German Language (GER)
Major and Minor in German Language

Department of European Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, College of Arts and Sciences

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German Language (GER)
The major in German is part of a liberal education and concerns itself primarily with the language, literature, and culture of the German-speaking countries. In a time of continuing political consolidation within the European Union and increasing cooperation between member nations in trade and commerce, technology and science, the environment, and the arts, a mastery of German and a deeper understanding of its societies and cultures can open opportunities for personal development and prepare students for diverse professional careers. The program places the study of German and its literature in the context of its culture, including its political, historical, and economic aspects.

The major in German is flexibly designed to permit emphasis on language, literature, or area studies. Students graduating with a major in German have found careers and job opportunities in international transportation, tourism, foreign trade and banking, government, science and technology, as well as in teaching and library sciences.

For majors in the sciences, humanities, and social sciences, knowledge of German is important in international science and in areas of employment within the expanding East-West trade. It is often desired for admission to graduate school and for advanced graduate study in many disciplines.

Requirements for the Major and Minor in German Language (GER)

Placement in Language Courses for Incoming Students

The prerequisites for courses indicate approximate placement levels. One year of high school foreign language is generally considered the equivalent of one college semester. Students are advised to consult the GER Program Coordinator if they believe the recommended course is inappropriate.

Requirements for the Major

The major in German Language leads to the Bachelor of Arts degree. No previous knowledge of the language is required. All courses offered for the major must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher. Transfer students must complete at least 18 credits toward the major at Stony Brook.

Students not enrolled in the German Teacher Preparation program must complete a minor in Linguistics, History or another discipline approved by the German major advisor. The elective courses with the required minor should be pre-approved by with the German major advisor. Among the courses for the minor, 12 credits must be on the upper-division level in a discipline other than GER.

Students enrolled in the German Teacher Preparation Program must earn the equivalent of at least 33 (preferably 36) credits in GER content courses. To accomplish this, teacher preparation students should complete at least 13 (preferably at least 16) GER credits at one of the SUNY partner universities in Germany. These credits will substitute for GER 313, GER 438, and GER 439 and two HUG requirements above. Students should consult with the German advisor and the teacher education program advisor.

Completion of the major requires 47-48 credits.
A. Required courses:

1. GER 211, GER 212 Intermediate German I, II (see Note 1)
2. GER 311, GER 312 German Conversation and Composition I, II
3. GER 313 German Vocabulary in Conceptual Groups
4. GER 438 Structure of German (see Note 2)
5. GER 439 History of German (see Note 3)
6. HUG 221 German Cinema since 1945
7. HUG 229 Germany Today

*Students who are enrolled in the Teacher Preparation program or students who choose to participate in a Study Abroad program at one of the SUNY partner universities in Germany may use credits earned through study abroad to substitute for GER 313, GER 438, and GER 439 and two HUG requirements above (with permission of the German advisor).

B. Second Discipline (choose one of the following options)

- A minor in Linguistics, History or another discipline approved by the German major advisor. The elective courses selected for the required minor should be pre-approved by with the German major advisor. Among the courses for the minor, 12 credits must be on the upper-division level in a subject other than GER.

  or

- A second major in an appropriate area (Linguistics, History or other discipline approved by the German advisor).

Note 1: The prerequisite for GER 211 is GER 101 or GER 112.

Note 2: Students who complete the LIN minor can request a waiver of GER 438 with permission from the German major advisor. Credits must be made up in other courses, chosen in consultation with the major advisor.

Note 3: Students who complete LIN 340 Historical Linguistics (prerequisite LIN 101 and 201) may request a waiver of GER 439 with permission from the German major advisor. Credits must be made up in other courses, chosen in consultation with the major advisor.

C. Upper-Division Writing Requirement

To demonstrate proficiency in writing in English, German majors must register for the 0-credit GER 459 and present a dossier consisting of a minimum of two papers of at least five pages each. This dossier must be submitted before the end of the second semester of the junior year to the GER Program Coordinator. The papers must be essays previously composed for upper division courses. Those originally in a foreign language must be rewritten in English. A faculty committee will judge the papers for clarity, accuracy, and appropriateness of style. If the dossier is judged to be unsatisfactory, the student will be asked to rewrite and resubmit the work in the senior year. Students must demonstrate acceptable writing skills before they graduate.

Students should consult with the department advisor to ensure that their plan for completing the Upper Division Writing Requirement is consistent with university graduation requirements for General Education. Students completing the Stony Brook Curriculum (SBC) must complete a course that satisfies the "Write Effectively within One's Discipline" (WRTD) learning objective to graduate. The Upper Division Writing Requirement is consistent in most cases with the SBC learning outcomes for WRTD.

Foreign Language Secondary Teacher Education Program

See http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/bulletin/current/academicprograms/edu/degreesandrequirements.php. Students enrolled in the German Teacher Preparation Program must earn the equivalent of at least 33 (preferably 36) credits in GER content courses. To accomplish this, teacher preparation students should complete at least 13 (preferably at least 16) GER credits at one of the SUNY partner universities in Germany. These credits will substitute for GER 313, GER 438, and GER 439 and two HUG requirements above. Students should consult with the German advisor and the teacher education program advisor.

Requirements for the Minor

A German minor is available for students majoring in other disciplines. All upper-division courses in German offered to fulfill minor requirements below must be passed with a grade of C or higher. At least nine of the upper-division credits must be earned at Stony Brook.

Completion of the minor requires 21 credits.

1. GER 211, GER 212 Intermediate German I, II (see Note 1)
2. GER 311, GER 312 German Conversation and Composition I, II
3. GER 313 German Vocabulary in Conceptual Groups
4. GER 438 Structure of German
5. GER 439 History of German

Note 1: The prerequisite for GER 211 is GER 101 or GER 112.

Note 2: One HUG course can be substituted for a course in 3-5.
Sample Course Sequence for the Major in German Language with minor in Linguistics

A course planning guide for this major may be found here. The major course planning guides are not part of the official Undergraduate Bulletin, and are only updated periodically for use as an advising tool. The Undergraduate Bulletin supersedes any errors or omissions in the major course planning guides.

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GER

Germanic Languages and Literature

GER 101: Intensive Elementary German
An intensive course covering the elementary German program (GER 111, 112) in one semester. GER 101 is designed for students who have no prior knowledge of the language. A student who has had two or more years of German in high school (or who has otherwise acquired an equivalent proficiency) may not take this course without written permission from the supervisor of the course. May not be taken for credit after GER 111 or any other course in German.

DEC: S3
SBC: LANG
6 credits

GER 111: Elementary German I
An introduction to spoken and written German, stressing pronunciation, speaking, comprehension, reading, writing, and culture. The course consists of four hours in a small section conducted in German, and one laboratory hour. The course is designed for students who have no prior knowledge of German. A student who has had two or more years of German in high school (or who has otherwise acquired an equivalent proficiency) may not take GER 111 without written permission from the supervisor of the course.

4 credits

GER 112: Elementary German II
An introduction to spoken and written German, stressing pronunciation, speaking, comprehension, reading, writing, and culture. The course consists of four hours in a small section conducted in German, and one laboratory hour. The course is designed for students who have no prior knowledge of German. A student who has had two or more years of German in high school (or who has otherwise acquired an equivalent proficiency) may not take GER 111 without written permission from the supervisor of the course.

DEC: S3
SBC: LANG
4 credits

GER 211: Intermediate German I
The reading and interpretation of a wide variety of German texts, with a review of German grammar, composition, and conversation. Emphasis on comparison of languages and cultures within the German-speaking world and beyond. Work in the language laboratory further develops audiolinguual skills.
Prerequisite: GER 101 or 112 or placement into 211. See https://llrc.stonybrook.edu/placement-exams for more information.

DEC: S3
SBC: GLO, LANG
3 credits

GER 212: Intermediate German II
The reading and interpretation of a wide variety of German texts, with a review of German grammar, composition, and conversation. Emphasis on comparison of languages and cultures within the German-speaking world and beyond. Work in the language laboratory further develops audiolinguual skills.
Prerequisite: GER 211 or placement into 212. See https://llrc.stonybrook.edu/placement-exams for more information.

DEC: S3
SBC: GLO, HUM, LANG
3 credits

GER 311: German Conversation and Composition
The active use of spoken and written German.
Prerequisite: GER 212

DEC: S3
SBC: HFA+, SPK
3 credits

GER 312: German Conversation and Composition
The active use of spoken and written German.
Prerequisite: GER 212

DEC: S3
SBC: ESI, HFA+, WRTD
3 credits

GER 313: German Vocabulary in Conceptual Groups
The study of German vocabulary in so-called "conceptual groups" that reflect the world of nature (flowers, etc.) and culture (musical instruments, etc.). The objective is primarily to increase our stock of words and practice using them in context, but also to enrich our knowledge of selected words by examining significant moments or developments in their histories.
Prerequisite: GER 212

SBC: HFA+
3 credits

GER 343: Introduction to Literary Genres
Using selected texts easily read and understood by students whose background in German may be limited, this course is intended to introduce those students to terminology and techniques of literary analysis and interpretation.
Prerequisite: GER 212

DEC: G & 3
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

GER 344: Survey of German Literature
A chronological survey of German literature from the 18th century to the present, with stress on defining the periods therein. All readings are in German.
Prerequisite: GER 212

DEC: G & 3
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

GER 402: German Prose
A survey of German prose and its subgenres. All work is done in German.
Prerequisite: GER 343 or 344

DEC: S3
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

GER 404: Goethezeit
An intensive study of German literature in the period 1750-1832. All work is done in German.
Prerequisite: GER 343 or 344

DEC: S3
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

GER 438: Structure of German
Study of the phonological, graphemic, morphological, syntactic, and semantic structures of Modern German.
Prerequisite: GER 212

DEC: S3
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

GER 439: History of German
The development of the German language from Indo-European to Modern High German. A representative selection of texts from different periods is examined. Conducted as a seminar.
Prerequisite: GER 212

DEC: S3
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

GER 444: Experiential Learning

Stony Brook University: www.stonybrook.edu/ugbulletin
This course is designed for students who engage in a substantial, structured experiential learning activity in conjunction with another class. Experiential learning occurs when knowledge acquired through formal learning and past experience are applied to a “real-world” setting or problem to create new knowledge through a process of reflection, critical analysis, feedback and synthesis. Beyond-the-classroom experiences that support experiential learning may include: service learning, mentored research, field work, or an internship.

Prerequisite: WRT 102 or equivalent; permission of the instructor and approval of the EXP+ contract (http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/bulletin/current/policiesandregulations/degree_requirements/EXPplus.php)

SBC: EXP+
0 credit, S/U grading

GER 447: Directed Readings in German
Independently supervised readings in selected topics in German language and literature, which may focus on a specific German language author or the literature of a specific period or genre. May be repeated.

Prerequisites: Permission of instructor and department

DEC: S3
SBC: EXP+
1-6 credits

GER 450: Write Effectively in German
A zero credit course that may be taken in conjunction with any 300- or 400-level GER course, with permission of the instructor. The course provides opportunity to practice the skills and techniques of effective academic writing and satisfies the learning outcomes of the Stony Brook Curriculum's WRTD learning objective.

Prerequisite: WRT 102; permission of the instructor

SBC: WRTD
0 credit, S/U grading

GER 457: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum in German I
Each student conducts a regular problem or tutorial section that supplements a regular language course under the guidance of a master teacher. Responsibilities may include preparing material for discussion and helping students with problems. Not for major or minor credit.

Prerequisites: Fluency in German; permission of instructor and department

DEC: S3
SBC: EXP+
3 credits, S/U grading

GER 476: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum in German II
Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member's regularly scheduled classes. Students assume greater responsibility in such areas as leading discussions and analyzing results of tests that have already been graded. The course in which the student is permitted to work as a teaching assistant must be different from the course in which he or she previously served.

Prerequisites: Fluency in German; permission of instructor and department

DEC: S3
SBC: EXP+
3 credits, S/U grading

GER 488: Internship
Participation in local, state, national, and international public and private agencies and organizations to apply and reinforce language and related skills and knowledge of social and cultural institutions.

Prerequisites: GER 311 and 312; permission of instructor and department; specific placement examinations where applicable

DEC: S3
SBC: EXP+
0-6 credits, S/U grading

GER 495: Senior Honors Project in German
Per project for seniors. Arranged in consultation with the department, the project involves writing a paper, under the close supervision of an appropriate instructor, on a suitable topic. Students who are candidates for honors take this course.

Prerequisite: Permission of department

DEC: S3
SBC: EXP+
3 credits

HUG 220: Germany Today
A survey of contemporary Germany and its political, social, and economic structure, as well as the study of cultural life and institutions, within the context of its historical development, with comparisons to American models and standards.

DEC: I
SBC: GLO
3 credits

HUG 321: Topics in the Literature of Germany
A course given in English on a major German author, genre, or literary movement, designed primarily to give students in other disciplines an opportunity to become acquainted with the German tradition. (German majors are admitted by special permission of their advisors, and do the reading and term papers in German.) Semester Supplements to this Bulletin contain description when course is offered. May be repeated as the topic changes.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisites: Two literature courses

DEC: G
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

HUG 221: German Cinema Since 1945
The theory and history of German film as an art form, from filmmakers such as Alexander Kluge, Bernhard Wicki, and the “new filmmakers” Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Volker Schlondorff, Margarete von Trotta, Werner Herzog, and Wim Wenders. Topics include silent film; New German Cinema, 1962-1985; national cinema and national identity; film as literature and from literary models; problems of authors and their audiences; women’s film, film in the former German Democratic Republic; and the influence of American filmmakers, subject matter, and settings.

DEC: D
SBC: ARTS
3 credits