The German Major in Your Senior Year

Consultation

Throughout your senior year, you should consult with your adviser, the instructor of GER 495, and the department chair to ensure successful completion of all requirements.

Requirements for the German Major

Nine courses above German 201 are required for the major in German. They must include: German 250, 260, and German 495, the senior comprehensive course. They may not include more than one independent study course below the 400 level. During the senior year at Davidson, students must take at least two courses at the 400 level, one of which must be German 495, the other a seminar taught in German. Finally, students must demonstrate proficiency in the German language at the B2 level, as defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

The Department strongly recommends study abroad with Duke/ Davidson in Berlin.

GER 495: Senior Colloquium

The Senior Colloquium will explore issues pertinent to German Studies and discuss research strategies. Each student will complete a thesis and defend it upon invitation.

Honors

To receive honors, you must at the time of graduation have an overall GPA of 3.2 or better, have a 3.5 average in all courses counted toward the major, have fulfilled all the requirements for the major, have formally applied for consideration of honors, and the department must judge your thesis (written for German 495) and its defense worthy of honors.

Thesis Guidelines

Theses are directed by an appropriate department member following a strict schedule. They may be 20-50 pages long and they may be written in German or in English (although German is highly recommended, especially for consideration of honors). Only theses of 40-50 pages in length are eligible for defense. Funding for thesis research is available through campus-wide channels (Abernethy, Dean Rusk, DRI, Kemp, HHMI, etc.).
Thesis Schedule

Any extended research project requires time, careful planning, commitment, conscientious attention to both detail and overview, and flexibility. Your German senior thesis is no exception. To encourage you to work as effectively as possible on your thesis, follow these general guidelines, must-meet deadlines, and suggestions.

• **First four weeks of the Fall semester**
  Meet with your adviser to discuss thesis plans and anticipated needs. Develop a strategic plan for your work in the fall.

• **Before Thanksgiving week**
  Meet separately with your adviser, the department chair, and the instructor of GER 495 to review thesis progress and discuss an outline. Start preparing an annotated bibliography (or literature review).

• **Start of the Spring semester**
  Meet separately with the department chair, your adviser, and the instructor of GER 495 to review thesis progress. In consultation with all three, work on your outline, finalize your annotated bibliography, draft an abstract (one substantial paragraph), and prepare a weekly syllabus for your work this semester.

• **Friday of Week 2, noon**
  Submit copies of your abstract, annotated bibliography, and weekly syllabus to your adviser, the department chair, and the instructor of GER 495. The weekly syllabus must be signed by all three.

• **Monday of Week 7, noon**
  Submit a detailed outline of your thesis to your adviser, the department chair, and the instructor of GER 495. This is a final, binding outline to be signed by all three.

• **Monday of Week 12, noon**
  Submit complete first full draft of your thesis to your adviser, the department chair, and the instructor of GER 495; submit electronically unless otherwise requested. Deadline to apply for honors consideration (see requirements in the catalog).

• **April**
  Revise in close work with your adviser.

• **Monday of Week 16, noon**
  Deadline for completed thesis. Submit in hard copy to your adviser and all members of the department.

• **Week 17, before final examinations**
  Hour-long thesis defense (upon invitation) with your adviser and members of the department.
Important Notes

• Thesis due dates and honors application deadline are not negotiable, please do not ask for extensions. Late work will be penalized.

• Success in adhering to the schedule above will be considered in assigning a grade for your thesis (see your syllabus for GER 495).

• At several points during the spring semester, the instructor of GER 495 may schedule in-class workshops and presentations.

• Experience suggests that the most effective plan for writing a successful thesis includes regular (weekly or bi-weekly) meetings between you and your adviser throughout the year. You should submit any written work several days before each meeting so that your adviser will have time to formulate comments and questions.

• The first draft deadline is critical. By this time, you should have finished a draft that is complete enough to submit for credit, thereby allowing several weeks in which to revise your work critically and carefully. These extra weeks will permit ample time for revision: the most important part of the writing process and what determines the ultimate success of the thesis.

• Plan carefully, be smart, and enjoy the experience. Everybody wants to see you succeed.

Manuscript Preparation

• Use either the Chicago Manual of Style or MLA Style but observe German punctuation rules.

• Margins: 1.5” left, .75” right, 1” bottom, 1” top (i.e., 1” to the text body, and .5” to the header, which should contain only the right-aligned page number; no name, no title)

• Double-spaced, Times New Roman 12


• A sample cover page for honors theses is appended.
Title

Submitted to the Department of German Studies at Davidson College in partial fulfillment of the requirement for a Bachelor of Arts in German with Honors.

Your name
Place, date

Dr. Burkhard Henke, Thesis Adviser: ______________________________

Dr. Scott Denham, Examiner: ______________________________

Dr. Margaret McCarthy, Examiner: ______________________________

Dr. Mark McCulloh, Examiner: ______________________________