**The German Studies Major and Minor at W&M:**

The German Studies faculty at W&M are a small group of award-winning teachers and researchers dedicated to the individual mentoring of our students. In our language classes and our seminar-style content courses you will advance your linguistic competency while studying German culture in a European and global context.

The German Studies major requires 34 credits above the 202 level (or the first two years of language study), and can be accomplished even if you are only starting out with German. For students entering W&M with an intermediate or advanced level of German, the major is often combined with a second major in, e.g., History, Art History, Government, or International Relations.

Every year, several of our graduates receive prestigious Fulbright Scholarships to teach and study in Germany and Austria. Many go on to selective graduate schools and careers in academia, the law, and government.

**Strengths of W&M’s German Studies Program:**

The German Studies Program offers courses on a wide range of topics, from the 17th century to the present. Areas of particular strength include:

* Film and media studies
* Critical theory and intellectual history
* Migration and multiculturalism
* Jewish-German studies
* Translation
* GDR culture
* History of science and literature

Recent course offerings include: "Pop Culture: Made in Berlin," "Horror Films in Weimar Germany," "Minorities in Germany," "Responses to the Holocaust," "GDR Literature," and "Representing Refugees."

**Study Abroad through W&M German Studies:**

Studying abroad is one of the many perks of studying at William & Mary, especially when you are learning a foreign language. The W&M German Program has its very own summer study abroad program in Potsdam, Germany – just a hop, skip and jump from Germany’s capital, Berlin. While you’re abroad with this faculty-led 7-week-program, you live with a host family, take classes at the University of Potsdam and earn up to 11 William & Mary credits, and go on numerous excursions and weekend trips. In the past, students have explored course topics on Berlin as a site of memory, as a prominent filming location for many German and international productions, or as a pop culture hub.

Want to spend more time in Germany? You can apply to study at our partner university in Münster during your Junior Year – either for the whole year or for one semester. In Münster, you will take regular university classes and live in the school’s dorms amongst your (German) peers. There is a variety of classes to choose from – and you get to experience German college life first hand. (Spoiler alert: It’s not quite the same as college life in the US!) The city is located in the western part of Germany, not far from other major German cities such as Cologne and Düsseldorf, and the Dutch border.

**Undergraduate Research in German Studies:**

German Studies faculty are active researchers. Our work reflects the work currently conducted in the field globally. We bring our own research and scholarship into the classroom at all levels.

One of the main goals of the German Studies program is to encourage mentored, independent research. Student research is a part of all our level classes above GRMN 207. In these courses, we will work closely with you to formulate and explore your own research questions. In addition to the research opportunities in regularly offered classes, students take German Studies Senior Seminar (GRMN 408). In this course, you undertake a significant research project with the guidance of your professor. You can also enroll in GRMN 411, Independent Study. You may take this course multiple times provided you explore different topics each time, and undertake a year-long project through the [Honors Program](https://www.wm.edu/as/modernlanguages/german/undergrad/research/honors/index.php) in German Studies, if you are eligible. Recent independent faculty-mentored research in German Studies include:  "Marx and Marxism in the 21st century," “Narrating Public Space: Kafka in Nationalized Prague,” “The Political Unconscious of Hannah Arendt,” “Gattungen der Wahrheit bei Nietzsche,” “Turkish-German Hip-Hop Culture,” …

The German Language House

Learn to cook a Currywurst or watch *Das Leben der Anderen* (*The Lives of Others*)! A vital attribute to its program that German Studies is particularly proud about is the German House. In an attempt to get as close to a full language immersion experience as possible, a dedicated native German speaking International Fellow (IF) runs the house with daily activities. These activities are designed for students either living in this very welcoming community or taking courses in German studies – regardless of level or year. At the house, students can practice language speaking skills in conversation hours as well as take part in cooking classes, film and game nights or larger events like the German House Oktoberfest. Apart from language learning, students see the house as a place to expand knowledge about norms, habits, traditions and really get a deeper sense about the culture of German speaking countries. Check out this [article](http://flathatnews.com/2019/10/28/breaking-the-language-barrier-international-fellows-host-community-events-at-language-houses-promote-engagement-inclusion-learning-among-residents-and-non-residents-alike/?fbclid=IwAR34P9SKo_l3YALSNfu1pJeyxbXvneexzXMZgXU7DqYtW2pUWb5itbrN-mc) in *The Flat Hat*!