German Studies Major and Minor: Learning Outcomes

German Studies draws upon history, music, political science, philosophy, the arts, and literary studies to examine German culture past and present. Students in German Studies learn about German language and literature and become knowledgeable about the cultures of Germany, Austria, and parts of Switzerland. German Studies prepares students for careers in teaching and research, as well as professions such as law, medicine, business, and government.

Students in German Studies will be familiar with a wide range of methodologies and frameworks for the analysis of German culture, and able to follow current findings and debates within the field. As it engages students with extensive existing research in multiple disciplines, our curriculum is particularly committed to advance students’ understanding in a variety of areas.

Core skills:

Students completing the minor in German studies will be able to:

- speak and comprehend German to function competently in daily life;
- read and write German at a level of critical literacy;
- perform cultural analyses;
- develop cultural competence: they will understand social norms, behaviors, values, taboos.

Students completing the major in German studies will in addition be able to:

- write and speak German sufficiently to participate in discussions, write critical essays and research papers, and give oral presentations;
- read and interpret both primary and secondary texts and/or data from a variety of disciplines, historical periods, and cultures;
- conceptualize and develop complex research that questions existing assumptions;
- articulate an understanding of the multiple roles of German culture in history.

Knowledge:

Students completing the minor/major in German studies will have a foundational knowledge of the German language and will understand the complexities of:

- the history of modern German literature and culture, 1750 to the present;
- cultural developments in modern German-speaking central Europe, such as in the arts, cinema, literature;
- central issues such as the Nazi era and the Holocaust, the role of gender and minority discourses, and their reflection in German literature, arts, and cinema;

Social Justice:
Since the Holocaust Germany has served as a model of social injustice. The discrimination and subsequent murder of six million Jews in Germany and the exclusion and persecution of many other minorities has left an indelible mark on German culture to this day. Directly and indirectly, our courses shed light on the meaning of the struggle for social justice in various periods of German history. Minority discourses continue to be front and center in German literature and politics today.

Within our courses in German Studies, students are prepared to:

- analyze systems of power and privilege;
- examine the causes, manifestations, and consequences of institutional discrimination of every kind;
- understand and respect a range of cultural perspectives.

**Experiential Learning:**

To some extent all language study is experiential. Courses in German language are student-centered and interactive. We strongly encourage our students to study abroad for a summer, a semester, or even a year in a German-speaking country to immerse themselves fully.

**Upon Graduation:**

The German Studies curriculum prepares students for a wide range of careers. Graduates of our program are applying their skills and knowledge to academic and professional pursuits in medicine, law, education, government, social service, public policy, religion, counseling, international relations, journalism, publishing, business, and the arts.