

Interdisciplinary German Studies Major and German Studies Minor

www.german.pitt.edu

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The study of foreign language and culture is a cornerstone of education in today's world. It teaches intercultural competence by increasing students' understanding of their own background and their sensitivity for other traditions and values. Knowledge of foreign language and culture brings obvious competitive advantages in careers with an international dimension. As a liberal arts discipline, it improves analytic-conceptual and communication skills necessary for professional careers. Enhanced with appropriate course work, a major in German serves as a foundation for professional training in such subjects as business, law, politics, and medicine, as well as the media and communication industry. Students with a bachelor's degree in German will compete well in non-technical fields for jobs requiring an undergraduate degree.

Required courses for the Interdisciplinary German Studies major

The Interdisciplinary German Studies major requires the completion of 43 to 47 credits distributed as follows. If necessary to fulfill credit requirements, higher-level language courses can be substituted for GER 0001 through GER 0004.

Required language courses

One of the following pairs of courses. The equivalency of other courses will be determined by the department.

GER 0001 Elementary German 1
GER 0002 Elementary German 2

GER 0101 Beginning German 1
GER 0102 Beginning German 2

Both of the following courses
GER 0003 Intermediate German 1
GER 0004 Intermediate German 2

Required writing course
GER 1001 German Writing *or*
GER 1003 Professional German 1

1000 level course requirement
One course at the 1000 level

Literary analysis course requirement
GER 1105 Literary Analysis

1100 to 1400 level course requirement
Three courses at the 1100 to 1400 level

Four 1500 level courses
1500 level courses in the Department of German; and/or courses with significant German Studies content offered by other departments (see the undergraduate advisor for a preapproved list); and/or courses with significant German Studies content (30%) offered by other departments

Capstone

GER 1990 Senior Thesis

Outcomes assessment: In the fall term of the senior year, majors will enroll in an independent study, supervised by a faculty member, where they will research a topic in detail and produce a senior thesis, which will be presented publicly. In the final term of their senior year, majors will be advised about formal language proficiency evaluation through the ACTFL OPI (Oral Proficiency Interview) or the Deutsch als Fremdsprache (DaF) certification program.

Grade requirements: A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required in each course that counts toward the major.

Satisfactory/No Credit option: No course that counts toward the major can be taken on an S/NC basis unless the student receives special permission from the major advisor.

Writing (W) requirement: Students must complete at least one W-course in the major. GER 1001 and GER 1003 fulfill this requirement.

Related area: A minimum of 12 credits is required in any one Dietrich School department chosen in consultation with the major advisor. The completion of an official Dietrich School minor or a Dietrich School or UCIS certificate also satisfies this requirement.

Study abroad: Study and residence in a German-speaking country is an invaluable component of a German major's education. German majors are encouraged to study at a German-speaking institution and are given assistance with the selection of a program. Our partnership with the University of Augsburg (near Munich) offers an excellent and relatively inexpensive opportunity to enroll in regular university courses during the summer (May-July). Numerous other possibilities exist, and financial aid may be available. Students can transfer credits from abroad for their major in accordance with the credit transfer policy of the University of Pittsburgh. A maximum of 12 credits from abroad may apply toward the major. All study abroad credits have to be

pre-approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies. For information on other study abroad opportunities, consult the [Study Abroad Office](#) in WPU 802.

Honors major requirements: To earn departmental honors in German, students must demonstrate superior performance in departmental courses by:

- earning at least a 3.5 GPA average in their major courses;
- demonstrating a high level of proficiency in speaking and writing German; and
- completing a three-credit senior honors project (in addition to 31 credits of the major) that has been accepted by the departmental faculty. Senior honors projects may include:
 - a semester-long, independent research project, as an extension of the senior thesis written during the capstone project; or
 - taking an exam on a comprehensive reading list derived by the student in consultation with the faculty; or
 - enrolling in a graduate seminar and completing a graduate paper.

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Checklist for the Interdisciplinary German Studies major

Required language courses

One of the two following pairs of courses

_____ GER 0001
_____ GER 0002

_____ GER 0101
_____ GER 0102

Both of the following courses

_____ GER 0003
_____ GER 0004

Required writing course

_____ GER 1001 **or**
_____ GER 1003

1000 level course requirement

_____ GER 1000-1099

Literary analysis course requirement

_____ GER 1105

1100 to 1400 level course requirement

_____ GER 1100-1499
_____ GER 1100-1499
_____ GER 1100-1499

Four of the following courses

1500 level courses in the Department of German; and/or courses with significant German Studies content offered by other departments (see the undergraduate advisor for a preapproved list); and/or courses with significant German Studies content (30%) offered by other departments

_____ GER 1500-level or other German Studies course
_____ GER 1500-level or other German Studies course
_____ GER 1500-level or other German Studies course
_____ GER 1500-level or other German Studies course

Capstone

_____ GER 1990

Checklist for the German Studies minor

Option 1 (15 – 19 credits)

Language: Two of the following. Students who take GER 0001 should follow it with GER 0002, and students who take GER 0101 should follow it with GER 0102.

_____ GER 0001 **or** GER 0101
_____ GER 0002 **or** GER 0102
_____ GER 0003
_____ GER 0004*

Literature and film: three courses

_____ GER 1000 – GER 1599
_____ GER 1000 – GER 1599
_____ GER 1000 – GER 1599

Option 2 (15 credits)

Literature and film: Five courses

_____ GER 1000 – GER 1599
_____ GER 1000 – GER 1599
_____ GER 1000 – GER 1599
_____ GER 1000 – GER 1599
_____ GER 1000 – GER 1599

Option 3 (19 credits)

Language: Five courses all in German. Students who take GER 0001 should follow it with GER 0002, and students who take GER 0101 should follow it with GER 0102.

_____ GER 0001 **or** GER 0101
_____ GER 0002 **or** GER 0102
_____ GER 0003
_____ GER 0004 *
_____ GER (1000-level course) **

* Students must pass GER 0004 with a minimum grade of B- before taking any German course taught at the 1000 level.

** Courses to fulfill this requirement include: GER 1000, GER 1001, GER 1003, GER 1004, GER 1005.

Desired outcomes

Students who complete Option 3 should be able to perform on the OPI-equivalent test at the level of intermediate mid. This level would allow them to engage in a range of everyday conversational situations related to their personal biography, interests, activities, read/ understand the main ideas of authentic texts on topics of general interest (e.g. newspapers, internet, short prose), communicate general content in writing (personal letters, request specific information), and understand the main ideas communicated in audio/video documents (film, video, television). This level of proficiency is one step above that which we assume is appropriate for students who complete our GER 0004 at the A grade level.

Note: Students must apply for any official Minor they will complete or have completed at the time they apply for graduation