German Studies

Overview
As a German studies major, you immerse yourself in all aspects of German history, culture, philosophy, politics, and language. Because the department is small, you work closely with your professors and tailor the major to fit your interests. The study of a foreign culture is interdisciplinary; we encourage you to take related courses in other fields. We also encourage you to study in Germany or Austria for a semester or an entire academic year. Our program gives you a solid foundation for a number of careers. In past years, German studies majors have had tremendous success securing Fulbright scholarships. The program allows you to study, teach, and launch a project of your choosing in Germany.

Research Opportunities
German studies majors can undertake research projects either through one of our certificate programs in international studies, community action, environmental studies, or arts and technology, or through a two-semester honors thesis. Students have written on a broad spectrum of topics ranging from soccer and national identity in Germany to multilingualism and the successful multilingual polity of Switzerland.

International Opportunities and Study Abroad
We participate in an exchange that allows you to study for a year or a semester in Baden-Württemberg. The exchange also helps you find an internship. Summer study abroad is another option, with funds available through the department’s John S. King Scholarship. You have many opportunities on campus to practice your language skills with native speakers (including daily lunch conversation at the international tables in the dining hall) and learn about life in Germany. The department also sponsors academic lectures, film screenings, readings, and cultural events, including an annual Oktoberfest.

Lushan Zhang
German Studies

Q: Why Connecticut College?
A: I chose Conn because it just felt so right. I liked the size of the school and the location. My professors are willing to give personal attention to individual students. Conn also has a great environment for international students.

Q: What drew you to German studies?
A: First of all, I enjoy learning languages. I speak Chinese, English and a bit of Japanese. German is just a beautiful language to learn. Secondly, I like the department. I like the professors and the activities. I took German history and EU politics in my second year, and my studies came together. It was like a puzzle. Each piece linked to the other.

Q: What role has the career office played in your experience at Connecticut College?
A: The best part of the career office is that they lead me to ask questions about my interests and my future. They provide resources I can use to look for an answer, instead of giving out answers. They point out a way— not a way to a settled future, but rather a way to think about my career and plans.
## Faculty

**Geoffrey Atherton, Assistant Professor of German Studies; Chair of the German Studies Department**  
B.A., University of King’s College, Canada; M.A., Dalhousie University; Ph.D., Princeton University  
Literature and culture of 18th-century Germany; modernism; city of Berlin and memory

**Suzuko Knott, Assistant Professor of German Studies**  
B.A., M.A., University of Georgia; Ph.D., Washington University in St. Louis  
Contemporary German language and literature; film and media studies; gender and women’s studies

**Karolin Machtans, Assistant Professor of German Studies**  
M.A., University of Hamburg; Ph.D., University of Hamburg  
20th and 21st century German literature and film; post-1945 German history and culture; minorities and transnationalism; representations of the Holocaust; gender studies; memory studies; translation studies; environmentalism and urban space

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## Selected Courses

Elementary and Intermediate German Language; Freud and Nietzsche: Introduction to Literary Analysis; Germany in Transit: Transnational Writers and Filmmakers; German Film Now!; Muslims in Germany: From “Guest Workers” to Refugees; Imagining “Amerika”; Representing the Holocaust; Radicals, Terrorists, Pacifists in Germany after 1945; Berlin; Deutschland Heute: Germany Today; Trees, Rivers, and People: Environmental Consciousness in Germany

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## About Connecticut College

Connecticut College educates students to put the liberal arts into action as citizens in a global society. A leader in the liberal arts since 1911, the College is home to nationally ranked programs for internships, community action, arts and technology, environmental studies and international studies. Our beautiful 750-acre arboretum campus is located in the historic New England seaport community of New London, Conn.

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### WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A MAJOR IN GERMAN STUDIES?

- Communications Officer, European Service Network
- Assistant to Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations
- AmeriCorps VISTA Leader, Generations Inc.
- Director of International Programs, Gardner-Webb University
- Teacher of ESL, European Service Network
- Professor of German Studies, Davidson College
- Assistant Director for Chinese Language Initiatives, The Asia Society
- Health Specialist, World Bank
- Owner/Managing Partner, B Ward International Books LLC
- Account Executive for Emerging Markets, Cline Davis & Mann
- Financial Analyst, CB Richard Ellis New England
- Language Consultant, Cartus
- Executive Director, National Border Patrol Council
- Assistant Professor of German, Purdue University
- German Teacher, Lawrence Township Schools

### EXAMPLES OF STUDENT RESEARCH IN GERMAN STUDIES

- **Ellen Heartlein ’14**  
  *From left wing journalist to urban guerrilla: a historical biography of German terrorist Ulrike Meinhof*

- **Benjamin Duclos ’08**  
  *Eine Untersuchung von einer deutschen nationalen Identität im Fußball und der Merkwürdigkeit der Weltmeisterschaft 1990*

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For more information, visit  
[www.conncoll.edu/academics/](http://www.conncoll.edu/academics/)