The German major and minor programs provide deep understanding of the language and culture of the German-speaking countries. Building from basic language competency to synthesizing significant literary works, historical context and current media and politics, the German program offers a comprehensive education in what is “typically German” ... or not. While we demand a set of core classes, you have the flexibility to choose from courses in translation or from study abroad, ultimately allowing you to craft the degree you really want. Individualized programs of study are available through Penn Germanics’ outstanding professors with the following research fields:

Dr. Ian Fleishman
20th-century literature, film studies, modernism and the postmodern

Dr. Christina Frei
Second language acquisition, language education, CALL

Dr. Kathryn Hellerstein
Yiddish language, Jewish-American literature, Jewish film

Dr. Catriona MacLeod
18th and 19th century literature, aesthetics, inter-arts, gender studies

Dr. Simon Richter
18th century literature, gender studies, German film, history of the body

Dr. Liliane Weissberg
18th century literature, comparative literature, aesthetic theory

Dr. Bethany Wiggin
Transnational and world literature, the novel, environmental humanities

Contact Us
The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures
745 Williams Hall
255 S. 36th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
(215) 898-8606

For guidance or curricular info, please make an appointment with the Undergraduate Chair.

Gipfelfieber?
Exploring your options in German

The German major, minor and certificate programs
www.sas.upenn.edu/germanic
twitter.com/penngerman
The German Major
The German major consists of 12.5 credit units - 5.5 core credits, two 300-level courses in German, and five electives in German, German in translation, or study abroad.

The German core includes:
GRMN 203, Texts and Contexts
GRMN 301, Manuskript-Hypertext
GRMN 302, Erinnerungsorte
GRMN 401, Trans(l)its
GRMN 402, Senior Thesis
GRMN 403, Senior Colloquium (0.5 credits)

The German Minor
The minor in German requires six credit units. Students must choose at least three classes in German at or above the 200-level, including GRMN 203. Three credits may be taken in translation or from an approved study-abroad program.

Study Abroad in Berlin
You may apply up to five credit units for the major and three for the minor from an approved study abroad program in Germany - namely the Berlin Consortium for German Studies*. Options are available for full-year or spring semester.

Interested in majoring or minoring in German? Review your options.

Recent topics in our 300-level German courses included:
GRMN 311, Krautrock
GRMN 323, Writing in Dark Times
GRMN 329, Rotes Wien
GRMN 356, Crime & Detection
GRMN 377, Germany & the EU
GRMN 379, Decadence
GRMN 380, Heimat

Elective courses may be taken in English or German. Among others, we offer:
GRMN 219, Business German Micro
GRMN 220, Business German Macro
GRMN 237, Berlin
GRMN 240, Sustainability and Utopianism
GRMN 242, Fantastic & Uncanny!
GRMN 244, Metropolis
GRMN 247 Marx
GRMN 253, Freud
GRMN 255, Heidegger
GRMN 257, Fascist Cinema
GRMN 258, German Cinema
GRMN 264, Translating Cultures

Course availability changes each semester.

*Students in the Huntsman Program in International Studies and Business have the option of direct-enrollment study at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main.