



Interdisciplinary German Studies Major and German 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 0201 through GER 0204.

Required language courses

Students must take a minimum of four language courses and finish Intermediate German 2 as described; choose one of the following two course groups. The equivalency of other courses will be determined by the department.

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| GER 0101 Beginning German 1 | GER 0101 Beginning German 1 |
| GER 0102 Beginning German 2 | GER 0102 Beginning German 2 |
| GER 0103 Beginning German 3 | GER 0203 Intensive |
| GER 0201 Intermediate German 1 | Intermediate German 1 |
| | GER 0204 Intensive |
| GER 0202 Intermediate German 2 | 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.

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.

Advising

Jaclyn Kurash
CL 1518
412-624-5909
Kurash@Pitt.edu

Checklist for the Interdisciplinary German Studies major

Required language courses

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

_____ GER 0101 Beginning German 1
_____ GER 0102 Beginning German 2
_____ GER 0103 Beginning German 3
_____ GER 0201 Intermediate German 1
_____ GER 0202 Intermediate German 2

_____ GER 0101 Beginning German 1
_____ GER 0102 Beginning German 2
_____ GER 0203 Intensive Intermediate German 1
_____ GER 0204 Intensive Intermediate German 2

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 minor

The German minor requires completion of at least 15 credits of coursework as described below. Students interested in the minor may tailor their course selection according to their interest in German language, literature, and film studies, but must complete at least two 3-credit courses taught in German.

Students must pass GER 0202 or GER 0204 with a minimum grade of B- before taking any German course taught at the 0300-level.

Five courses, at least two of which must be taught in German

_____ GER 0101-GER 1599
_____ GER 0101-GER 1599
_____ GER 0101-GER 1599
_____ GER 0101-GER 1599
_____ GER 0101-GER 1599

GER 1000-1499 are taught in German. GER 1500-1599 are taught in English.

Grade requirements

A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required in each course that counts toward the minor.

Satisfactory/No Credit option

No course that counts toward the minor can be taken on an S/NC basis unless the student receives special permission from the minor advisor.

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