

# UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Mark A. Emmert, President

January 20, 2009

Dean Ana Mari Cauce College of Arts and Sciences Box 353765

Dear Ana Mari:

Based on the recommendation of its Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs, the Faculty Council on Academic Standards has recommended approval of the elimination of the option and minor in German Cultural Studies; the renaming of the option and minor in German Language and Literature to Germanics; revised admission and program requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Germanics; and the revised requirements for the minors in Germanics and German Linguistics. A copy of the change is attached.

I am writing to inform you that the Department of Germanics is authorized to specify these requirements beginning autumn quarter 2009.

The new requirements should be incorporated in printed statements and in individual department websites as soon as possible. The *General Catalog* website will be updated accordingly by the Registrar's Office.

Sincerely yours,

Mark

Mark A. Emmert

President

#### Enclosure

cc: Ms. Stephanie Welch (with enclosure)

Mr. Robert Corbett (with enclosure)

Dr. Deborah H. Wiegand (with enclosure)

Mr. Todd Mildon, J.D. (with enclosure GERMAN-20080919)



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After college/school review, send a signed original and 8 copies to FCAS, Box 355850.

College Arts & Sciences	Department or Unit Germanics		Date	9/19/08
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Other Changes				
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## **Explanation of and Rationale for Proposed Change**

The existing program in Germanics was implemented in 1991. It features two different tracks: "German Language and Literature" and "German Area Studies." The Area Studies major worked well during the 1990s, for two main reasons: First, the Germanics faculty was significantly larger than it is today. Second, we could then reasonably rely on German-related courses being regularly offered by faculty in other departments across campus. We can no longer do so, as that number of faculty has diminished in recent years. Thus, majors and minors in German Area Studies now rely almost exclusively on course offerings within Germanics, where staffing problems are even more acute. Currently, Germanics is experiencing a period of high turn-over due to multiple retirements, with more to follow (and no relief as yet in sight). In practice, then, the differences between the two tracks have become negligible, confusing for students, and hardly worth distinguishing from an advising perspective. The two existing tracks also make an artificial distinction between literature and culture that has become increasingly difficult to justify--especially to students.

For all these reasons, we propose to combine and consolidate the two tracks into a single integrated major that balances the teaching of language, literature, and culture. The central components of the proposed curriculum will be speaking, reading, and writing skills as well as familiarity with literary and cultural history. The new program will also include a minor with an option in linguistics.

The current proposal is to increase the major to 60 credits from 53 credits (which in practice is 55 credits, since very few 3-credit classes are actually offered). This increase in the total number of credits reflects the addition of a single course: that is, German 203 will be added for the first time as a requirement for the major. Today, the vast majority of our students begin learning German when they arrive at UW, so most of them take this course anyway, usually at the end of their second year of language study. Requiring it for the major, however, is more just than a cosmetic change. It recognizes the central importance of language skills, while involving students in the major, by allowing them to begin working toward it, at an earlier point in their career. This change responds to student concerns about "starting the major so late" (as compared with other majors, even if the issue is partly one of perception) as well as to growing departmental concerns about the transition of students from language learners to majors.

Under the new program, German 401, Advanced Writing and Conversation, will also be required of all majors (currently, it is only required in the Language and Literature track). Advanced language skills are absolutely necessary for the success of all our graduates.

The same set of two core courses--namely, German 311, Introduction to German Literary Studies, and German 322, Introduction to German Cultural Studies--will now be required of all majors. As the new titles suggest, these courses will orient students to the field in its different aspects. Previously, German 311 and 322 were each keyed to a different major track, and thus not required of all students. They will each be redesigned to serve the needs of a single integrated major. In the process, they will also be designated as W-

courses, the goal being to place greater emphasis on writing within the major. (Course change applications have also been submitted for each course.)

German 493, Special Topics in German Culture, has been added to the set of required 400-level literature courses, from which students pick three. In order to have a single integrated major, culture needs more representation at an advanced level. This change also helps reduce staffing problems at the level of required courses (as opposed to electives).

Several changes to the catalog language are proposed to help clarify the role of elective courses. Electives have been organized by subcategories to provide orientation and make the curriculum more explicit. Specific course numbers of all electives that count toward the major are listed to define the range of courses allowed as electives (i.e., German 495 and 496 no longer count toward the major). Other changes to the proposed catalog language here aim to clarify certain aspects of the existing program (e.g., "500-level courses in Germanic linguistics" count toward the major "with permission of the adviser," and students take electives in "any combination").

The proposed changes to the minor in Germanics reflect the proposed consolidation and revision of the major, while retaining from the existing program an option in linguistics.

## **Catalog Copy**

### **Department Admission Requirements**

Admission to major status requires the completion of first and second year German or equivalent.

# **Major Requirements**

German Language and Literature: 53-credits-as-follows:

- 1. 15 credits to include: GERMAN 311, GERMAN 312, and either GERMAN 322 or GERMAN 323
- 2. 15 credits from the following: GERMAN 411, GERMAN 412, GERMAN 421, GERMAN 422, GERMAN 423, or GERMAN 495
- 3. One of the following (for 5 credits): GERMAN 333, GERMAN 334, GERMAN 401, or GERMAN 403
- 4. 18 credits in any upper division Germanics courses not taken for requirements 1, 2, or 3, above. These may include no more than 4 credits from GERMAN 395 and GERMAN 396 combined, and no more than 5 credits each from GERMAN 446 and GERMAN 447. Up to two of the following lower division courses may also be counted toward this requirement: GERMAN 210, GERMAN 220, GERMAN 243, GERMAN 293, GERMAN 295.
- 5. Specialization in Linguistics: Students desiring this specialization must take GERMAN 451 and GERMAN 452 as part of the 18 elective credits shown in item 4, above, and may, with the adviser's permission, count relevant courses in linguistics outside Germanics as well.

#### German-Cultural Studies: 50 credits as follows:

- 1: 15 credits as follows: GERMAN 322, GERMAN 323, and either GERMAN 311 or GERMAN 312
- 2. 15 credits from the following: GERMAN 411, GERMAN 412, GERMAN 421, GERMAN 423, or GERMAN 495
- 3. 20 credits in any upper division Germanics courses not taken for requirements 1 and 2, above. These may include no more than 4 credits from GERMAN 395 and GERMAN 396 combined, and no more than 5 credits each from GERMAN 446 and GERMAN 447. Up to two of the following lower division courses may also be counted toward this requirement: GERMAN 210, GERMAN 220, GERMAN 243, GERMAN 293, and GERMAN 295. With the permission of the adviser, the student may also count toward this requirement courses relevant to German culture offered by other departments, such as history, political science, art history, music history, comparative literature, international studies, or comparative history of ideas.

For both options above, a grade of at least 2.0 must be earned in every upper-division German course; an overall GPA of 2.50 is required for all courses counted toward the major.

#### Minor

Minor Requirements:

Minimum 30 credits from one of the following three options:

- Language and Literature:
  - 1. 15 credits as follows: GERMAN 311, GERMAN 312; either GERMAN 322 or GERMAN 323
  - 2. At least one upper-division language course beyond 302
  - 3. 10 credits in upper division Germanics which may include (a) no more than 4 credits total of GERMAN 395 and GERMAN 396; (b) no more than 5 credits of GERMAN 446; and (c) no more than 5 credits of GERMAN 447. Credits from any two of the following may be included: GERMAN 210, GERMAN 220, GERMAN 243, GERMAN 293, and GERMAN 295.
- Linguistics:
  - 1. 10 credits of GERMAN 451 and GERMAN 452
  - 2. One 300- or 400-level language course (5 credits) beyond 302-
  - 3. One course from GERMAN 311, GERMAN 312, GERMAN 322, or GERMAN 323
  - 4. 10 upper division elective credits in Germanics or other departments offering linguistics.
- Cultural-Studies:
  - 1. 15 credits of GERMAN 322, GERMAN 323; and either GERMAN 311 or GERMAN 312
  - 2. 5 upper-division-credits in Germanics-offered in English
  - 3. 10 credits in upper division Germanics which may include (a) no more than 4 total credits of GERMAN 395 and GERMAN 396; (b) no more than 5 credits of GERMAN 446; and (c) no more than 5 credits of GERMAN 447. Credits from any two of the following may be included: GERMAN 210, GERMAN 220, GERMAN 243, GERMAN 293, and GERMAN 295.

A minimum grade of 2.0 is required for each course counted toward the minor.

### **Proposed Catalog Copy**

## **Department Admission Requirements**

Admission to major status requires the completion of German 202 or equivalent.

## **Major Requirements**

### 60 credits as follows:

- 1. German 203
- 2. German 311: Introduction to German Literary Studies (W-course)
- 3. German 322: Introduction to German Cultural Studies (W-course)
- 4. German 401
- 5. Three 400-level courses in literature and culture: German 411, 412, 421, 422, 423, 493, 495
- 6. Five additional courses in (any combination of the following):
  - a. Language: German 301, 302, 303, 304, 333, 334 (max. 10 credits), 498
  - b. Literature: German 210, 293, 295, 300, 312, 313, 340, 341, 342, 345, 346, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 360, 390, 397, 490, 494, 497
  - c. Culture: German 323, 355, 370, 371, 399, 499
  - d. Linguistics: German 220, 451, 452, 479 (or 500-level courses in Germanic linguistics with permission of the advisor)
  - e. Other: German 398, 446, 447

#### Minor

### 35 credits as follows:

- 1. German 203
- 2. German 311
- 3. German 322
- 4. One 400-level course in language, literature, or culture
- 5. Three additional courses in (any combination of the following):
  - a. Language: German 301, 302, 303, 304, 333, 334 (max. 10 credits), 498
  - b. Literature: German 210, 293, 295, 300, 312, 313, 340, 341, 342, 345, 346, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 360, 390, 397, 411, 412, 421, 422, 423, 490, 494, 495, 497
  - c. Culture: German 323, 355, 370, 371, 399, 493, 499

d. Linguistics: German 220, 451, 452, 479

e. Other: German 398, 446, 447

## Option In Linguistics

# 35 credits as follows:

- 1. German 203
- 2. Either German 311 or 322
- 3. German 401
- 4. German 451
- 5. German 452
- 6. Two additional courses in (any combination of the following):
  - a. Language: German 301, 302, 303, 304, 333, 334 (max. 10 credits), 498
  - b. Literature: German 210, 293, 295, 300, 312, 313, 340, 341, 342, 345, 346, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 360, 390, 397, 411, 412, 421, 422, 423, 490, 494, 495, 497
  - c. Culture: German 323, 355, 370, 371, 399, 493, 499
  - d. Linguistics: German 220, 479, or courses from other departments offering linguistics (or 500-level courses in Germanic linguistics with permission of the advisor)
  - e. Other: German 398, 446, 447