

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, 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 the most dominant. More German speakers have emigrated 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 global 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
- combines well with a second major or minor
- requires a minimum of one semester study abroad in Freiburg, Berlin or Vienna to complete major 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 German-speaking countries 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.

- **Marina Balina**, *Isaac Funk Professor of German and Russian*
Research involves Soviet children's literature, particularly fairy tales. She teaches all levels of Russian language, as well as numerous courses in Russian literature and culture in translation.



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)
- Intensive German in Bremen (equivalent of German 102 or 201 in Germany)



“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.”

- **Jamie Zelechowski**, *Visiting Assistant Professor of German Ph.D. — University of California*

Dr. Zelechowski’s research interests are in 20th century German history, literature and culture. She is particularly interested in German film studies and German cultural history.

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.
- 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 honorary) 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

“My German major developed many life-defining skills in me, but I find that I apply the [mental] agility that I learned most often.”

— **BethAnne Dorn ’10**, *Internet marketing*

“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*

“Studying [German] 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 unique skills that have made me more competitive in job interviews.”

— **Nicole Palmisano ’08**, *media relations and public affairs*

Marina Balina

Isaac Funk Professor of German and Russian



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