

# GERMAN AND GERMAN STUDIES

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In the St. Olaf German Department, we are committed to offering students a critical, socially engaged, interdisciplinary and inclusive German Studies to meet global challenges. At every course level, language learning and cultural understanding support and reinforce one another. Beyond acquiring vocabulary and mastering grammar, German courses allow students to explore topics from fairy tales to film, from everyday life to international politics, and from confronting the past to building a more sustainable future.

Studying German at St. Olaf is both fun and enriching. Our small class sizes allow students to get to know their classmates closely as they learn to converse in German with each other, with professors, and with the native speakers we welcome to campus each year. Using language skills to explore the German-speaking world of yesterday and today, students will learn to make connections among diverse texts, including poetry and film, literature, news media, political discussions, as well as music, art, and architecture. Students will encounter social, cultural, artistic, political, and economic phenomena that have shaped German-speaking communities over time and that continue to influence their evolution today.

In addition to a diverse range of courses in German that treat language and culture together, the German Department offers courses in English open to all St. Olaf students on a variety of cultural topics stemming from the German-speaking world.

Beyond the classroom, students may participate in the weekly German conversation table (*Stammtisch*), semester film series, German choir, events organized by the German Honor Society Delta Phi Alpha, and activities hosted at *Deutschsprachige Wohngemeinschaft*, a Residential Learning Community where St. Olaf students live in an immersive German language and cultural community together with an exchange student from the Universität Konstanz.

## Overview of the Major

In courses for the German major, students gain an understanding of German-speaking cultures past and present while refining their oral and written German, building intercultural competence, and developing analytical and communication skills applicable to a wide variety of disciplines. Students need not be German majors to take level II and level III courses.

Level II courses are divided into three sequences:

- GERM 231 and GERM 232 are topically organized, content-based courses, with lexical and grammatical work integrated into the study and discussion of a wide range of cultural perspectives through diverse written texts and visual media. GERM 231 focuses on questions of identity and belonging in German-speaking societies, historically and today. In GERM 232, students explore past and present experiences of everyday life and their implications for social justice;
- 250-level courses prepare students to engage in informed conversations at a high level of discourse about core cultural narratives of the German-speaking world. In GERM 251, students

analyze the interaction of history and memory in literary and filmic narratives about German history as they develop advanced writing skills. GERM 252 explores contemporary issues in a global context through the study of short texts in multiple media forms, with projects that include oral presentations in a variety of genres and registers.

- 270-level courses introduce students to various ways of knowing: critical historiography, media literacy, and socially engaged scholarship. Students continue to refine their German language skills through tasks that emphasize reading against the grain and speaking to an audience beyond the classroom. Student products include web-based projects, research blogs, research presentations, interviews, and community engagement projects.

Level III courses are capstone seminars that require in-depth engagement with phenomena and discourses of German-speaking cultures, past and present. Students engage in original research that is presented publicly. Language work focuses on writing and speaking in a scholarly register.

## Intended Learning Outcomes for the Major Overview of the Concentration

The German studies concentration provides students the opportunity to explore the cultures of German-speaking countries from an interdisciplinary perspective. Students combine intermediate and advanced-level coursework in the German language with a selection of courses with appropriate cultural content, in English or German, taken across the college or during study abroad, in consultation with the program director.

## Intended Learning Outcomes for the Concentration Distinction

In the spring semester of 2023, the German Department faculty voted to discontinue the awarding of distinction in the German department. This decision was the culmination of conversations over several years—conversations that acquired greater urgency as the department began a more rigorous and wide-ranging discussion of equity, inclusion, and antiracism during the 2020-2021 academic year. In reaching this decision, the German Department joined several other St. Olaf departments and programs that have made the same decision in recent years. The department also joined a number of other departments and programs that have not offered distinction for many years.

## Special Programs Study Abroad

St. Olaf College offers students three unique study abroad opportunities in German-speaking countries, for either a semester or a full year: the Universität Mainz in central Germany, the Universität Konstanz in southern Germany, and Webster University in Vienna. The two university exchange programs in Germany offer an extensive array of courses across all disciplines. Webster University in Vienna offers the unique opportunity for music students to take applied lessons. Students need not be German majors or German Studies

concentrators to take part in these programs. For more information, see the Smith Center for Global Engagement.

Students may attend the Universität Konstanz for spring semester or for an entire academic year. The prerequisite for study at Konstanz is GERM 231 or equivalent. Students may attend the Universität Mainz for fall semester plus January term, for spring semester, or for an entire academic year. The prerequisite for study at Mainz is GERM 232 or equivalent. Both the Universität Konstanz and the Universität Mainz offer a pre-semester orientation during which students choose university courses in consultation with the St. Olaf German programs advisor.

Upon successful completion of an approved semester-long program of study in Germany, a student normally receives 4-5 credits on the St. Olaf transcript. Upon successful completion of an approved full-year program of study in Germany, a student normally receives 8-9 credits on the St. Olaf transcript. Up to 2 credits per semester can count toward the St. Olaf German major, excluding the 370-level course requirement. For a course to count toward the German major, the language of instruction must be German. Up to 2 credits total may count toward a German Studies concentration, one of which may be a course in English.

With approval from the St. Olaf German program advisor and/or the chair of the student's major department(s), course credits also may apply to another major, general education requirements, or electives. Credits toward other majors must be pre-arranged with those departments' chairs. Students should know that specific courses might not be offered during their time at their chosen university and discuss this possibility with their advisors and department chairs. Grades earned for all courses taken are recorded on the St. Olaf transcript but not calculated into the St. Olaf grade point average. However, should a student decide to apply for professional or graduate school, that institution may recalculate the Grade Point Average to include grades earned abroad.

The study abroad program at Webster Vienna Private University is designed with music students in mind, who can take applied lessons on site. Classes in a variety of other disciplines are also available. Unlike the study abroad programs in Konstanz and Mainz, the Webster University in Vienna program has English as its primary language of instruction and therefore has no requirement of prior German knowledge. A limited number of introductory and intermediate German courses are available.

Courses in English and Languages Across the Curriculum (LAC)

German courses in English translation (GERM 245, GERM 247, GERM 249, GERM 263) and courses offered in other departments (e.g., HIST 224, NORW 260) that examine key aspects of the histories and cultures of German-speaking societies carry OLE Core curriculum attributes and are open to majors and non-majors alike. These courses require no previous knowledge of German. Both the German major and the German Studies concentration allow for a limited portion of the requirements to be met with courses in English. Some courses in the German Department and in other departments at St. Olaf are offered with a German Languages Across the Curriculum component, which provide a certification when students complete two LAC courses in the same language.

German Residential Learning Community

German majors, German Studies concentrators, and other students motivated to be part of an immersive German-speaking living community may apply to live in *Deutschsprachige Wohngemeinschaft*, a co-educational Residential Learning Community (RLC). Each year a native German-speaking student is selected from the Universität Konstanz to live in the RLC to speak German and help organize cultural events with the other residents.

Recommendations for Graduate Study

St. Olaf's German Education program has been discontinued. Students interested in obtaining a K-12 German teaching license are encouraged to complete an undergraduate major in German and then apply to a graduate program that offers a Master's degree combined with teaching certification in German.

Students planning on graduate study in German should major in German and take additional courses relevant to graduate studies in the field. An academic plan will be designed in close discussion with the student's academic advisor. In recent years, St. Olaf German majors have been accepted for graduate study at the Universities of Michigan, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Students interested in graduate study in German are encouraged to pursue a research or teaching fellowship (e.g., Fulbright, DAAD, IPS, USTA, MLS-Rimbach) the year following graduation from St. Olaf, as intensive in-country language and cultural immersion in a professional or academic setting is a common and beneficial intermediate step before starting graduate study in the field.

Requirements Requirements for the German Major

The graduation major in German consists of a minimum of eight (8) courses\*:

Code	Title	Credits
Two 250-level courses, at least one of which must be taught by a St. Olaf instructor		2.00
Two 270-level courses, at least one of which must be taught by a St. Olaf instructor		2.00
One 300-level course, which must be taken on campus with a St. Olaf instructor and preferably in the student's senior year		1.00
Three additional courses relevant to German language, culture, or history (may include GERM 231, GERM 232, a January term abroad, and a maximum of one course in English with a significant German focus taught by a St. Olaf instructor)		3.00
Total Credits		8

Students may count a maximum of two (2) courses from a semester or four (4) courses from a full year abroad in a German-speaking country toward the major. *In order to count toward the major, courses taken abroad must be taken in German.* For further information regarding credits from St. Olaf study abroad opportunities for German, see the Special Programs section.

In exceptional cases, students may request to have alternate courses approved by the department chair.

\*One course may be taken S/U.

*\*By completing this major, the student also satisfies the OLE Core Writing in the Major requirement.*

## Requirements for the German Studies Concentration

The German studies concentration consists of a minimum of five (5) courses\*:

Code	Title	Credits
Three (3) courses in German at the level of German 232 and above, at least two of which must be taught by a St. Olaf instructor		3.00
Two (2) additional courses relevant to German studies (arts, culture, economics, history, politics, etc.) taken at St. Olaf or abroad, in German or English		2.00
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>5</b>

Students may count toward the concentration a maximum of two (2) courses taken in a St. Olaf-sponsored study abroad program, at least one of which must be taken in German.

If necessary, students may request to have alternate courses approved by the department chair.

The student's proposed concentration must be approved by the chair of the German Department.

\*One course may be taken S/U.

## Courses

### Language Courses

#### **GERM 111: Beginning German I**

Students begin to learn German through listening, speaking, reading, and writing about situations familiar to them including their personal biographies, families, daily life, studies, travels, and hobbies. Regular writing assignments help students learn vocabulary, check spelling, and form thoughts with German sentence structure. Regular speaking activities aid in acquiring accurate pronunciation and listening skills. Offered annually in the fall semester. Does not count toward German major or concentration.

#### **GERM 112: Beginning German II**

Students continue to develop basic language skills with emphasis on expanding vocabulary and on writing assignments that aid in the practical application of grammatical concepts. Communicating in German about familiar personal topics, students acquire vocabulary about sports, food, holidays, school, the environment, and life in German speaking cultures. Offered annually in the spring semester. Does not count toward German major or concentration.

**Prerequisite:** GERM 111 or by placement test.

#### **GERM 231: Intermediate German I**

Students explore life in the German-speaking countries through reading, discussing, and retelling narrative texts. The course emphasizes vocabulary building, a thorough review of German grammar, and the composition of short narratives to develop writing skills for paragraph-length discourse. Taught in German with some grammar explanations in English. Offered annually in the fall semester. May count toward the German major but not the German studies concentration.

**Prerequisite:** GERM 112 or by placement test.

#### **GERM 232: Intermediate German II**

Students continue to explore life in German-speaking countries, using cultural readings, films, and other authentic materials to develop vocabulary and composition skills. Drafting short reports enables students to practice writing skills for paragraph-length discourse. Selected grammar topics are reviewed as needed. Open to first-year students. Taught in German. Offered annually in the spring semester.

**Prerequisite:** GERM 231 or by placement test.

## 250-Level Courses

#### **GERM 251: History and Memory**

Students examine the National Socialist period (1933-1945), its embedding in cultural memory, and its implications for contemporary society. Students discuss and analyze literary and audio/visual texts that emerged from or reflect upon diverse experiences of oppression, violence, destruction and resistance under Nazism. The course is writing intensive and includes short weekly assignments as well as several longer, multi-step writing projects. Advanced grammar review supports analytical tasks. Taught in German. A one-hour weekly small group discussion section led by a native German speaker is required. Offered annually in fall semester.

**Prerequisite:** GERM 232 or by placement test.

#### **GERM 252: German-speaking Societies in Global Context**

Students examine current issues in German-speaking societies such as politics, sustainability, social welfare, diversity, and migration. They compare multiple perspectives on, and connections between the issues through sources including documentaries, podcasts, and news articles. Short writing assignments and oral presentations emphasize analysis of texts' strategic organization, argumentative structure, style, and layered voices. Advanced grammar review supports analytical tasks. Taught in German. A weekly small group discussion section led by a native German speaker is required. Offered annually in the spring semester.

**Prerequisite:** GERM 232 or by placement test.

## 270-298 Level Courses Taught in German

#### **GERM 272: Turning Points in German History**

Students examine a historical period or theme and its impact on the institutional, intellectual, and artistic heritage of German-speaking societies. The course requires close reading and critical analysis of primary sources, with a focus on history as an interpretive reconstruction of the past. Recent topics: the German Democratic Republic, German colonialism and decolonization, and migration. The course emphasizes strategies for writing papers in German. Taught in German. May be repeated if topic is different. Offered periodically in fall semester.

**Prerequisite:** GERM 251 or GERM 252.

**GERM 273: German Media History and Media Literacy**

Students develop their media literacy through German-language sources with emphasis on ideological, aesthetic, and ethical perspectives on how media make meaning and shape culture. Students examine issues treated in print and electronic formats across the history of mass communication, from early printing to the internet. To hone their critical media literacy, students compare and contrast how issues are represented in different German- and English-speaking media. The course emphasizes strategies for academic writing. Taught in German. Offered periodically in fall semester.

**Prerequisite:** GERM 251 or GERM 252.

**GERM 276: Green Germany**

Students examine Germany's successful sustainability initiatives and their roots in a long history of cultural values and scientific innovation. They study primary and secondary sources including interviews, journalistic articles, literary works, and films; these texts form the basis of students' written and oral analyses. Drawing on diverse disciplinary perspectives, students gain transferable knowledge and skills for addressing complex international environmental concerns. Offered periodically.

**Prerequisite:** GERM 251, GERM 252, or permission of the instructor.

**GERM 294: Academic Internship (study abroad)**

Students spend four weeks during January Term or summer in an individually selected German or Austrian workplace. Opportunities include work in health care, communications, and manufacturing as well as non-profit organizations, libraries, businesses, laboratories, offices, and churches. Assignment of position varies with availability in host institutions.

**Prerequisite:** at least one 250-level GERM course.

**GERM 298: Independent Study**

## 370-Level and Above Courses Taught in German

**GERM 371: Topics in German Literature**

Students hone their skills of analyzing the forms and contexts of production and reception of German-language literary works of various genres. Coursework includes close reading, discussion, and interpretation of visual and written texts. Recent topics include: author as public intellectual, die Fantasie, Frauenliteratur, and Wissen-Wissenschaft/en-Wissenschaftler:innen. The course emphasizes strategies for academic writing. Taught in German. May be repeated if the topic is different. Offered in alternate years in spring semester.

**Prerequisite:** at least one 270-level GERM course.

**GERM 372: Transdisciplinary Topics in German Studies**

Students explore an interdisciplinary topic in language, literature, history, or culture through close reading, discussion, analysis, and interpretation of selected works, including theoretical texts. Recent topics: identities and boundaries of the German-speaking world, Arbeitskulturen, and the Rote Armee Fraktion. Taught in German. May be repeated if topic is different. Offered alternate years in spring semester.

**Prerequisite:** at least one 270-level GERM course.

**GERM 394: Academic Internship (study abroad)**

Students spend four weeks during January Term or summer in the German or Austrian workplace. Opportunities include working in health care, communications, and manufacturing as well as non-profit organizations, libraries, businesses, laboratories, offices, and churches. Assignment of position varies with availability of host institutions.

**Prerequisite:** at least one 270-level GERM course.

**GERM 398: Independent Research**

May be counted toward German major or German studies concentration.

## German Studies Courses Taught in English

**GERM 245: Shifting Borders: Mapping Linguistic Landscapes in N Germany (study ab)**

In this course, students immerse themselves in Hamburg and Flensburg to explore the representations and concept of borders from a linguistic perspective. They inspect the intersecting roles of political, religious, socioeconomic, historical developments on past and current language systems and ideologies. They apply methods such as linguistic landscaping, linguistic historiography, and fieldwork journaling to develop their own research projects on socio-cultural border identities in Northern Germany. Knowledge of German is helpful, but not required. In the German Language Across the Curriculum (LAC) section, students speak in German about class readings and excursion observations and learn topic-specific terminology. Offered alternate years during January term.

**GERM 247: Germanic Fairy Tales (Taught in English)**

This course provides an introduction to the study of folklore and presents a spectrum of approaches to the interpretation of fairy tales. Students read and discuss writings stemming from oral traditions such as the *Nibelungenlied*, and chapbooks including *Till Eulenspiegel*, and *Faust*; eighteenth-century fables created on models from antiquity; fairy tales collected by the Brothers Grimm; and *Kunstmärchen* (literary fairy tales by known writers). Students explore the literary aspects of the works and their historical contexts. Also counts toward the Nordic studies major and concentration and the international relations concentration.

**GERM 249: German Cinema (Taught in English)**

A survey of German films from *Caligari* (1919) to *The Counterfeiters* (2008), this course examines 20th-century German history through the lens of Germany's most renowned films. Students develop analytical and critical skills in "reading" films as cultural products and as cinematic works of art. The course focuses on the increasing social and political importance of mass media for understanding the past. Also counts toward the film and media studies major and concentration and the international relations concentration.

**GERM 263: Topics in German Arts (Taught in English)**

Students examine the artistic heritage of the German-speaking countries and develop the skill of interpreting and analyzing art works in their cultural context. The specific topic may vary and may be broadly or narrowly defined to include a specific art form, theme, period, artist, or the art of the German-speaking countries. Topics include: the arts in turn-of-the-century Vienna, the Bauhaus, Weimar cinema, and German Expressionism. Taught in English. May be repeated if topic is different. Offered periodically.



## Recent courses outside the department with focus on German cultural content

### **EDUC 346: *Who is My Neighbor? Ethics of Refugee and Immigrant Education***

This course addresses the reception of migrants in relationship to education and ethics. Students interrogate laws, policies, practices, and foundational belief systems involved in immigration while learning about normative perspectives in ethics. They interrogate best practices for teaching and interacting with refugees, immigrants and immigrant communities that reflect moral responsibility. Required for ESL licensure, and highly relevant for all educators and those interested in immigration. 10-hour service component working with migrants in the community. Open to juniors and seniors. Offered periodically.

### **HIST 191: *Europe: 1492-Present***

This course surveys European history and culture since the Reformation. Topics include the impact of Protestantism, the development of nation-states, the Enlightenment, revolutionary ideas and experiences, the Napoleonic era, imperialism, mass political movements, and global warfare. Through original texts, historical studies, and literature, students explore relations among religions, states and societies and understandings of liberty and reason, natural environments, family life, and gender roles. Offered annually.

### **HIST 210: *Methods Seminar: European History***

This course explores topics in European history, designed to emphasize active skills of critical reading, textual and contextual analysis, historiographical argument, and historical writing. Recent topics have included "Restoration Britain" and "France in World War II." Primarily for history majors; others by permission of instructor. May be repeated if topic is different. Offered most years.

### **HIST 224: *Ethics of Revolution: The Making of Modern Germany***

Students explore modern German history from the Enlightenment through the establishment of a modern German nation-state (1871), two World Wars and their aftermath, up to the late Cold War period when the question of how to frame Germany's modern history became a matter of public debate. By examining primary sources in English translation, critical historiography, and ethical perspectives, students learn not just the major turns in modern German history, but consider the ethical implications of revolutionary and revolutionizing movements and the ethics of history-writing itself. Students hone skills of interpretation and argumentation in writing and speaking. No prerequisites. Offered periodically.

### **HIST 320: *Research Seminar: Modern European History***

This seminar covers various topics in modern European history, depending upon the instructor. Recent topics have included "Gender and the Enlightenment," "The Holocaust and History," "Race, Gender, and Medicine," and "Nation and Empire in Russian History." May be repeated if topic is different. Offered periodically. Prerequisites for certain offerings.

### **LNGST 301: *Germanic Multiethnolects-A Story of Birth***

"Multiethnolects" is a collective term for urban contact languages that develop in multiethnic neighborhoods. Students learn to analyze the language structure of multiethnolects, the role of language in social groups, and how people express their identities through language. They also investigate perspectives on multiethnolects from outside the speech community, e.g., how attitudes towards "non-standard" languages influence public debates, and how those debates on language are used as a battleground for resistance against societal change. Offered periodically in the spring semester.

**Prerequisite:** LNGST 250 or equivalent.

### **MUSIC 241: *History and Literature of Music I***

Students encounter the history and development of Western European music from the Middle Ages to ca. 1750 and study the genres and styles of music from monophonic chant to concerted music of the Baroque. Offered periodically in the fall semester.

**Prerequisite:** MUSIC 114.

### **MUSIC 242: *History and Literature of Music II***

Continuing the study begun in MUSIC 241, students encounter the history and development of Western European music from ca. 1750 to the present and study the major forms, styles and representative literature of the Classic and Romantic eras and the 20th and 21st centuries. Offered periodically during spring semester.

**Prerequisite:** MUSIC 114.

### **NORW 260: *Introduction to Germanic Linguistics (Taught in English)***

This course explores linguistic and social processes that underlie language change with a focus on the Germanic language family. Students learn the fundamental methods of comparative historical linguistics to analyze the development of modern Germanic languages (e.g., English, German, Norwegian, etc.) from a common ancestor. These processes concern how language operates as a cognitive system, as well as core social factors that impact language practices. Students also learn to critically engage with linguistic scholarship and develop their research and writing skills through a project on a topic of their choosing. Offered periodically.

**Prerequisites:** LNGST 250 or NORW 231 or GERM 231 or permission of the instructor.

### **PHIL 233: *Kierkegaard and Existentialism***

An introduction to Kierkegaard's work and to existentialism, this course emphasizes the aesthetic, ethical, and religious "stages on life's way." Existential questions concerning the meaning of human existence, passion and faith, freedom and choice, despair, and the absurd are examined. Offered annually.

### **PHIL 236: *History of Modern Philosophy***

This course examines philosophical developments from the 17th through 19th centuries, with a focus on the emergence of a distinctively modern sense of self. We ask what it means to be modern, and how modern science and philosophy have served as both liberating and alienating forces in shaping the world today. We engage canonical European thinkers and philosophical texts, while also highlighting marginalized voices--with significant contributions from women and Black philosophers. Offered annually.

**Prerequisite:** one course in philosophy or permission of instructor.

### **PHIL 241: *Philosophical Theology***

This course is a philosophical inquiry into the core commitments of Christian theism in the context of other world religions and naturalism. Central themes include beliefs about the existence and nature of God, the doctrines of the trinity and incarnation, redemption and ritual, human free will and responsibility, revelation and reason, religious experience, the problem of evil, different views of life after death, miracles and historical inquiry, and religious pluralism. Offered annually.

**PHS 260: Comparative Health and Wellness - Germany & Switzerland (study abroad)**

In the United States "health" constitutes seeing doctors, taking medicines, and getting in 5000 daily steps. In Germany, wellness is fundamental to lifestyle. While traveling in Germany and Switzerland, students compare health practices to examine the factors that contribute to health promotion. How do place, time, money, power, luck and compassion contribute to health in Germany and the U.S.? What personal health practices can we sustain to promote our own wellbeing?.

**PSCI 113: Introduction to Political Theory**

This course is an introduction to some of the central, interrelated concepts and questions of political theory. Some of the readings will be drawn from recognized classics in the field while others will arise from contemporary debates about political issues and cultural diversity within the U.S. The course pays considerable attention to historical shifts in political thought but is not designed to provide a chronology of the great Western political thinkers. Instead, this course aims to provoke and sustain a semester-long exploration of what it means to be a political actor -- that is, a citizen -- and what it means to think about politics. Offered annually.

**PSCI 285: International Law**

Once the purview of diplomats and generals, international law has broken those narrow confines and is becoming a part of traditional practice in areas of business, environment, human rights, and criminal law. This course introduces students to this vast and changing subject from a liberal arts perspective, including its history, theory, and practice. Also counts toward international relations concentration.

**QUEST 218: Critics, Dreamers, Radicals**

In this course, students consider the modern age in light of their Enduring Questions experience. Topics include artists and authors from the twentieth century to the present, such as Freud, Picasso, Woolf, Arendt, and Borges, addressing topics such as the rise of nationalism, rejections of colonialism, globalization, migration, and race and racism. Students identify and evaluate their own ethical views in relation to ethical theories, like consequentialism and virtue ethics, encountered throughout the Enduring Questions program. Offered annually in the spring semester.

**Prerequisites:** QUEST 217.

**REL 213: Lutheran Heritage**

Analyzing continuity and change within the Lutheran tradition, students consider Luther's theology and proposals for the reform of Catholicism and evaluate major reappraisals of Lutheran beliefs and practices that developed in response to new issues and social situations. Topics include Orthodoxy and Pietism, conservative and liberal responses to the Enlightenment, modern European Lutheranism and issues of particular importance to Lutheranism in Scandinavia, America, and developing countries. Offered periodically during January term.

**REL 214: Reformation Theology**

Students analyze 16th-century reform movements in light of their theological and historical contexts and their significance for contemporary theology. The course focuses on contributions and lives of the major figures in the Protestant Reformations (e.g., Luther, Calvin, Zwingli) and the Roman Catholic Reform. Offered periodically.

**REL 303: History of Christian Thought II**

This course provides a critical analysis of the development of Christian thought in the Middle Ages and Reformation, 11th through 16th centuries. Particular attention is paid to the great theological systems of the Middle Ages and to the theological aims of the 16th-century reforming movements, drawing upon readings from Anselm, Aquinas, Bonaventure, Luther, Calvin, and others. Offered periodically.

**REL 304: History of Christian Thought III**

This course offers a critical analysis of the development of Christian thought in the modern period, 17th century to 1970. Students pay special attention to the rise of modern historical and philosophical outlooks that challenge traditional Christian claims and to the appropriation and criticism of these outlooks in modern theology. Students read from Edwards, Schleiermacher, Barth, Bultmann, and others. Offered periodically.

**Note:**

EDUC 346 - Course must be taken with German LAC section in order to count toward GS concentration or German major

HIST 188 Topical Seminar (when taught as Sisters under the Swastika)

HIST 299 Topics in History (when taught as Holocaust in Global Perspective)

Substantial research project must be on a German topic for the above listed courses: HIST 299, PHIL 233, PHIL 241, REL 213, REL 303, REL 304.

## Plan of Study

### German Major - Plan of Study

This is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements for this major at St. Olaf. This tool is meant as a guide and does not replace working closely with the student's academic advisor.

This plan is for a student who places into GERM 231 (third-semester level), which is the first course level that can count toward the German major. However, students can major in German whether they start at the first-semester level (GERM 111) or have prior experience in the language.

All incoming students with prior experience in German must complete the **placement exam** by June 1, ahead of first-year student registration.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>First Year</b>		
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
FYS 120 or WRIT 120	First-Year Seminar (or Conversation Program) or Writing and Rhetoric	1.00
GERM 231	Intermediate German I	1.00
<b>Credits</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>Spring Semester</b>		
WRIT 120 or FYS 120	Writing and Rhetoric (or Conversation Program) or First-Year Seminar	1.00
GERM 232	Intermediate German II	1.00
<b>Credits</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>Sophomore Year</b>		
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
GERM 251	History and Memory	1.00

One German Culture Elective Course (see Courses tab for options)	1.00
<b>Credits</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Spring Semester</b>	
GERM 252 German-speaking Societies in Global Context	1.00
<b>Credits</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Junior Year</b>	
<b>Fall Semester</b>	
GERM 27X Elective Course or Semester Abroad (2 credits towards major) <sup>1</sup>	1.00
<b>Credits</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Spring Semester</b>	
GERM 37X Elective Course or Semester Abroad (2 credits towards major) <sup>1</sup>	1.00
<b>Credits</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Senior Year</b>	
<b>Fall Semester</b>	
GERM 27X Elective Course	1.00
<b>Credits</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Spring Semester</b>	
GERM 37X Elective Course (if not taken previously)	1.00
<b>Credits</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>11</b>

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A student may take part in a German study abroad program for a semester or a year any time between fall of their sophomore year and fall of their senior year. Most often, students go on study abroad during their junior year. For details on German study abroad offerings, visit the Smith Center website.

The German major requires 8 total credits and must include courses at the 250-, 270- and 370- levels. The 10.0 total credits shown above includes FYS 120 and WRIT 120.

Students must successfully complete the equivalent of 35 St. Olaf credits through a combination of full-credit and fractional-credit courses to earn the Bachelor of Arts.

Visit the German department webpage for details about German major course requirements.

## Faculty

### Department Chair, 2025-2026

#### Amanda Randall

Associate Professor of German  
intellectual history; German film; 20th- and 21st-century German  
literature and cultural studies

#### Yannleon (Yann) Chen

Visiting Assistant Professor of German

#### Nora Vosburg

Assistant Professor of German  
Germanic linguistics, language contact, heritage languages