The German PhD offers close mentorship and a vibrant intellectual exchange between students and faculty. Graduate students work closely with leading scholars of modern literature, culture, philosophy, and the arts from the Enlightenment to the present. PhD students are encouraged to conduct interdisciplinary research in German studies and a secondary concentration (i.e. classics, environmental science, art history, Jewish studies), and they are full members of the innovative cross-disciplinary Consortium for Doctoral Studies in Literatures and Cultures, which offers interdepartmental mentorship and transcultural exchange. To see the wide range of subjects covered in the German program, consult the research and publication profiles of the faculty and graduate students.

PhD students work and study with established scholars of German studies whose fields of expertise include aesthetics, literary criticism and theory, history of science and technology, critical theory, cultural studies, and contemporary art. Students participate in student-centered colloquia, workshops, and the annual Graduate Summer School in German Studies, which brings Boulder graduate students and scholars from leading German programs. As members of the Consortium for Doctoral Studies in Literatures and Cultures, they can take advantage of its cross-disciplinary environment, inter-departmental mentorship, workshops, lectures, and conferences. In combination with advising in literature, students might seek advising in law, popular culture, media, and other fields.

For more information, contact the department at gsll@colorado.edu or visit the German Program (http://www.colorado.edu/gsll/german-program) webpage.

A timeline for the German Studies PhD (https://www.colorado.edu/gsll/timeline-german-studies-phd) can be found on our German Program webpage.

Requirements

Academic Preparation

If a student has gaps in their academic preparation, the department may require them to take additional courses.

Course Requirements

The PhD program requires 30 hours of coursework at the 5000 level or above. Students who have completed an MA degree may be able to apply up to 21 hours toward this requirement.

In addition to coursework, students must take a total of at least 30 credit hours of doctoral dissertation, with not more than 10 of these taken in any one semester and not more than 10 dissertation credit hours taken before the semester during which the comprehensive examination is passed. Students must be enrolled in a minimum of 5 dissertation hours during the semester in which they defend their dissertation (including summer session, if the defense is held over the summer).

Transfer credit from accredited institutions may be accepted by CU Boulder after approval by the graduate associate chair. PhD students are allowed a maximum of 21 hours of transfer credit. Thesis hours may not be transferred. All courses accepted for transfer credit must be graduate-level courses and must have a grade of B or above. Coursework completed more than five years prior to acceptance to the PhD program will be evaluated by the department with regard to current relevance and applicability to the degree requirements. Credit may not be transferred until the student has completed at least six credits of CU graduate-level coursework as a degree-seeking student on the CU Boulder campus with a 3.0 GPA. Thesis hours do not count toward the required 30 hours and cannot be used as transfer credit.

Required Courses and Credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRMN 5010</td>
<td>Theory and Practice of German Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRMN 5020</td>
<td>Applied Linguistics and Foreign Language Teaching Methodology</td>
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One pre-1900 content course such as:

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRMN 5030</td>
<td>Foundations of Critical Theory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRMN 5210</td>
<td>Seminar: The Age of Enlightenment</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GRMN 5220</td>
<td>Seminar: Topics in the Age of Goethe</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GRMN 5310</td>
<td>Seminar: Topics in the 19th Century</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRMN 5504</td>
<td>Goethe’s Faust</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRMN 5510</td>
<td>Seminar: Open Topics in German Civilization</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Electives

At least one course with a focus on pre-20th-century content: 3

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<td>Seminar: Topics in the 19th Century</td>
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</table>

At least 6 credit hours in an interdisciplinary area of concentration. 1

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</table>

At least one course with a focus on pre-20th-century content: 3

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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional courses to meet 30-credit minimum. 14-12

Total Credit Hours 23-21

1 Students design this concentration in close consultation with their faculty mentor and comprehensive examination and dissertation advisor, and with the approval of the graduate associate chair. Examples of interdisciplinary concentrations include (but are not limited to): critical thought, political science, philosophy, history, comparative literature, gender studies, film studies, Russian studies, Jewish studies, women’s studies, geography, environmental studies, economics and international affairs.

Secondary concentration

As a German studies PhD student, you will develop an interdisciplinary area of concentration. This secondary field will consist of at least 6 credit hours. You will design this concentration in close consultation with your faculty mentor and comprehensive examination and dissertation advisor, and with the approval of the graduate associate chair. Some examples of interdisciplinary concentrations might include (but are not limited to): critical thought, political science, philosophy, history, comparative literature, gender studies, film studies, Russian studies, Jewish studies, women’s studies, geography, environmental studies, economics, international affairs.

Language Requirement

In addition to demonstrating a high level of proficiency in German, you must demonstrate moderate proficiency in an additional foreign language. You can do this by fulfilling one of the following requirements either before or after enrolling at CU Boulder.

1
• completing a fourth-semester (second-semester sophomore) college 
  language course with a grade of “pass,”
• completing a proficiency exam administered at CU, or
• presenting other evidence of moderate proficiency to the graduate 
  associate chair.

Students should consult with the graduate associate chair at the 
beginning of their first semester to discuss procedures. This requirement 
must be fulfilled before or during the semester in which the student 
advances to candidacy.

Comprehensive PhD Examination
The comprehensive exam tests a student’s knowledge in areas of 
specialization appropriate for their anticipated dissertation topic. The 
exam takes place in the second or third year, depending on whether the 
student entered the program with a BA or MA and, if the latter, how many 
coursework credits were applied from the MA. Students take the exam 
in the spring semester. The exam is based on a reading list the student 
assembles in close consultation with the members of their committee. It 
consists of a take-home written exam followed by a two-hour-long oral 
examination that concentrates on the written exam, but may also address 
texts and topics on the reading list that are not covered in the written 
exam. The composition of the comprehensive exam committee follows 
the guidelines of the prospectus & dissertation committee composition 
below.

For more information, visit the department’s Comprehensive 
Examination, Prospectus & Dissertation (http://www.colorado.edu/gsll/
comprehensive-examination-and-dissertation) webpage.

Prospectus & Dissertation Committee
After successful completion of the comprehensive examinations, the 
student forms a dissertation committee and prepares a dissertation 
prospectus, to be followed by its defense a week later. The dissertation 
committee should be finalized and a dissertation prospectus submitted 
no later than the end of the fifth week of the semester following the 
successful completion of the comprehensive examination.

For more information, visit the department’s Comprehensive 
Examination, Prospectus & Dissertation (http://www.colorado.edu/gsll/
comprehensive-examination-and-dissertation) webpage.

Dissertation
The student formally begins to write their dissertation after successfully 
completing the comprehensive exam and defending the dissertation 
prospectus. The student should work closely with their dissertation 
advisor and committee members while writing the dissertation. In 
picular, students are advised to submit draft copies of each chapter 
to all members of their committee. Any subsequent changes to the 
student’s “timeline for completion” need to be circulated to the committee 
for approval. A final draft must be submitted to the committee members 
at least three weeks before the defense.

Students are required to register continuously for a minimum of 
five dissertation hours in the fall and spring semesters of each year, 
beginning with the semester following the passing of the comprehensive 
exam and extending through the semester in which the student 
successfully defends their dissertation.

A student who fails to register continuously for dissertation credit hours 
after passing the comprehensive exam must retake and pass the exam, 
and validate any coursework more than five years old, to regain status as 
a student in good standing with the graduate school.

For more information, visit the department’s Comprehensive 
Examination, Prospectus & Dissertation (http://www.colorado.edu/gsll/
comprehensive-examination-and-dissertation) webpage.

Recommended Coursework
Internships
Students are strongly encouraged to complete at least one internship 
during their doctoral studies. Three hours of internship credit can 
count toward the 30 required hours of coursework for the PhD. GSLL 
graduate students have completed internships with businesses, nonprofit 
agencies and schools, and at locations including Colorado, Germany 
and Washington, DC. Internship offerings vary by semester. To enroll in a 
graduate internship, see the associate chair for graduate studies.

Graduate Exchange Opportunities
Students are recommended to spend one academic year abroad during 
their doctoral studies, on either a CU graduate exchange or an exchange 
funded by an agency such as the German Academic Exchange Service 
(DAAD) or the Fulbright Commission. For more information concerning 
DAAD, Fulbright and other grants, see the department’s Scholarships & 
Awards (http://www.colorado.edu/gsll/scholarships-awards) webpage.

In partnership with CU’s Office of International Education, GSLL offers 
funded graduate exchanges at the University of Göttingen and the 
University of Regensburg. These exchanges offer matriculation at the 
host institution for one academic year (10 months), plus a monthly 
stipend for living expenses. One position is offered per year at each 
institution. To qualify for an exchange, the student must demonstrate 
fluency in German and evidence of superior academic work.

Students interested in either program should notify the graduate 
associate chair by Feb. 1 for study abroad the following academic year 
and formally apply by Feb. 15.

Graduate Certificate Programs
Students are also encouraged to consider completing a graduate 
certificate program at CU. GSLL offers a critical theory graduate 
certificate (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-
siences/programs-study/germanic-slavic-languages-literatures/critical-
theory-graduate-certificate). Other graduate certificates include the 
women and gender studies graduate certificate (catalog.colorado.edu/
graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/women-
gender-studies/women-gender-studies-graduate-certificate) and the 
comparative ethnic studies graduate certificate (catalog.colorado.edu/
graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/ethnic-
stoies/comparative-ethnic-studies-graduate-certificate).