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. Recently, German studies majors have had tremendous success securing Fulbright scholarships. In the past two years, seven have been chosen for the program, which 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 CELS played in your experience at Connecticut College?
A: The best part of CELS is that they lead me to ask questions about my interests and my future. Then 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

Selected Courses
Elementary and Intermediate German Language; Freud and Nietzsche: Introduction to Literary Analysis; Germany in Transit: Transnational Writers and Filmmakers; After the Wall: German Literature and Film; World War I and the Collapse of Western Civilization; Imagining “Amerika”; Radicals, Terrorists, Pacifists in Germany after 1945; War, Holocaust and Memory; Berlin; Deutschland Heute: Germany Today; Trees, Rivers, and People: Environmental Consciousness in Germany

About Connecticut College
Connecticut College is a private, highly selective liberal arts college with 1,850 students and more than 40 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities, as well as the option for students to self-design majors. The College offers a high level of intellectual challenge, a campus culture that supports students to tailor their educational experience to their own interests and goals, and a four-year career development program that teaches students how to translate a liberal arts degree into a first job or graduate school admission. Connecticut College is situated in the small New England seaport of New London.

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

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
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

German Teacher, Lawrence Township Schools

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For more information, visit www.conncoll.edu/academics/