The Bi-College Department of German draws upon the expertise of the German faculty at both Bryn Mawr and Haverford Colleges to offer a broadly conceived German Studies program, incorporating a variety of courses and major options. The purpose of the major in German is to lay the foundation for a critical understanding of German culture in its contemporary international context and its larger political, social, and intellectual history. To this end, we encourage a thorough and comparative study of the German language and culture through its linguistic and literary history, institutions, political systems, and arts and sciences.

The German program aims, by means of various methodological approaches to the study of another language, to foster critical thinking, expository writing skills, understanding of the diversity of culture(s), and the ability to respond creatively to the challenges posed by cultural difference in an increasingly global world. Course offerings are intended to serve both students with particular interests in German literature and literary theory and criticism, and those interested in studying German and German-speaking cultures from the perspective of communication arts, film, history, history of ideas, history of art and architecture, history of religion, institutions, linguistics, mass media, philosophy, politics, and urban anthropology and folklore.

Learning Goals
The German program aims, through the study of German language, culture, and literature, to foster:
• critical thinking.
• expository writing skills.
• the mastery of critical theories and methodologies, crucial for the analysis of cultural artifacts.
• the ability to respond intellectually and creatively to the challenges posed by cultural difference in an increasingly multicultural and global world.
• a thorough knowledge of German language.

Curriculum
A thorough knowledge of German is a goal for both major concentrations. The objective of our language instruction is to teach students communicative skills that enable them to function effectively in authentic conditions of language use and to speak and write in idiomatic German. A major component of all German courses is the examination of issues that underline the cosmopolitanism as well as the specificity and complexity of contemporary German culture. German majors can and are encouraged to take courses in interdisciplinary areas, such as comparative literature, film, gender and sexuality studies, growth and structure of cities, history, history of art, music, philosophy, and political science, where they read works of criticism in these areas in the original German. Courses relating to any aspect of German culture, history, and politics given in other departments can count toward requirements for the major or minor.

Major Requirements
After the completion of the GER 101-102 sequence (or its equivalent) the German language and literature concentration normally follows the sequence 201 and/or 202; 209 or 212, or 213; plus additional courses to complete the 10 units, two of them at the 300 level; and finally one semester of Senior Conference or either an additional 300-level seminar in German or GER 403 (Supervised Work) for double majors.

A German Studies major normally includes 201 or 202; 223 or 245; one 200- and one 300-level course in German literature; three courses (at least one at the 300 level) in subjects central to aspects of German culture, history, or politics; and one semester of GER 321 (Advanced Topics in German Cultural Studies). Within each concentration, courses need to be selected so as to achieve a reasonable breadth, but also a degree of disciplinary coherence.

Minor Requirements
A minor in German and German Studies consists of six units of work. To earn a minor, students are normally required to take GER 201 or 202, five additional units covering a reasonable range of study topics, of which at least one unit is at the 300 level. One upper-level course may be chosen with the approval of the department from the recommended electives for German Studies majors.
SENIOR PROJECT
All of our majors are required to write a senior thesis in German, or—if they are double majors—to produce a thesis in a related discipline that has significant overlap with their work in German. They typically take a 300-level seminar in fall and write a research term paper that often becomes the foundation for their senior project. In the spring semester they take the mandatory 399 Senior Conference consisting of weekly meetings and discussions of thesis proposals and drafts with their adviser(s).

Senior Project Learning Goals
In writing the senior thesis, the student should demonstrate a) the capacity to conceive a theoretically informed and well designed research project b) the language skills to research and evaluate primary and secondary materials and to effectively synthesize these, and c) the analytical and methodological skills to produce an innovative and critically astute thesis.

Senior Project Assessment
The quality of the thesis is evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:
- Originality of topic.
- Mastery of analysis.
- Familiarity with primary and secondary literature.
- Creative application of relevant theoretical discourses.
- Clarity of writing.

REQUIREMENTS FOR HONORS
Any student whose grade point average in the major at the end of the senior year is 3.8 or higher qualifies for departmental honors. Students who have completed a thesis and whose major grade point average at the end of the senior year is 3.6 or higher, but not 3.8, are eligible to be discussed as candidates for departmental honors. A student in this range of eligibility must be sponsored by at least one faculty member with whom she has done coursework, and at least one other faculty member must read some of the student’s advanced work and agree on the excellence of the work in order for departmental honors to be awarded. If there is a sharp difference of opinion, additional readers will serve as needed.

CONCENTRATIONS AND INTERDISCIPLINARY MINORS
The German department with its cross-disciplinary curriculum is a regular contributor to the Comparative Literature program, Gender and Sexuality Studies, the Cities program, as well as Africana Studies.

STUDY ABROAD
We encourage students majoring in German to spend time in German-speaking countries in the course of their undergraduate studies. Possibilities include summer work programs, DAAD (German Academic Exchange) scholarships for summer courses at German universities, and selected junior year abroad programs (Berlin, Freiburg, Vienna).

FACULTY
At Haverford:
Ulrich Schönherr (Co-Chair)
Professor of German and Comparative Literature

Imke Brust
Assistant Professor of German (on leave Fall 2016)

Simone Schlichting-Artur
Visiting Associate Professor of German

At Bryn Mawr:
Azade Seyhan (Co-Chair)
Fairbank Professor in the Humanities; Professor of German and Comparative Literature

Qinna Shen
Assistant Professor of German

COURSES
GERMH001 ELEMENTARY GERMAN
Simone Schlichting-Artur
Meets five hours a week with the individual class instructor, one hour with student drill instructors. Strong emphasis on communicative competence both in spoken and written German in a larger cultural context. This is a year-long course; both semesters (001 and 002) are required for credit. Humanities (HU)

GERMH002 ELEMENTARY GERMAN
Imke Brust
Humanities (HU)

GERMH101 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN
Ulrich Schönherr, Imke Brust
GERMAN AND GERMAN STUDIES

Meets three hours a week with the individual class instructor, one hour with student drill instructor. Thorough review of grammar, exercises in composition and conversation. Enforcement of correct grammatical patterns and idiomatic use of language. Study of selected literary and cultural texts and films from German-speaking countries. Two semesters. Humanities (HU)

**GERMH102 INTERMEDIATE GERMAN**
*Ulrich Schöenherr, Imke Brust*
Meets three hours a week with the individual class instructor, one hour with student drill instructor. Thorough review of grammar, exercises in composition and conversation. Enforcement of correct grammatical patterns and idiomatic use of language. Study of selected literary and cultural texts and films from German-speaking countries. Two semesters. Humanities (HU)

**GERMH201 ADVANCED TRAINING: LANGUAGE, TEXT, AND CONTEXT**
*Ulrich Schöenherr*
This course is intended for students who wish to refine their speaking, writing, and reading skills beyond the Intermediate level. Designed as a comprehensive introduction to modern German culture, we will discuss a variety of literary, political, historical and philosophical texts, including feature films and video materials. Weekly grammar reviews will complement these activities. Humanities (HU)

**GERMH215 SURVEY OF LITERATURE IN GERMAN**
*Imke Brust*
The seminar is designed to give a broad overview of the various aesthetic trends which have shaped contemporary German-speaking literature. Focusing on representative works—including prose, drama, and poetry—this course will retrace and engage with the historical role of literature in the German speaking world over time, and access the importance of German literature in the current era of globalization and mass communication. Humanities (HU)

**GERMH262 EUROPEAN FILM**
*Imke Brust*
Humanities (HU)

**GERMH262 POST-WALL GERMAN FILM**
*Imke Brust*
This course provides a brief introduction to film studies and explores in particular post-wall German film. We will investigate how the selected films represent ideas of the nation visually, and how they aim to create or deconstruct certain myths of the German nation. Furthermore, this course will scrutinize in what ways the films depict issues of gender and race as part of the German national narrative struggle. In conclusion, we will focus on the role of memory within the national consciousness, and how certain post-wall German films fit within the heated discussion about a normalization of German history, which the reunification entailed. (Taught in English with an extra session in German). Humanities (HU)

**GERMH320 SCIENCE AS FICTION**
*Ulrich Schöenherr, Imke Brust*
Taught in English. How does scientific knowledge inform and influence literature? How do scientific texts make use of literary strategies and rhetorical devices in order to produce and disseminate new knowledge? Bringing together primary texts from the history of science with key literary works from Goethe to cyberpunk, this seminar will introduce students to the interdisciplinary study of relations between science and literature. Despite disciplinary divisions, literature and the sciences converge strikingly in terms of their shared objects of inquiry, theoretical assumptions, and representational strategies. We will investigate how foundational concepts in the fields of chemistry, biology, physics, psychology, and cybernetics have profoundly shaped modern fiction. While taking seriously scientific claims of truth and objectivity, we will also discuss how scientists have historically drawn on the resource of fiction as a form of knowing and communicating. Primary texts will include works by Goethe, Mary Shelley, Poe, Mesmer, Darwin, Zola, Bram Stoker, Ernst Mach, Musil, Kafka, Einstein, Calvino, Norbert Wiener, Pynchon, and William Gibson. Crosslisted: Comparative Literature; Humanities (HU)

**GERMH320 CONTEMPORARY GERMAN FICTION (IN GERMAN)**
*Ulrich Schöenherr*
Taught in German. One of the most interesting and exciting aspects of contemporary German-speaking literature is its aesthetic diversity, which eludes any clear-cut literary-historical definition. Instead, we are confronted with the co-existence of multiple aesthetic models, including documentary, feminist, meta-fictional, autobiographical, and immigrant
literatures—compelling evidence that the notion of a single German literature has become totally obsolete. The course is designed to reflect this aesthetic plurality that has shaped German-speaking culture over the past several decades. Focusing on exemplary texts, the seminar will closely examine the diverging literary concepts and writing practices, characteristic of the literary scene today. Readings include texts and films by Kehlmann, Hubert Fichte, Weiss, Kirchhoff, Judith Herrmann, Hanek, Jelinek, Handke, Wenders, Sebald, Ledig, Timm, Ransmayr, Herta Müller, and Ingo Schulze. Humanities (HU)

**GERMH321 GERMAN COLONIALISM AND WORLD WAR I**

*Imke Brust*

This course will provide a historical overview of German colonial history in Africa, and critically engage with its origins, processes, and outcomes. We will first scrutinize colonial efforts by individual German states before the first unification of Germany in 1871, and then investigate the colonialism of Imperial Germany. In particular, we will focus on the time after the 1884/1885 Berlin Conference that sought to regulate the so-called “Scramble for Africa” and explore how the First World War was related to Germany’s colonial ambitions. Moreover, we will engage with the parallel development of the German national and colonial project and the Social Darwinist thinking that influenced and contributed to the racialization of German national identity. Crosslisted: Comparative Literature; Humanities (HU)

**GERMH399 SENIOR CONFERENCE**

*Ulrich Schöenherr*

Humanities (HU)