

German Studies

“German Studies at Cornell is more than a language program. It is at once a venue to explore German history and culture in both German- and English-language courses, a laboratory for innovative projects in German at the advanced level, and a linguistic and cultural passport to German-speaking Europe.”

Tyler Carrington, Assistant Professor of German Studies

Students can major or minor in German studies at Cornell, and the program also supports a teaching major in German-language instruction.

German studies course offerings include a full range of language courses, as well as two to three English-language seminars per year on German topics. Upper-level courses focus on a specific period in German cultural history or a specific aspect of literature, such as recent courses about Berlin as a world city, sexology in Berlin and Vienna, and masculinity in the 1920s.

At the advanced level, students complete project courses that have as their end goal a variety of creative projects, such as designing a digital mapping exhibit about refugees using ArcGIS and Neatline, creating a lifelike reenactment of life in East Germany, or adapting the Grimms’ Fairy Tales in a variety of media. For those who enter college with substantial previous study in German, there are a variety of ways to push boundaries and develop language skills and cultural competencies.

Students may wish to pursue German studies as their primary field of study or as a complement to other majors because Germany is firmly planted at the center of European and world affairs. It has the largest economy in Europe, is the global leader in green technology and innovative environmental policy,

and is the home of multiple high-tech industries, from solar panel production to high-end electronics and automobile design.

German is the business language of Europe, and Germany’s culture is vibrant, multicultural, and diverse. With a background in German, students have access not only to economic opportunities in a global world (BASF, Siemens, and BMW all have U.S. offices), but also to thinkers like Kant, Freud, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, Kafka, Rilke, and Thomas Mann.

Germany’s rapidly growing multicultural side is demonstrated by the award-winning films of Fatih Akin, the fiction of Anna Seghers, Christa Wolf, Emine Sevgi Özdamar, the poetry of Zehra Çırak, the political satire of Noah Sow, the theoretical writings of Kien Nghi Ha, or the theatrical productions of the Ballhaus Naunynstraße.

BENEFITS OF ONE COURSE AT A TIME

Cornell’s One Course At A Time curriculum makes it easy for students to arrange educational opportunities abroad. For example, it’s possible to take two blocks and intern with the German parliament on a DAAD-Bundestag scholarship. Students can also apply for any number of internships in the natural and applied sciences at German laboratories and businesses.

Students can choose from a list of about 30 approved study abroad programs. With the flexibility provided by the block plan, students can study abroad for a month or two, or they can pursue a more traditional semester or yearlong program. Most students go abroad

Faculty Bios & Courses

TYLER CARRINGTON
*Visiting Assistant Professor
of German Studies*

Teaches a wide range of German language and cultural studies courses. These range from German 101 to senior seminars, including Berlin: The Birth of a World City, Fairy Tales, Modern Men: Reimagining Masculinity in the 1920s, The Holocaust, and German-Americans in Iowa. He is a cultural historian of modern Germany and specializes in turn-of-the-century masculinity, urban studies, and the history of emotions. Ph.D. in history, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; M.A. in German, Middlebury College.



during their junior year, and after they have completed a 300-level German course.

The Goethe Institut, which supports German training centers throughout Germany and around the world, provides an especially excellent match for the block plan because courses are offered for one month (about the length of one block at Cornell), two months, or longer. The semester-long Vienna Program sponsored by Central College is another popular option. Tuition at German universities is free, even for non-Germans, making these programs very affordable.

CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

Students studying German have access to language labs featuring Can-8 VirtualLab software. Can-8 provides additional speaking and listening practice in German to supplement classroom learning. It is primarily designed for oral language practice, but it also includes reading and writing assignments.

German studies majors complete their degrees with capstone projects designed to develop strong mastery of advanced German speaking, writing, reading, and listening comprehension. Students develop their own research projects that culminate in a final paper or series of papers.

The German program also sponsors the German Club, a student organization focused on cultural activities for all Cornell students, German speaking or not. Recent German Club events include a trip to Oktoberfest in the Amana Colonies, participation in the annual Languages Program Bake-Off on campus, attending the opera *Parzifal* by Richard Wagner at the Lyric Opera in Chicago, a German holiday cookie bake, and a German karaoke and open-mic night.

Accomplished students may be invited to join Delta Phi Alpha, the national German honor society. The Cornell chapter, Zeta Tau, was founded in 1968 and its membership comprises majors and nonmajors who have demonstrated superior ability in 300-level German courses and who meet the national requirements.

INTERNSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

One Cornell student recently participated in a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Germany, and another received a DAAD Fellowship through the German Academic Exchange Service, a publicly funded independent organization of higher education institutions in Germany. A senior physics major also recently spent a month at the Albert Einstein Institute in Hannover working on fiber optics.

AFTER CORNELL

Germany is a world leader in green energy and technology, luxury automobiles, engineering, and finance, and there are many opportunities open to professionals with experience in German language and culture. In addition, German was long the lingua franca in fields like chemistry, physics, engineering, philosophy, history, art history, music, and religious studies. Graduate school programs in these fields often require previous German study or look highly upon it as proof of rigorous undergraduate preparation for advanced study.

ALUMNI CAREERS

Advanced naturalist intern at Audubon Center of the North Woods, Sandstone, Minnesota (Class of 2014)

Dance instructor, Portland, Oregon (Class of 2012)

Program coordinator at Welthungerhilfe, Turkey (Class of 2012)

Assistant manager at Goodwill Industries, Lees Summit, Missouri (Class of 2011)

German teacher at Dassel-Cokato High School, Cokato, Minnesota (Class of 2008)

Research associate at KDH Research Communication, Atlanta, Georgia (Class of 2008)

Program assistant at International Republican Institute, Washington, D.C. (Class of 2007)

Assistant professor of chemistry at Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia (Class of 2006)

Credit risk manager at Wells Fargo, Edina, Minnesota (Class of 2005)

Principal program manager at Rockwell Collins Deutschland GmbH, Heidelberg, Germany (Class of 2004)

Mathematics teacher at International School Rheintal, Buchs, Switzerland (Class of 2004)

Executive director at J. P. Morgan Securities Inc., Chicago, Illinois (Class of 1999)

Development specialist at University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico (Class of 1996)

Administrative director at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee (Class of 1995)

Economist at Federal Reserve Board, Washington, D.C. (Class of 1994)

Teacher at International School-Conakry, Washington, D.C. (Class of 1992)

Attorney deputy public defender at State of Colorado, Ft. Collins, Colorado (Class of 1987)