

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
GERMAN MAJOR SENIOR PROJECT**

PRINCIPLES:

1. "Liberal arts education frees not only by providing the content of the humanities and the sciences but also by emphasizing abilities necessary to analyze meaningfully the material one learns, to organize and integrate knowledge, to break out into new areas and acquire new knowledge. These are abilities necessary to free oneself from the tutelage of one's teachers, and thus become independent.... Thus, a liberal education is one that encourages the study of the many complex issues that cross the disciplines.... Liberal education is the beginning of a life-long personal integration which leads to practical, wise, and sensitive action in the world." ("General Education at Xavier University")
2. "Xavier remains committed to offering students an educational experience that makes connections between acquisition of knowledge, development of values and a personal awareness of social responsibility. This requires an academic program that promotes a serious analysis of the contemporary scene and offers opportunities for students to clarify, challenge and apply their values to real life situations." ("A Proposal for the Future")

SENIOR PROJECT FOR GERMAN MAJORS:

In light of the above educational principles, the Department of Modern Languages encourages, through the Senior Project for German Majors, an interdisciplinary, independent study project, with written and oral components, as a requirement for German majors. Thus, German majors, under the primary supervision of a faculty member from the German section and, secondarily, with assistance from faculty members from the other discipline(s) involved in the study will:

1. Explore a particular area of interest from the German curriculum. This may be, for example, a literary period, genre, work, author; an aspect of the history of German civilization; a topic related to contemporary culture of the German speaking world.
2. Integrate this area of the German curriculum with another disciplinary area of interest to the student. Some examples include: the Social or Physical Sciences; Theology; Philosophy; English; History; the Arts; Business, etc. Typical examples of such research projects might be:
 - A study of the socio-economic impact of German Reunification
(German culture/civilization, Economics, Political Science)
 - A study of the Abitur and Matura exam in the German-speaking educational system and the current debate over national proficiency examinations in the U.S.
(Culture and civilization of the German speaking world, Education)
 - A study of post-war German short stories in their socio-political basis and impact as compared to its American counterpart
(German literature, English, History, Political Science)
 - A comparison of former East and West German literature, its philosophical reasons and its intended vs. its real consequences
(German literature, English, Philosophy, History, Political Science, International Relations)
 - A study of the German, Austrian and Swiss health care systems and the current debate over health care reform in the U.S.
(Culture/civilization of the Germanic world, Social and Physical Sciences, Economics, Political Science)

GUIDELINES:

1. Students will, normally, begin to discuss, with the German advisor, the area of study to be pursued during their junior year. If not decided before, the study must be determined by **early October** of the senior year. At the time of decision, a contract form will be completed and signed by the student and the advisor(s).

2. Students will be asked to register for a **one-credit tutorial** for their senior project. This should be done during the semester in which they intend to complete their senior project; for most candidates, this is the Spring Semester. At that time, they will be assigned to their Senior Project Advisor. Those graduating in May who therefore register for their tutorial in the spring semester **MUST** submit to their Senior Project Adviser, as well as to the adviser in the second discipline with which they will work:

α. an **approved detailed outline** of the project, with **bibliography**, by DECEMBER 5, 2003;

β. a **completed first draft** by JANUARY 19, 2004;

γ. a **second draft** by FEBRUARY 23, 2004;

δ. a **third draft** by MARCH 22, 2004;

ε. a **final copy** by APRIL 2, 2004.

These deadlines are absolutes! Failure to adhere to any of them will result in the students' withdrawal from the tutorial, thus nullifying their chances of completing all graduation requirements by May. The details of the oral presentation will be discussed with their German adviser well in advance of the date of their public sharing of the project. This date will be communicated to them prior to Spring Break.

3. The length of the paper will be determined by the nature of the study but must be, at the minimum, of about 15-25 pages in length (including the bibliography), double-spaced and typed. At least one-half of the bibliographic citations of the integrative research project must include works in German. They must be completed in accordance with the latest MLA Handbook guidelines.

4. An explicative and illustrative summary of the research project will be presented during the **Spring Semester** of the **senior year** during the oral part of the senior project process to a panel of three German instructors and an audience of upper level German students. For those anticipating a December graduation, their oral presentations will be given during a meeting of upper level German students and a panel of three German instructors during the **preceding November**.

5. Either the research paper may be given in German and the explicative summary given in English or the paper may be written in English and the summary given in German. In either case, both the oral and the written components are integral aspects of the final evaluation. (Naturally, a student may elect to write and to speak German, if preferred.) Should the student elect to write the paper in English, a précis, written in German and giving a summary of the introduction, body, and conclusion will accompany the paper and form the basis for the oral presentation in German.

6. Drafts of the project will be submitted, at regular intervals, to the advisor(s). At the minimum, the advisor(s) must see the **last draft** by **March** (or **October** for December graduates) of the senior year in order to have adequate time to react to it. A **final version** is to be presented to the advisor(s) by **April 2** (or November 7) of the senior year.

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
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CONTRACT

Name _____

Date _____

Subject/Title of Research Project _____

German Advisor _____

Advisor _____ Department _____

Advisor _____ Department _____

Draft # _____ Submitted (date) _____

Draft # _____ Submitted (date) _____

Draft # _____ Submitted (date) _____

Final Version Submitted (date) _____

(Signature of German major)

(Signature of German advisor)

(A copy of this form is to be retained by the German major and each of the advisors listed above.)