

German Studies



German is the most widely spoken language in Europe, and Germany is the economic engine of the European Union. Not only is Germany a world leader in green technology, engineering, research science, music and theater, but it is also the world's second largest export nation and fourth largest economy. German speakers travel more than anyone else in the world. After English, the German Internet presence is dominant. More German speakers have immigrated to the United States than any other cultural group. Studying German at Illinois Wesleyan can expose you to the rich culture of the German-speaking world and prepare you to interact professionally and personally with a major player in the world economy.

Why German Studies at Illinois Wesleyan?

German Studies at IWU introduces students to German language, literature, media and cultural history. It includes the influence of globalization, minority populations and European Union expansion on contemporary cultural issues. It also:

- develops expertise in intercultural communication skills, and the flexibility and self-reliance needed to navigate a foreign culture
- offers a beginning and an advanced language course in German for the workplace
- provides literature courses that sharpen communication skills in German and English, easily combines with a second major or minor
- requires a minimum of one semester study abroad or internship in Freiburg, Berlin or Vienna to complete degree requirements
- provides individualized advising regarding internship, study abroad, scholarships, grants and post-graduate opportunities
- teaches cultural history courses that stress the connections between literature, the other arts and the sociopolitical environment from which they emerge
- offers travel courses to Germany during May Term.

Learning from a Quality Faculty

German Studies faculty teach general courses in language, literature and cultural history, as well as courses within their area of specialty.

- **Sonja Fritzsche**, *Associate Professor of German and Eastern European Studies* Ph.D. — University of Minnesota, M.A. — University of California – Los Angeles
Dr. Fritzsche specializes in East German literature and film, with particular interests in science fiction, gender studies, green literature and German Heimat theory.

A Sampling of Courses Offered in German Studies:

- Beginning German for the Workplace
- Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced German
- German Business Culture
- Studies in Literature and Humanities (taken abroad)
- Studies in Social Science (taken abroad)
- Deutsche Romantik
- Revolutionäres Drama
- Jenseits der Mauer: Deutsche Kultur nach 1989
- Von Demokratie zur Diktatur

Recent May Term Courses Related to German Studies:

- Writing the Archetypes: European Fairy Tales & American Culture (Germany and Denmark)
- The Tale of Three Cities (Vienna, Prague, and Bratislava)
- Film in Central Europe: When the Walls Came Tumbling Down (Berlin and Prague)



“Today we live in a global society. Isolation is not an option. You will likely travel, conduct business or volunteer in another part of the world. To be

successful, you need to understand and appreciate cultural differences, not fear them. Studying German at Illinois Wesleyan can help you enhance your own self-knowledge as you engage with a culture other than your own.”

- **Adam Woodis**, *Visiting Assistant Professor of German Ph.D. — University of Wisconsin*

Dr. Woodis’ research interests are in 19th century German history, literature, and culture. He is particularly interested in the intersection of theology, religion, and society, theatre, and the scientific writings of Goethe and Alexander von Humboldt.

Putting Learning into Practice

- The Illinois Wesleyan Language Resource Center (LRC) provides students with facilities for foreign language computer-based activities and one-on-one tutoring help with German language skills.
- Qualified students have the opportunity to take the equivalent of German 102 or German 201 during May Term at the Goethe Institute in Bremen, Germany.
- German Studies works with the IWU Hart Career Center to highlight internship and other external grant opportunities both domestically and abroad that help you put the skills you learn as a German major or minor into practice.
- German Studies works with the German Club, Delta Phi Alpha (German honors) and the International Studies program to organize events throughout the year, including guest lectures, film series, visits to Chicago and St. Louis, German dinners and other activities that address the culture of German-speaking countries.

Alumni Feedback

“Having German as a foreign language helped me get into and excel in one of the top library master’s degree programs in the country.”

— **Greg Armstrong MacDonald ’05**, *librarian*

“Learning German has helped me to realize that there is so much more in life that I have yet to experience.”

— **Jessica Olsen ’08**, *teacher, German Fulbright grant recipient*

“German opened up this huge, diverse world that is now my passion and a defining aspect of my career.”

— **Ariana Giles ’05**, *professional translator*

“Studying a language beyond the 300-level helped me develop stronger writing, interpersonal, presentation and communication skills.”

— **Michael Zaremba ’09**, *higher education administrator*

“I feel like the German program at Illinois Wesleyan gave me a unique skill that has made me more unique and competitive in job interviews.”

— **Nicole Schiller ’08**, *graduate student and government intern*

Dr. Sonja Fritzsche

Associate Professor of German and Eastern European Studies



For Further Information, Write or Call:

Dr. Sonja Fritzsche

German Section Head
Modern and Classical Languages
and Literatures
Illinois Wesleyan University
P.O. Box 2900
Bloomington, IL 61702-2900
309/556-3290
sfritzsc@iwu.edu

www.iwu.edu/german