



German Studies: A Profile



RICE HUMANITIES

Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures

With a rich cultural heritage and global influence, and with a complicated and conflicted past, Germany is one of the world's major economic and political powers today; it is also one of the most diverse and multicultural countries in Europe. Writers, artists and philosophers from Germany, Austria and Switzerland have shaped the global modern cultural imagination at crucial historical junctures from the Enlightenment to the present.

The Program

The program covers the entire tradition of German history and culture, from early modern times to the present, placing today's multicultural Germany firmly in a broader European and Atlantic context. Particular strengths are in film and media studies, modern intellectual history and 18th–20th-century literature as well as politics and political thought. Through a number of endowed fellowships, the program offers summer study abroad options at the University of Leipzig, Germany. Students can also apply to the Berlin Consortium for an intensive full semester in Germany. Advanced students are able to join our honors program, where they will write an independent research thesis under the supervision of a faculty member.

Our Students

Our students are critical, independent thinkers who excel intellectually and are open to the world. This gives them an extra advantage and makes them particularly attractive to global employers that greatly value intellectual and cultural diversity. German studies majors have received Fulbright and DAAD grants and interned in the German parliament, and they continue their careers at some of the best graduate and professional schools or enter the world of business, law or medicine. Our graduates also work for NGOs and in government positions, including the U.S. Department of State. Outstanding students are recognized annually with the Max Freund Prize and the Goethe Book Award.

Degree Requirements

The German studies program offers a major (10 courses) and a minor (six courses), which both focus, in equal parts, on critical thinking, cultural and political knowledge, and fluency in the German language.

The following courses are required of all majors unless the student is determined to be exempt by the program director:

- **GERM 263**-Second-Year German I
- **GERM 264**-Second-Year German II
- **GERM 301**-Third-Year German I
- **GERM 302**-Third-Year German II

To fulfill the remaining major requirements, students complete a total of six additional courses (18 credit hours) from departmental (GERM) course offerings as follows: four courses (12 credit hours) at the 300 level or above, and two courses (six credit hours) at the 400 level. Any elective course at the 300 level may be replaced by a course at a higher level.

For the minor in German studies, students must take six courses (18 credit hours), of which no more than two (six credit hours) can be on the 200 level. All other courses must be taken on the 300 level or above in German.

GERM 301 and **302** may be replaced by intensive summer language courses at the University of Leipzig, Germany. For further information, please contact the program adviser.

Our Courses

The close connection of research, teaching and language skills lies at the heart of our curriculum. Courses on the 300 level are offered in both English and German, while 400 level advanced courses are offered exclusively in German, reinforcing and expanding language skills with readings, discussion and coursework in German. Small classes lead to exceptional opportunities for challenging discussion and independent work with leading experts.

Apart from historical surveys of German culture and literature from 1700 to the present, our courses include intensive seminars on a wide range of topics, such as German film; the Weimar Republic; the Age of Goethe; the German and European Enlightenment; the Holocaust; German drama and poetry; critical theory; nationalism and citizenship; Nietzsche, Marx and Freud; avant-garde art and literature; political culture and public policy after 1945; and multicultural Germany.

German studies faculty also teach courses in programs, such as Jewish studies, cinema and media studies, and in politics, law and social thought.

Our Faculty and Research

Although German studies is a small program, it is one of the most research active in the School of Humanities. Regular guest speakers, conferences and workshops bring international leading experts to Rice. Faculty have published on topics from 18th-century poetry and philosophy to ethics in contemporary film and from avant-garde theater to post-national citizenship.

Study Abroad

We strongly encourage students to study abroad.

We offer a series of endowed fellowships for intensive summer language courses at the University of Leipzig's renowned Herder Institute.

Students can also apply to the Berlin Consortium for an intensive, full semester in Germany. The Berlin Consortium includes all the major Berlin universities. Courses taken through the Berlin Consortium receive full Rice transfer credit.

Honors Program

The honors program in German studies is available to advanced students. Students have the opportunity to write a substantial research thesis on a topic of their choice under the supervision of a faculty mentor. The research thesis can be written in either English or German.

Although the topic must be related to German culture, broadly speaking, it is not necessarily restricted to literature and the arts but can encompass history, politics, architecture, philosophy or public policy.

Those interested in the honors program should consult with any faculty member or the program director.

Note: German studies does not accept any transfer credits from online courses.

Faculty

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**For additional information, please
visit cultures.rice.edu.**