

GRADUATE HANDBOOK COURSE OF STUDY

1. Five core courses: Foreign Language Pedagogy, Theories and Practices; Cultural Foundations in German Studies, to 1800; Cultural Foundations in German Studies, 1800 to the Present; Middle High German; and German Linguistics. Incoming students who have satisfactorily completed equivalent graduate courses may be exempted by the Director of Graduate Studies and Graduate Advising (DGS) from one or more of the required courses.
2. Two DGS-approved courses outside of the German Studies Program that complement the student's areas of interest in an interdisciplinary fashion.
3. A total of sixteen courses (including those enumerated above), two of which may be credit for work on the dissertation.
4. A Ph.D. Preliminary Exam, normally by the end of the third year.
5. An oral dissertation defense, normally by the end of the fifth year.

In addition, students are strongly encouraged to attend the Program's monthly "works-in-progress" seminar, at which faculty, advanced graduate students, and guests present their current research.

QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS

1. Satisfactory performance in all course work.
2. Satisfactory performance in the teaching program.
3. Demonstration of Superior level on the ACTFL scale for proficiency in German, including all four competencies (reading, writing, speaking, and listening), usually by the time the student enters the Program or by the end of the first year of study.
4. Demonstration of reading knowledge in a second foreign language relevant to the student's research, as approved by the DGS. (See addendum for a selection of methods currently accepted for certifying this reading ability.)
5. All students will submit an annual Plan of Study form each year prior to completion of their preliminary exam. Doing so encourages students to reflect in broad terms on their current intellectual interests and possible future trajectories for these interests.
6. Successful completion of the writing proficiency review, normally by the end of the second year of study. Normally, students will submit a revised paper originally written for one of their courses.
7. Completion of the preliminary examination with a grade of "Pass." The exam is normally taken in the third year of study.
8. Successful completion of a dissertation chapter review, usually by the end of the fourth year of study.

COURSEWORK

Overview: Required Courses Foreign Language Pedagogy: Theories and Practices
Cultural Foundations, to 1800
Cultural Foundations, 1800 to the present
Middle High German
German Linguistics

Courses outside German Studies. Students will normally take at least two courses outside of the German Studies Program. They are encouraged to take more as relevant to their interests and research.

Transfer Credit: Students coming in with an M.A. in German may, at the discretion of the directors of graduate studies, receive credit for course-work completed at their previous institution. A maximum of four courses can be remitted, and decisions about credit for prior course work will be made at the end of the students' first year in the Carolina-Duke Graduate Program.

Checklist of 16 courses

1. Foreign Language Pedagogy.
2. Foundations, to 1800.
3. Foundations, 1800 to present.
4. Middle High German.
5. German Linguistics.
6. Elective: Course from outside the program
7. Elective: Course from outside the program.
8. Elective.
9. Elective.
10. Elective.
11. Elective.
12. Elective.
13. Elective.
14. Elective.
15. Dissertation research.
16. Dissertation research.

TEACHING

Teacher training is a central component of the Carolina-Duke Graduate Program in German Studies. Both departments provide rigorous training in foreign language teaching, which includes an introduction to the interdisciplinary fields of applied linguistics and second language acquisition. Teaching Assistantships are normally available to students in their second through fifth years of study who continue to make satisfactory progress towards the completion of their degree.

It is crucial that teaching assistants (TAs) have highly advanced German language skills. During their first year, students' language proficiency in German will be evaluated. Only students who achieve a level of "Superior" (see ACTFL guidelines) will be asked to teach in the German language program. Students who do not possess the required proficiency in German will be expected to obtain this proficiency as soon as possible. Beginning TAs generally teach First Year German and take the Foreign Language Pedagogy course concurrently with their first semester of teaching. In later semesters, graduate students often teach Second Year German, and occasionally more advanced undergraduate courses as well (German Culture and Society, Advanced Composition, Introduction to German Literature). In addition, students may serve as discussion leaders in larger lecture courses or serve as a research assistant.

REVIEWS, EXAMINATIONS, DISSERTATION

The Annual Plan of Study Report All students will have to prepare and submit to the DGS an updated Plan of Study form by January 31 of years 1-3. Once the preliminary exam has been taken, this form is no longer required.

The Writing Proficiency Review. For the Writing Proficiency Review, an hour-long oral review that takes place in the second year of study, students submit a scholarly paper, normally written in English and about thirty pages in length, which expands and reworks a paper written for one of their courses. The DGS sets up a committee of three faculty members, including the student's primary advisor, in consultation with the student.

Ph.D. Committee. For the purpose of the preliminary examination, the PhD committee consists of four faculty members, including the faculty advisor, selected by the student in consultation with their faculty advisor and the DGS. A fifth faculty member will be added to the committee for the dissertation chapter review and the dissertation defense. Typically, faculty from the preliminary exam will also serve on the dissertation review and dissertation defense committees.

The Preliminary Examination. The purpose of the preliminary exam is to ensure competency in a teaching field and to establish a comprehensive intellectual framework for the dissertation project that is inflected in an interdisciplinary manner. Consequently, the exam should be designed so that students approach their dissertation research in such a way as to engage a set of broad questions that will speak to scholars both within and outside the field of German Studies. The exam centers on two equally weighted lists, one of which generally concerns itself with a literary topic, broadly defined, such as a recognized literary period, movement, or genre across several periods. The other list generally concentrates on an area such as visual culture, music, religion, cultural anthropology, literary or critical theory, media studies, philosophy, linguistics, or political theory, or any other areas germane to the student's particular fields of interest. Both lists are drawn up by students in consultation with their primary faculty advisor and the other committee members, all of whom approve the lists in advance of the exam.

The preliminary examination has both a written and an oral component. In consultation with their advisor and the DGS, students may choose either of the following formats for the written portion of the exam.

(1) An in-house, closed book exam. Students are given 8 hours to respond to 3 out of a set of 6 exam questions assembled by the student's faculty advisor in consultation with committee members. The program will provide a computer for the exam and a quiet room; legible handwritten exams are also acceptable.

(2) A take-home, open-book exam, consisting of two substantial questions, one on each field, given every other day. Students are given 24 hours per question and are expected to submit an essay of roughly 15 pages on the assigned topic. Students are encouraged to make use of all available technology and of any materials, resources, data-bases, etc., they would normally consult while doing research.

The oral portion of the exam, with questions from all examiners, lasts about 90 minutes and generally takes place within two weeks of the written exam.

Dissertation Overview. A successful German Studies PhD dissertation must constitute a significant contribution to the field of German Studies.

Following the preliminary exam in their third year of study, students are generally expected to complete their dissertation chapter review during their fourth year of study, and to defend their dissertation by the end of the fifth year.

Dissertation Chapter Review. In consultation with their advisor, students develop a dissertation project. Students submit to the dissertation review committee a chapter of 30-45 pages, a two to three page overview of the dissertation; and a comprehensive bibliography. The oral review lasts approximately 1-2 hours.

Dissertation Defense. When the student and the primary advisor are satisfied that a defensible draft is complete, they will offer it to the members of the committee for final approval and set a date for the final examination (also known as the dissertation defense).

The defense will usually be held as soon after submission of the final draft as is practical and in keeping with University and Graduate School requirements.

Revision of Program Requirements. The faculty of the Joint Program will from time to time revisit these guidelines and may make changes or amendments. This handbook was last updated on August 1, 2008.

Master's Degree

N.B. The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will continue to offer a stand-alone, MA in German Studies, with its own admissions process. This degree program is separate from the Carolina-Duke Graduate Program in German Studies.

The Carolina-Duke Graduate Program in German Studies admits students who have already earned an MA degree in German or a related field from an accredited institution. In such cases, the degree is recognized. Incoming students who have satisfactorily completed equivalent graduate courses may be exempted by the Director of Graduate Studies and Graduate Advising (DGS) from one or more of the required courses.

Coursework and Exam Requirements for the MA in the Joint Degree Program. The MA is not required for the PhD in German Studies. Students enrolled in the Carolina-Duke Graduate Program in German Studies wishing to acquire the MA must meet the following requirements: Successful completion of ten courses, including all required courses and one MA thesis course; a minimum of two semesters of teaching as a TA; and successful completion of the Writing Proficiency Review. Additionally, there will be an hour-long oral MA exam based on the readings in the required courses. This exam may be combined with the Writing Proficiency Review. A second foreign language is not required to qualify for the MA.

MA Committee. For the MA committee, the DGS sets up a committee of three faculty members, including the student's primary advisor, in consultation with the student.

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