

## Welcome to the German Major

Spring 2017

Dear New Major:

Welcome to the German department! Students majoring in German develop language skills in their social and cultural contexts. This means that majors not only develop the ability to use the German language effectively in a range of settings for a variety of purposes, but also develop knowledge of the history, culture, and society of German-speaking peoples and their contributions to other disciplines and world events. In so doing they develop an understanding of important social, political, and cultural debates that continue to resonate throughout the world today. Majors use their knowledge, skills, and abilities to take advantage of dynamic personal, intellectual, and professional exchanges crossing departmental, disciplinary, and university boundaries.

The combination of linguistic and cultural competency and knowledge is excellent preparation for a variety of professional careers in business, government, finance, medicine, engineering, law, education, and academia. Double (second) majors are encouraged and supported. Indeed, many of our majors have found that German enhances and improves career prospects in such fields as biology (pre-med), history, political science, art history, music, economics, and engineering. Numerous opportunities are available that include semester-long Duke in Berlin programs, Duke in Berlin summer programs, Fulbright and German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) scholarships, and a variety of internships both before and after graduation.

In addition to study abroad, the German department also sponsors a host of co-curricular activities, such as lectures, film series, *Kaffeestunden*, and other events. Most German majors are members of our German Club, and by the time they take upper level courses (300-level or above) they are eligible to become members of the Delta Phi Alpha (German Honors Society), a prestigious national organization that also has a number of scholarships available to members.

Now let's take a moment and see how all this is going to work.

**Requirements:** The German major requires 10 courses at the 200 level or above, including cross-listed courses and courses taught in the Duke-in-Berlin Program.

- Eight of the 10 courses must be taught in German, however exceptions to this rule can be made at the discretion of the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

- Direct enrollment courses taken in the Duke-in-Berlin Program count towards the major.
- Courses in German that count towards the major normally include:
  - GERMAN 305S Advanced German I: Culture and Society
  - GERMAN 306S Advanced German II: Text and Context

(or the equivalents in Berlin, GERMAN 303AS or GERMAN 312AS)

- GERMAN 430S German Literature and Culture
- GERMAN 435S German Politics and Society

## Advising

First and second majors should set up a meeting with the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the German department before or after declaring a major. The DUS will serve as your primary faculty advisor if you have declared German as a first major, and will also advise you if you are a second major. The DUS will be your main resource for course selection, research opportunities, graduate or professional school information, and such. However, if you have developed a relationship with another faculty member in the department, you should also feel free to seek her or him out for advice as well.

Prior to the course registration period each semester, you should set up an appointment to discuss course selection. It is during these meetings that the major requirements will be reviewed in detail to make sure that students are on the right track for completion of the major. If you have questions, feel free to contact me, Professor Ingeborg Walther, who will be serving as Director of Undergraduate Studies ([waltheri@duke.edu](mailto:waltheri@duke.edu)) through the fall 2017 semester.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,



Ingeborg Walther

Professor of the Practice of Germanic Languages and Literature

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