The Department of German Studies offers a Ph.D. program which both provides a coherent perspective on major developments in German literature and culture in the modern period (1650 to the present day) and gives students the opportunity to develop their own specialized interests in German Studies. The program requires a secondary field of study consisting of a coherent sequence of four courses outside the department. With guidance from the Director of Graduate Studies each student plans this sequence in a specialized interest. Some examples of possible specialized programs of study are Media Studies, History, Jewish Studies, Visual Arts, Philosophy, Music, or Theater. Drawing on the expertise of eminent scholars in these fields, who are teaching at Brown, the program thus fosters an interdisciplinary approach in the field of German Studies.

The guiding principle of our curriculum is a conscious exploration of those topics and moments in the history of German culture which define its uniqueness, exemplify broader issues in the humanities, or have resonated most strongly in other cultures. A field which unifies these goals – aesthetics – is currently one of our strengths.

The program is designed to prepare students for a diverse and ever changing workplace, within academia and outside. To become first-rate scholars and researchers, students are trained to develop their writing skills and to deliver publishable work early on in their graduate career. To turn into mature and innovative teachers, they are exposed to a rigorous program of theoretical and practical approaches to teaching. To enable them to become high-performing professionals, students will learn to perform research and to process information effectively and efficiently and to communicate highly complex subjects to a variety of audiences.
Applicants should submit a writing sample (in German or English) of around 20 pages. The GRE General exam is required. Foreign students will need to take the TOEFL exam. The letter of application should suggest research interests as well as possible fields of secondary study. Applicants should present evidence of advanced proficiency in German and a solid background in German literature and culture.

For admission forms please visit the Graduate School’s website.

Students entering with an M.A. may transfer some credits from the M.A. granting institution after completion of the first year of study. This transfer is done at the department’s discretion and only if the student’s first-year performance is excellent. Up to a maximum of 8 credits may be transferred.

Students whose primary department for graduate work is not German Studies may complete an M.A. in German Studies by completing 8 courses in the area of German Studies. These shall include 6 courses within the Department of German Studies and 2 courses in a related field. None of these may overlap with coursework completed for the student’s home department.

Students who obtain a B.A. in German Studies from Brown may integrate their undergraduate studies with work towards an M.A. as part of the 5th-year Masters program. Six additional courses beyond the B.A. would be required. Please see the Dean of College's website here for more information.

The department does not accept outside applications for a terminal M.A. degree.
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D.

COURSEWORK

A total of 13 courses are required. Among these shall be:

- GRMN 2900 (rotates between departments) – Theory and Methods of Foreign Language Teaching
- 4 courses in a secondary field of study, usually consisting of a sequence of courses in another Ph.D. program at Brown, such as Comp Lit, History, Music, Theater Arts & Performance Studies, MCM, and History of Art & Architecture.

Students entering the graduate program having already fulfilled some of these requirements will consult with the Director of Graduate Studies to augment their coursework during the first two years of the Ph.D. program.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

Students may fulfill this requirement in one of two ways:

1) demonstrate reading proficiency in two languages (other than English and German) by taking the reading exams in those departments; or
2) complete a 1000-level course in one foreign literature department.

QUALIFYING EXAM

Students will nominate a primary dissertation advisor by the end of the fourth semester, and choose a 3-person examination committee in consultation with the advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies. The committee should include at least 1 member from a secondary field.

The two-hour oral exam will be based on 2 reading lists submitted by the student after consultation with the exam committee: one for German Studies, and one for the secondary field.
The final version of the reading lists shall be submitted to the members of the exam committee at the beginning of the same semester in which the student is to be examined, if the exam is taking place at the end of the semester, or at the end of the previous semester, if the exam is taking place at the beginning of the semester.

Students will be assigned either "Pass with Honors," "Pass," or "Fail" for the qualifying exam.

**DISSERTATION PROPOSAL**

Upon successful completion of the qualifying exam, the student shall nominate two other dissertation readers (at least one of whom should normally be a member of another department), in consultation with the primary advisor. By the middle of the semester after qualifying, the student shall submit a substantive, written dissertation proposal.

The exact format of the proposal will be determined by the primary advisor, but it will generally be between 15 and 20 pages in length, and include a chapter outline and preliminary bibliography. The proposal will be examined orally by the three members of the dissertation committee by the end of that semester. The committee will either approve the proposal or recommend revisions. Once the proposal is approved, the student will be advanced to Ph.D. candidacy.

**TEACHING**

Students are required to teach for at least two years, though the norm will be higher.

Graduate student teaching is an important component of our program. As teaching assistants, graduate students work with the language program director to teach beginning and intermediate German. Graduate students are required to take a seminar on language pedagogy and to participate in annual teaching workshops held in August. As graduate students progress in their program, they will assist faculty in undergraduate courses in the German Studies Department. Advanced students may be offered the opportunity to work with professors to design their own upper-level
courses and/or teach such a course with a professor. Faculty mentoring of teaching assistants throughout their course of study is an integral part of our program. Students will be prepared to present a comprehensive teaching portfolio when they enter the job market.

In addition to the language-specific training administered by the German Studies Department, all graduate students are encouraged to participate in the seminars and workshops offered by Brown’s Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning. The Center offers a teaching certificate program through which graduate students may be awarded Certificate I, II and III.

The Goethe Institut Boston also periodically offers pedagogy workshops that graduate students are encouraged to attend.

Advanced students will be offered the opportunity to work with professors to design their own upper-level courses and/or teach such a course with a professor.

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

Students are expected to organize and participate in student-run colloquia. Graduate students and faculty from other departments working in the area of German Studies will be invited to participate in these. Students will present their own work and invite the occasional Brown or non-Brown speaker.
We expect our graduate students to participate in the Cogut Humanities Center at Brown University. The Center organizes events such as lecture series, symposia and conferences and also provided a number of fellowship opportunities to faculty and graduate students.

Students are also encouraged to become engaged in the activities of the Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning and to build strong teaching portfolios with the help of the Center and by availing themselves of departmental resources such as supervised teaching.

The department has a co-tutelle agreement with the University of Tübingen that allows students to pursue a combined Dr. phil. / Ph.D. degree. Students interested in this option should contact the Director of Graduate Studies upon entering the program.

Graduate students in their third or fourth years have the option to apply for a one-semester stay at Humboldt University in Berlin. In their application, they have to clearly state why their research would benefit from spending a semester in Berlin and who they have chosen as their mentor while staying at Humboldt University. A letter in support of the project from the mentor should accompany the application.

The John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library is the primary teaching and research library for the humanities at Brown. It has an excellent collection in German Studies and related fields of interest. Various other specialized collections are located in the John Hay Library, the Orwig Music Library, and the Art Slide Library. Brown University participates in a collaboration with other research libraries in the New England area so that faculty and students have access to any material they might need.

The department regularly welcomes a Max Kade Visiting Professor who teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in the program. Past and future visiting faculty include: Sven Kramer (2011, Lüneburg), Dieter Thomä (2012, St. Gallen), and Dirk Oschmann (2013, Leipzig).
IN GERMAN STUDIES

GRMN2340B Poetik der AutorInnen (T. Kniesche)
This course will examine postwar literary aesthetics as put forth in the so-called "Poetikvorlesungen" which several universities in German-speaking countries have instituted since 1959. These lectures have featured important contemporary authors thinking about their work - from poetic practices and aesthetic theories to biographic considerations and the technicalities of writing literature in today's world.

GRMN2460B German Literature 1968-1989 (T. Kniesche)
Discussion of major trends in literature written in German: New Subjectivity, postmodernism, feminist literature, the role of mythology, post-histoire. Authors include Botho Strauss, Elfriede Jelinek, Thomas Bernhard, W.G. Sebald, among others.

GRMN2660J Late Heidegger: Art, Poetry, Technology (G. Richter)
This seminar will focus on key statements in some of the late Heidegger's most influential essays and lectures, with a focus on the nexus of art, poetry, and technology as it inflects language, dwelling, and Being. While in his thinking of art and poetry his emphasis is on the work of Hölderlin, in his thinking of technology he regards the enframement of technics as both completing and undoing Western metaphysics. For Heidegger, the essence of technology is not technological at all but instead requires a wholly different kind of questioning.

GRMN2660K Ontology of Life: Reading Heidegger's Being and Time with Derrida (G. Richter and D. Krell)
Martin Heidegger's Being and Time (1927) develops a "fundamental ontology" of Dasein, or human existence. Dasein, which in each case dies, is for the time being alive. How does mortal human being relate to other life forms? We will read Heidegger's masterpiece in its entirety with this question in mind, a question sharply honed by Jacques Derrida in his Of Spirit, Aporias, and The Beast and the Sovereign, that is, from the 1980s until his death in 2004.
GRMN2660A On the Sublime (Z. Sng)
Survey of major theories of the sublime from antiquity to modern times, with emphasis on German, British, and French texts from the 18th to 20th centuries. Authors include Longinus, Immanuel Kant, Edmund Burke, Jean-Francois Lyotard, and Neil Hertz.

GRMN 2660L - Hoelderlin, in Theory (Z. Sng)
We will spend the semester reading the enigmatic writings of Friedrich Hoelderlin, with particular focus on the pivotal role that he has come to play in major philological and philosophical projects of our time. Critical readings include texts by Heidegger, Adorno, Benjamin, de Man, and Lacoue-Labarthe.

IN RELATED DEPARTMENTS

HIST 2980W - First Person History in Times of Crisis: Witnessing, Memory, Fiction (O. Bartov)
This seminar examines the relationship between History as a narrative of events and history as individual experience. Postulating that historical events as related by historians were experienced in numerous different ways by their protagonists, the seminar focuses on the complementary and contradictory aspects of this often fraught relationship at times of crisis, especially in war and genocide. While much time will be spent on World War II and the Holocaust, the seminar will engage with other modern wars and genocides across the world. Materials will include eyewitness reports, postwar testimonies and trial records, memoirs and relevant works of fiction.

COLT 2821B - Memory/Commemoration/Testimony (S. Bernstein)
An investigation of the mnemonic functions of poetry from the elegy to historical witnessing in the Romantic and post-romantic period. We will study the creative and performative function of memory as well as processes of repetition, recollection, trauma and canon-formation. Theoretical and poetic texts will be studied together. Authors will include: Rousseau, Wordsworth, Hölderlin, Lamartine, Baudelaire, Dickinson, H.D., Rilke, Celan, Reznikoff; Heidegger, Freud, Arendt, Adorno, Derrida, de Man, Ronell.
**HMAN 2970H - Realism, Idealism, and Modernity I: From Early Modernity through German Idealism (P. Guyer)**

Debates between realism and idealism are central to modernity. The opposition between them might seem straightforward, realism being the philosophy of the scientific worldview, idealism the philosophy of more traditional religion and morality. But sometimes idealism has been the philosophical basis for modern science and moral autonomy, and realism the basis for more traditional worldviews. The philosophical debate between realism and idealism is thus part of the larger struggle over science, religion, morality and politics in modern culture. This course will begin a two-semester study of this complex dialectic from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries.

**COLT2820S - Poetry after Kant (K. McLaughlin)**

Begins with the intensive study of a selection of writings by Kant focused especially on force and conflict in politics and aesthetics. This study, along with relevant readings from more recent work, will provide the basis for an approach to this topic in nineteenth-century poetry. Readings of Kant, Walter Benjamin, Jacques Derrida, and Giorgio Agamben, leading to several "case studies" of 19th--century poetry, including works by Hölderlin, Baudelaire, and Matthew Arnold.