

German

Department of Linguistics

German
College of Arts and Sciences
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Overview

Note: See Professor Fertig for matters regarding first and second year language instruction; see Professor Hoeing for matters concerning the German major and minor.

With more than 100 million speakers in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and throughout the world, German is a major international language of business, diplomacy, science, and popular culture, with an extraordinarily rich heritage in literature, philosophy, and music.

Germany is the largest and wealthiest country in the European Union, and the importance of German in Europe continues to grow with the integration of Eastern European countries where German has always played an important role.

About our Degrees

The undergraduate major program in German combines continuing development of language proficiency with the study of the culture and society of the German-speaking countries. German is the most widely spoken language in Europe, and Germany today is the economic cornerstone of the European Union. Many throughout Eastern Europe have chosen German as their second language. Any future development and job opportunities in this important arena will involve German culture and language.

Acceptance Criteria

Minimum GPA of 2.0 overall.

Minimum GPA of 2.5 in the following prerequisite courses or their equivalent: [GER 101-GER 102](#) Elementary German 1st-2nd semester or [GER 104](#).

Transitional Elementary German and [GER 151-GER 152](#) Intermediate German I-II.

Acceptance Information

Deadlines: Rolling

Degree Requirements

Please see [Degrees and Policies](#).

About our Courses

In addition to elementary, intermediate, and advanced language courses, the German program offers a broad spectrum of courses focusing on various aspects of society and culture in the German-speaking countries. Course topics include literature, folklore, mass media, sociolinguistics, and the history and structure of the German language.

New students should choose the appropriate level in consultation with advisors and program directors. Depending on previous language experience the following courses may be appropriate:

- [GER 101](#) or [GER 102](#) Elementary German I or II
- [GER 104](#) Transitional Elementary German
- [GER 151](#) or [GER 152](#) Intermediate German I or II

The typical class size for:

Freshman/introductory courses is: 24

German

Sophomore/intermediate courses is: 20

Upper level/advanced courses is: 10

In the German program, what do teaching assistants (TAs) do?

TAs generally teach introductory level courses.

For course descriptions, please see [Courses](#).

About our Faculty

Robert Hoeing teaches German linguistics, syntax, old Norse language and culture, and German literature. David Fertig specializes in historical and sociolinguistics. His interests include ancient Germanic tribes, modern dialects, mass media, and linguistic minorities.

Extracurricular Activities

The German Club is open to majors, minors, and all others interested in German. For information, please call 716-645-2177.

See the [UB Student Association](#).

Practical Experience and Special Academic Opportunities

Career Information and Further Study

Career Choices

- Announcer (TV/radio)
- Anthropological linguist
- Customs inspector
- Diplomat
- Educator
- Foreign student advisor
- Immigration inspector
- Import/export agent
- Journalist
- Lawyer
- Public relations specialist

Degrees Offered

Undergraduate: BA, Minor

Links to Further Information About this Program

- [Undergraduate Catalog](#)
- [Undergraduate Admissions](#)
- [Graduate Admissions](#)
- [Department of Linguistics](#)
- [College of Arts and Sciences](#)

German - B.A.

German

Acceptance Criteria

Minimum GPA of 2.0 overall.
Minimum GPA of 2.5 in the prerequisite courses or their equivalents.

Advising Notes

Minimum GPA of 2.0 in required courses.

Students may substitute three or four courses taken in other departments that are relevant to Germanic studies with the approval of the director of undergraduate studies in German.

Up to five 300/400-level courses (15 credit hours) may be taken through the study abroad program.

300-level courses require intermediate-level proficiency.

Prerequisite Courses

[GER 101-GER 102](#) Elementary German 1st-2nd semester* or [GER 104](#) Transitional Elementary German*
[GER 151-GER 152](#) Intermediate German I-II*

Required Courses

Ten 300/400-level GER courses, in addition to prerequisite elementary or intermediate German language courses, as necessary*

Summary

Total required credit hours for the major...30

See [Baccalaureate Degree Requirements](#) for general education and remaining university requirements.

Recommended Sequence of Program Requirements

FIRST YEAR

Fall Elementary or intermediate German*
Spring Elementary or intermediate German*

SECOND YEAR

Fall Elementary or intermediate German*; one or two 300/400-level GER courses
Spring Elementary or intermediate German*; one or two 300/400-level GER courses (on completion of [GER 152](#))

THIRD YEAR

Fall Two or three 300/400-level GER courses
Spring Two or three 300/400-level GER courses

FOURTH YEAR

Fall Two 300/400-level GER courses
Spring Two 300/400-level GER courses

**Appropriate level is based upon placement and/or previous experience, unless exempted. For clarification, contact Professor Robert G. Hoeing at (716) 645-2177, or rghoeing@buffalo.edu; or Professor David Fertig at (716) 645-2177, or fertig@buffalo.edu.*

German - Minor

Acceptance Criteria

Minimum GPA of 2.0 overall.
Minimum GPA of 2.5 in the prerequisite courses or their equivalents.

Advising Notes

Substitutions are subject to approval by the director of undergraduate studies in German.
300-level courses require intermediate-level proficiency.

Prerequisite Courses

German

[GER 101-GER 102](#) Elementary German 1st-2nd semester* or [GER 104](#) Transitional Elementary German*
[GER 151-GER 152](#) Intermediate German I-II*

Required Courses

Six 300/400-level GER courses with a minimum GPA of 2.0.

**Appropriate level is based upon placement and/or previous experience, unless exempted. For clarification, contact Professor Robert G. Hoeing at (716) 645-2177, or rghoeing@buffalo.edu; or Professor David Fertig at (716) 645-2177, or fertig@buffalo.edu.*

Summary

Total required credit hours for the minor...18

GER 101: Elementary German 1st Semester

Credits: 5
Type: LEC

Develops listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in a communicative context; for beginners.

GER 102: Elementary German 2nd Semester

Credits: 5
Pre-requisites: [GER 101](#)
Type: LEC

Develops listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in a communicative context; for beginners.

GER 104: Transitional Elementary German

Credits: 5
Type: LEC

Review course for students with the Regents diploma or with prior elementary-level instruction.

GER 111: Reading German for Beginners I

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Concentrates on the development of 'decoding' of German texts from several disciplines (such as the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences). Includes basic grammar instruction and extensive vocabulary memorization, but no practice in speaking or listening.

GER 112: Reading German for Beginners II

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Concentrates on the development of 'decoding' of German texts from several disciplines (such as the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences). Includes basic grammar instruction and extensive vocabulary memorization, but no practice in speaking or listening.

GER 151: Intermediate German I

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Provides further practice in the language with increased attention to conversational and written skills; helps students attain intermediate-level proficiency.

GER 152: Intermediate German II

Credits: 3
Pre-requisites: [GER 151](#)
Type: LEC

Provides further practice in the language with increased attention to conversational and written skills; helps students attain intermediate-level proficiency.

GER 271: German for Business

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Permits intensive practice in learning specialized vocabulary and concepts of German business, along with reading business texts and developing conversational skills in business situations.

GER 272: German for Business

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Permits intensive practice in learning specialized vocabulary and concepts of German business, along with reading business texts and developing conversational skills in business situations.

GER 301: Survey of German Cultural History I

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Explores major cultural and intellectual movements in German thought, society, literature, and the arts within the context of German history. The first semester covers the period from earliest

German

Germanic times to 1750, the second from 1750 to the present. Classes are normally conducted in German.

GER 302: Survey of German Cultural History II

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Explores major cultural and intellectual movements in German thought, society, literature, and the arts within the context of German history. The first semester covers the period from earliest Germanic times to 1750, the second from 1750 to the present. Classes are normally conducted in German.

GER 314: German Literature Survey

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Survey of German literature from Germanic times to present. Taught in German.

GER 337: Advanced Conversation and Composition

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Enhances the speaking and writing skills of students who have attained intermediate-level proficiency. Activities include intensive small-group discussions on topics of current interest, and frequent writing exercises to refine compositional skills. Instruction exclusively in German.

GER 338: Stylistics and Translation

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Allows analysis of and practice in various styles of expression in German, as well as the study of idiomatic usages in the language. Instruction is exclusively in German.

GER 340: 20th Century Fiction

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Prose of early 20th century, Weimar, DDR, exile literature and post-war.

GER 351: German Literature in Translation

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Survey of masterpieces of German literature in English translation.

GER 404: Readings in Old Norse Literature

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Involves readings in Norse mythology and the Icelandic sagas, as well as the cultural history of the Vikings.

GER 408: The Structure of Modern German Grammar

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Incorporates linguistic analysis of the phonetic, phonological, morphological, and syntactic structure of German. Includes a survey of the more important theories of German syntax, as well as preliminary investigation into semantics, if time allows.

GER 410: Topics

Credits: 3
Type: SEM

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Intensive research on a selected topic in German studies.

GER 414: History of the English Language

Credits: 3
Type: LEC/SEM

Introduces the linguistic and cultural development of the English language from its beginnings to the present.

GER 415: History of the German Language

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Introduces the linguistic and cultural development of the German language from its beginnings to the present. Instruction is usually in German.

GER 420: Grimm's Fairy Tales

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Allows in-depth study of traditional Märchen and Sagen, and Kunst-Märchen, as well as a survey of Germanic mythologies and legends. Instruction is usually in German.

GER 439: German Prose: the Novelle

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Studies the masterworks of the novelle genre in German literature from the romantic period to the early twentieth century. Readings and discussion are in German.

GER 449: Topics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

German

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Allows independent and intensive research on a selected topic in German studies.

Explores a selected topic in German linguistics, literature, or cultural history.

GER 450: Topics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Explores a selected topic in German linguistics, literature, or cultural history.

GER 469: Contemporary Drama and Film

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

German theater and cinema from the 1960s to present.

GER 494: Senior Capstone Course

Credits: 3
Type: TUT

Course for senior-level majors intended to provide a learning experience that integrates knowledge from lower-level courses. Topics may vary.

GER 496: Internship/Practicum

Credits: 3
Type: TUT

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Hands-on experience in language and cultural studies at institutions and organizations in Western New York and/or nationwide.

GER 498: Undergraduate Research

Credits: 1-8
Type: TUT

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Students collaborate with faculty research mentors on an ongoing project or conduct independent research under the guidance of a faculty member. This experience provides students with an inquiry-based learning opportunity and engages them as active learners in a research setting.

GER 499: Independent Study

Credits: 1-16
Type: TUT