

DEPARTMENT OF GERMANICS

The study of language and literature is vital to the goals of responsible global citizenship. Our department gives students the tools for critical thinking and effective communication by widening their linguistic and cultural horizons. Knowledge of the intellectual, literary, and cultural traditions of German-speaking countries is particularly well-suited to make students aware of the social, political, and ethical dimensions of language.



Spring in Vienna Program participants, 2017

Highlights

UW Germanics is one of the highest ranked programs offering advanced degrees in German in the United States.

The Department remains at the forefront of innovative language pedagogy and technology mediated instruction.

We teach foundational courses in the Humanities for a diverse student body.

Recent hires have further strengthened the Department's key areas in Literature and Philosophy, Medieval Literature and Culture, Performance and Visual Culture, and the Environmental Humanities.

Education

The Department of Germanics offers an undergraduate degree program leading to a BA in German and an MA and PhD program in German.

The major in German provides transferrable skills for any career that involves formulating questions and solving problems, especially for students in a wide range of fields such as business, politics, and STEM. Students gain advanced proficiency in spoken and written German, enhanced cultural expertise, and the ability to work across disciplines. They develop analytical skills and historical awareness through studies of literary, intellectual, and visual culture from the Middle Ages to the present. Emphases include: environmental and urban humanities; Jewish studies; gender and queer studies; foreign language pedagogy; Austrian studies; philosophy; and performance. Students may participate in the Department's study abroad program in Vienna or the direct exchanges with German universities, among them Tübingen, Heidelberg, and Berlin.

Our graduates have gone off to successful careers in technical fields, the law, international business, higher education, publishing, etc.

The graduate program in German offers a broad, flexible, and integrated curriculum. Students gain in-depth knowledge of the language, literature, and thought of German-speaking Europe and develop important critical skills for academic and non-academic careers through research and scholarly writing.

STUDENTS (2017)

- 25 Undergraduate majors
- 15 Undergraduate minors
- 1 Master of Arts student
- 10 PhD students

DEGREES AWARDED (annual average, 2015- 2017)

- 15 Bachelor of Arts degrees
- 2 Master of Arts degrees
- 4 PhD degrees

MAJOR STUDENT AWARDS (Since 2010)

- 21 Max Kade Graduate Fellowships
- 6 Lufthansa Awards for Excellence in German Studies
- 4 Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst Fellowships
- 6 UW Joff Hanauer Fellowships for Excellence in Western Civilization
- 2 UW Graduate School Dissertation Fellowships
- 3 Fulbright Undergraduate Awards
- 2 Digital Humanities Summer Institute Stipends
- 1 Mellon Fellow for Reaching New Publics in the Humanities
- 1 Chester William Fritz Scholarship

Faculty

Recent honors for Department of Germanics faculty include:

- 1 Guggenheim Fellowship
- 2 Senior Alexander von Humboldt Research Foundation Prizes
- 1 Alexander von Humboldt Alumni Prize
- 1 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship
- 1 American Council of Learned Societies Senior Research Award
- 1 Senior Fulbright Award
- 2 University of Auckland Hood Fellowships
- 1 Rachel Carson Center Fellowship from the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich
- 1 Urban Fellowship at the San Francisco Exploratorium
- 1 UW Distinguished Joff Hanauer Professorship
- 1 UW Lockwood Professorship in the Humanities
- 6 UW Simpson Center Society of Scholars Awards
- 3 UW Royalty Research Fund Awards
- 1 Fellow at the Center for Interweaving Performance Cultures at the Freie Universität Berlin

Scholarship

We are a diverse group of scholars working in the field of German and Austrian Literature and Culture, Applied Linguistics, Intellectual History, Comparative Literature, Queer Studies, Medieval Literature and Culture, and Environmental Studies. We focus on verbal and visual media, texts and contexts, and examine their historical and contemporary significance.

Recent and forthcoming faculty publications include: Richard Block, *Echoes of a Queer Messiah: From Frankenstein to Brokeback Mountain*; Jane K. Brown, *Goethe's Allegories of Identity*; Richard T. Gray, *Ghostwriting: W. G. Sebald's Poetics of History*; Brigitte Prutti, *Unglück und Zerstreuung: Autobiographisches Schreiben bei Franz Grillparzer*; Sabine Wilke, *German Culture and the Modern German Environmental Imagination*.

Program Initiatives

Since 1999, the Department has collaborated with high school teachers in Washington to offer college-level courses at select high schools. The Department also serves as a testing center for language exams offered through the Goethe institute.

Germanics organizes many lectures and events, including the 2015 conference on "The Roles of Fiction in Early Modern Philosophy" and two graduate student conferences in 2016 and 2018. We also participate in the Anthropocene Research Cluster sponsored by the Simpson Center for the Humanities.

We offer a new interdisciplinary MA in Pedagogy and Culture and a new STEM and Humanities undergraduate core course in fall 2018.

The Department has a weekly film series and a social hour for all students wishing to practice their language skills outside the classroom. We organize regular career training events for our graduates as well as undergraduates.

FACULTY (2017-2018)

- 2 Professors
- 2 Associate Professors
- 3 Assistant Professors
- 2 Lecturers
- 1 Max Kade Distinguished Visiting Professor
- 8 Emeriti Professors
- 3 Affiliate Assistant Professors
- 6 Adjunct Professors
- 1 DAAD Lecturer

AREAS OF RESEARCH AND TEACHING

Modern German Literature and Culture
Modern Austrian Literature and Culture
Medieval Literature and Culture
Comparative Literature
Literature and Philosophy
Goethe and Goethezeit
Romanticism
Theory and History of Drama
Critical Theory
Film, Performance, and Visual Culture
Applied Linguistics
German Language and Methodology
Environmental Humanities



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