at least five of which must be upper-division, including:

- German Studies 100 or 101 (literature department)

At least six additional core courses, taken in at least two departments.

Students plan their minor in consultation with their German Studies faculty adviser, and submit it to the program director for approval.

Core Courses

Courses marked with an asterisk (*) frequently cover topics bearing on German Studies. Students should check the departments’ quarterly course descriptions and yearly course spreads for their applicability to the program, and discuss them in advance with their German Studies adviser.

GERMAN STUDIES

GMST 196A/B. Honors Thesis

HISTORY

HIEU 125. Reformation Europe
HIEU 132. German Politics and Culture: 1648–1848
HIEU 142. European Intellectual History: 1780–1870
HIEU 143. European Intellectual History: 1870–1945
HIEU 146. Fascism, Communism, and the Crisis of Liberal Democracy
HIEU 154. Modern German History
HIEU 155. Modern Austria
HIEU 177. Special Topics in Modern German Thought

LITERATURE

LTGM 2A. Readings and Interpretations
LTGM 2B. Advanced Readings and Interpretations
LTGM 2C. Composition and Conversation
LTGM 100. German Studies I: Aesthetic Cultures
LTGM 101. German Studies II: National Identities
LTGM 123. Eighteenth-Century German Literature
LTGM 124. Goethe
LTGM 125. Nineteenth-Century German Literature
LTGM 126. Twentieth-Century German Literature
LTGM 130. German Literary Prose
LTGM 131. German Dramatic Literature
LTGM 132. German Poetry
LTGM 160. Composition and Stylistics
LTGM 170. Literature and Ideas
LTEU 110. European Romanticism*
LTEU 130. German Literature in Translation
LTWL 4B. Fiction and Film in Twentieth-Century Societies*
LTWL 160. Women and Literature*
LTWL 170. Specialized Genres in Literature*
LTWL 172. Special Topics in Literature*
LTWL 176. Literature and Ideas*
LTWL 180. Film Studies and Literature: Film History*
LTWL 183. Film Studies and Literature: Director’s Work*
LTWL 185. Film Studies and Literature: Interdisciplinary Issues*

MUSIC
MUS 113. Topics in Classic, Romantic, and Modern Music*

PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 106. Kant
PHIL 107. Hegel
PHIL 108. 19th-Century Philosophy*
PHIL 110. Wittgenstein
PHIL 180. Phenomenology
PHIL 181. Existentialism
PHIL 182. Marx and Marxism
PHIL 183. Topics in Continental Philosophy*

POLITICAL SCIENCE
POLI 110C. Revolution and Reaction: Political Thought from Kant to Nietzsche
POLI 114B. Marxist Political Thought
POLI 120B. The German Political System
POLI 120D. Germany: Before, During, and After Division
POLI 120H. European Integration*

SOCIOLOGY
SOCA 101M. Marxism, Culture, and Politics
SOCD 178. The Holocaust

THEATRE AND DANCE
THHS 101. Topics in Dramatic Literature and Theatre History*
THHS 102. Masters of Theatre*