

# DEPARTMENT OF GERMANICS

The study of language and literature is at the core of the liberal arts curriculum in a global society. Our goal is to teach students the uses of language and its critical function by widening their linguistic horizons and enhancing their cross-cultural and historical awareness. Concentrating on the artistic and intellectual traditions of German-speaking countries in the broader European context, we offer advanced training in critical reading, analytical writing, translation and interpretation.



Spring in Vienna Program participants, 2015

## 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 teaching and technology mediated instruction.

We teach wide-ranging and thought-provoking courses in the Humanities for a diverse student body.

Recent hires have further strengthened the Department's areas in Literature and Philosophy, 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 offers training in verbal interpretation and analysis. It fosters critical thinking as well as the imagination and provides transferable skills for any career that involves formulation and solving problems, especially for those with a particular interest in Europe and German-speaking countries. Students gain fluency in German and the ability to analyze major aspects of culture and society, such as literature, film, architecture, and political and social institutions. They 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 (2015)

34	Undergraduate majors
18	Undergraduate minors
3	Master of Arts students
14	PhD students

## DEGREES AWARDED (annual average, 2013-2015)

18	Bachelor of Arts degrees
2	Master of Arts degrees
3	PhD degrees

## MAJOR STUDENT AWARDS (Since 2010)

18	Max Kade Graduate Fellowships
40	Max Kade Travel Stipends
6	Lufthansa Awards for Excellence in German Studies
3	Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst Fellowships
1	Fellowship from the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes
6	UW Joff Hanauer Fellowships for Excellence in Western Civilization
2	UW Graduate School Dissertation Fellowships
2	Fulbright Undergraduate Awards
2	Digital Humanities Summer Institute Stipends
1	Antoinette Wills Endowed 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
- 5 UW Simpson Center Society of Scholars Awards
- 2 UW Royalty Research Fund Awards

## 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, Visual Culture and Environmental Studies. Broadly speaking, we aim at understanding a specific cultural tradition and key issues in the Humanities from a 21st century perspective. We focus on verbal and visual media, texts and contexts, and examine their historical and contemporary significance.

Recent faculty publications include: Eric Ames, *Werner Herzog: Interviews*; Charles Barrack/Joseph Voyles, *On Laryngealism: A Coursebook in the History of a Science*; Richard Block, *The Spell of Italy*; Klaus Brandl, *Communicative Language Teaching in Action*; Jane K. Brown, *Goethe's Allegories of Identity*; Richard T. Gray, *Money Matters*; Brigitte Prutti, *Grillparzers Welttheater: Modernität und Tradition*; Sabine Wilke, *German Culture and the Modern 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 major interdisciplinary conferences with academic panels and public events, including the 2012 conference on "Transatlantic Dialogues of the Environment;" the 2013 conference on "The Future of the Environmental Humanities;" and the 2015 conference, together with UW Philosophy, on "The Roles of Fiction in Early Modern Philosophy." An interdisciplinary graduate student conference on narratives of migration is planned for spring 2016.

The Department has a weekly film series and social hour for all students wishing to practice their language skills outside the classroom. We organize mentoring lunches for our majors and a host of professionalization activities for our graduates as well as undergraduates.

## FACULTY (2015-2016)

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

## AREAS OF RESEARCH AND TEACHING

- 17th to 21st Century German Literature
- Modern Austrian Literature and Culture
- Comparative Literature
- Literature and Philosophy
- Goethe and Goethezeit
- Romanticism
- Theory and History of Drama
- Critical Theory
- Film, Performance, and Visual Culture
- Literary Sociology
- Translation
- Applied Linguistics
- German Language and Methodology
- Environmental Humanities



Facebook: [UW.Germanics](#)

Twitter: [@uwgerman](#)

last update: November 2015