

Department of German Language and Literatures

Why Study German at Oberlin?

- Germans comprise the largest group of immigrants to the United States. Many students therefore take up the study of German for personal reasons to become more knowledgeable about their linguistic and cultural background.
- Many Oberlin students discover that German is an indispensable tool for research in their major field, e.g., in science, environmental science, medicine or alternative medicine and public health, religion, art history, music history, philosophy, and other fields.
- For students planning a future in music, performance, music or art history, competence in German may be an absolute necessity.
- Students contemplating a career in government or the foreign service recognize the advantages of proficiency in German.
- Oberlin students who have become acquainted with such German writers as Goethe, Thomas Mann, Kafka, Hesse, Rilke, and others in English translation desire the ability to read them in the original.
- After graduation, students may wish to study for a time at a German university. Oberlin students who have done substantial work in German have been particularly successful in competing for Fulbright scholarships.
- Oberlin German majors have successfully competed for admission to the best graduate schools in the country. They have found careers in teaching, library science, journalism, government work, medicine, law, international business, and music or art history.

The Max Kade German Writer-in-Residence Program brings a prominent German, Austrian, or Swiss author to the campus each year for some ten weeks. The writer reads from his or her works, conducts a module course on contemporary literature (usually with emphasis on his or her own writing), visits the German House, and is generally available to interested students. This program, established in 1968 and

funded by the Max Kade Foundation, is rare among American colleges and universities.

The Max Kade German House is a coeducational dormitory for thirty-eight students. It serves as a focal point for campus German activities, such as guest lectures, readings, weekly film showings, "Kaffeestunde" and other social activities. The house affords opportunities for practicing German in an informal setting. A faculty resident and a graduate assistant, both native speakers, live in the dormitory and oversee the program. The staff of the German department also actively supports the German House.

Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to study abroad. The department has established close ties to programs at other institutions and will assist students in exploring such options. Among these is the excellent Junior Year Abroad Program in Munich and Marburg, in which Oberlin students have regularly participated, as well as newer ones in Berlin and Dresden. At the more advanced level, students may compete in the annual German University Exchange Scholarship program. This program provides students with the opportunity for individual, supervised study at a German university of their choice during the spring semester.

The German Curriculum

Oberlin's German program enables students to attain proficiency in the German language as well as an understanding of German literature and civilization. Two alternative majors and a minor are offered:

1. The German Major is designed for students primarily interested in the study of the German language, literature, and film.
2. The German Studies Major is intended for students interested not only in literature, but also in other areas of German culture (such as the fine arts, history, cinema, music, philosophy, theology, political theory).
3. The German Minor is offered to students intending to devote at least fifteen credit hours to advanced work in German literature and culture.

In addition to the language courses, the department offers a variety of courses in literature, culture, and film both in German and in translation. Other courses pertaining to German area studies are taught by members of the history, art and music departments. Various programs and events on campus also enrich the German curriculum.

Students who excel in their academic work may participate in the departmental **Honors Program**. For a full description of the Honors Program, please consult the department chair.

Faculty of the German Language and Literatures Department

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B.A., Grove City College, 1987
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Areas of interest: Twentieth-century West German Literature and Film, East German Cinema, Post-war narratives of "Vergangenheitsbewältigung", Disability Studies.

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Areas of interest: Baroque, Goethezeit, Romanticism, interrelations of music and literature, poetry of the 20th and 21st centuries.

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