

# GERMAN STUDIES (GERM)

Updated January 31, 2025

**Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures:** Associate Professor S. Cook  
Instructor III: K. Lovrien-Meuwese

## DEGREES/PROGRAMS OFFERED

3-Year BA  
Minor

## INTRODUCTION

The modern German language was born in the 16<sup>th</sup> century when two groups of dialects known as Frankish and Alemannic merged into a single language. As a result of the wide circulation of Martin Luther's German translation of the Bible (1534), the new language quickly grew in influence and prestige.

First taught as a language of culture, German was the mother tongue of many brilliant writers such as Goethe, Schiller, Kafka, Thomas Mann, Bertolt Brecht and Günter Grass and many well-known composers such as Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Schumann, Wagner and Mahler. From the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards, German has been at the forefront of intellectual inquiry, German-speaking intellectuals having shaped the Humanities with philosophers such as Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche and Heidegger, political thinkers such as Marx, Engels, Nietzsche and Hannah Arendt, psychoanalysts such as Freud and Jung and philologists (linguists) such as Humboldt, Schlegel, Schleicher and Grimm.

German is key to understanding the complexities of 20<sup>th</sup> century European history, culture and identity, given Germany's role in World Wars I and II, the Holocaust, the Cold War, the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the evolution of the European Union (EU) following the reunification of East and West Germany. Now spoken by over 100 million people in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, German has more native speakers than any other European language in the European Union, and is second only to English as the language of business within the European Union.

Here in Canada, German occupies an important place in Manitoba's linguistic and cultural mosaic due to multiple migrations of German-speakers from around the world. Not surprisingly, the University of Winnipeg boasts a **Chair in German-Canadian Studies** and a **Chair in Mennonite Studies**, established to promote the study of the history and culture of German-speaking immigrants.

Acquiring a second language will enrich your life and open up many career opportunities. Whether your goals include visiting the castles and beer gardens of Europe, enjoying a performance of Mozart's *Magic Flute* in the original, watching a film by Wim Wenders, rediscovering your heritage, reading the works of Wittgenstein, delving into the legacy of the Cold War, analyzing Freud or embarking on an international career in business, commerce or finance, learning German is a definite asset. But if you plan to continue on to graduate studies in the Humanities, learning German is a must! Given the prominence of the German tradition of research in the Humanities, German is one of the **required** languages for many PhD programs.

In the department of **Modern Languages and Literatures**, we offer the 3-year BA (Major or Combined Major) in German Studies with challenging courses where you will discuss topics of current interest, reflect on problems of the modern world, explore the culture of Germany, Austria and Switzerland and read short texts dealing with the social and political issues of our time. As you develop your command of oral and written German, you will also develop the cultural understanding that is needed in the global community.

Each year, UW students have the opportunity to take part in our exchange program with the University of Bamberg in Germany. If you are interested, contact the German Studies facilitator for further information.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR A 3-YEAR BA IN GERMAN STUDIES

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENT** Students must consult with the Department advisor in planning their course of study.

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENT** 90 credit hours

### RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT

Degree: Minimum 30 credit hours  
Major: Minimum 18 credit hours

### GENERAL DEGREE REQUIREMENT

Humanities: 12 credit hours  
Science: 6 credit hours  
Writing: Minimum 3 credit hours of Academic Writing.  
Indigenous: 3 credit hours in designated Indigenous requirement courses.  
Maximum Introductory Courses: Students may use a maximum of 42 credit hours at the 1000 level. Of these, a maximum of 6 credit hours may be below the 1000 level. As a result, students must take a minimum of 48 credit hours at the 2000-level or above in order to not exceed the maximum number of introductory courses.  
Distribution: Minimum three (3) credit hours from each of five (5) different subjects.

### MAJOR REQUIREMENT

Single Major: Minimum 30 credit hours/ Maximum 48 credit hours.  
Double Major: Minimum 30 credit hours in German Studies and specified number of credit hours in the other Major subject or program.  
Required courses: **GERM-2109(3)** Intermediate German and **GERM-2110(3)** Advanced German

Minimum of 6 credit hours in German Studies at the 3000 level

Combined Major: Minimum 48 credit hours from two (2) different Major subjects with not less than 18 credit hours from each Major subject.  
Required Courses: **GERM-2109(3)** Intermediate German and **GERM-2110(3)** Advanced German

## REQUIREMENTS FOR A MINOR IN GERMAN STUDIES

Degree: Students completing any undergraduate degree program are eligible to complete the Minor.  
Minor: 18 credit hours in the Minor subject, with a minimum of 12 credit hours above the 1000-level  
Residence Requirement: Minimum 12 credit hours in the Minor subject  
Required courses: A minimum of 3 credits at the 3000-level  
Restrictions: Students cannot declare the same subject as a Major and a Minor.

## COURSE LISTINGS

Students are advised to consult WebAdvisor or the appropriate Timetable for courses available in the upcoming term.

**Note:** All German Studies courses may be used to fulfill the Humanities Requirement.

### Language and Linguistics Courses

GERM-1001(6) Introductory German  
GERM-2109(3) Intermediate German  
GERM-2110(3) Advanced German  
GERM-2114(3) English-German Translation  
GERM-2115(3) German-English Translation  
GERM-2202(3) German Phonetics  
GERM-3401(3) Business German  
GERM-3403(3) German Lexicology  
GERM-3404(3) History of the German Language  
GERM-3858(3) The Acquisition of German as an Additional Language

### Culture and Literature Courses

GERM-2209(3) Introduction to German Literature  
GERM-2386(3) German Culture Through Film  
GERM-3101(3) Studies in German Culture I  
GERM-3102(3) Studies in German Culture II  
GERM-3113(3) Exploring Language and Society through Texts

### Courses in German Cultural History in English

#### (Cross-listed with History)

GERM-2101(3) Studies in German Culture I  
GERM-2102(3) Studies in German Culture II  
GERM-2331(3) History of Modern Germany  
GERM-3651(3) German-Canadian Identity – Historical Perspectives

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

All course descriptions for all undergraduate programs can now be found in one large PDF called "All course descriptions" in the "Academic Calendar" section of the University website:

<http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/index.html>