The University

UC Davis enrolls more than 32,000 students and has an internationally recognized faculty. Among all public universities nationwide, it is ranked 9th (U.S. News & World Report 2014) and 16th (National Research Council) in overall quality. It also has been elected a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities to which only 60 leading institutions belong from among more than 3,000 public and private colleges and universities in the United States.

The Setting

Set in the heart of California’s beautiful Central Valley, the UCD campus is about ten minutes by car from the state capital (Sacramento) and about an hour by car or train from the San Francisco Bay Area with its world-class museums, opera, theater, restaurants, bookstores, etc. Napa Valley, redwood forests, Lake Tahoe, and the Sierra mountains all lie within easy driving distance of Davis.

Find Out More:  http://german.ucdavis.edu

Department of German:
One Shields Avenue
University of California
Davis, CA 95616

Mail ID: SPAD

The University of California, Davis, part of the world-renowned University of California system, is one of the nation’s top public research universities. The German Department at UC Davis offers comprehensive and challenging programs in German language, literature, culture, and thought. Its distinguished faculty members conduct research in areas as diverse as literary history, gender studies, critical theory, film studies, German-Chinese literary and cultural relations, Holocaust studies, intellectual history, Jewish studies, postcolonial studies, theater studies, and linguistics, including second-language acquisition. The department awards both M.A.s and Ph.D.s in German, and applicants may apply to either program.
Graduate Program: Overview

Graduate students in the UC Davis German program pursue M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in German. The Department is ranked highly among German programs in the United States by the National Research Council for the effectiveness of its doctoral program and the quality of its research.

Those who have graduated with a Ph.D. from the UC Davis German Department have been successful in obtaining faculty positions at colleges and universities across the nation, such as Brandeis University, Bucknell University, DePauw University, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Duke University, Emory University, Miami University, Middlebury College, University of Georgia, University of Pennsylvania, St. Louis, and Washington University.

Courses of Study and Research

The Department is committed to providing its students with a solid basis of erudition while encouraging innovative and multidisciplinary pursuits. The flexible M.A. and Ph.D. programs at UC Davis offer in-depth specialization in literary genres, theoretical problems, and historical periods, as well as a track designed for those interested primarily in linguistics. It is possible to combine the doctoral program in German Literature with interdisciplinary Designated Emphases in: Classics and Classical Receptions; Critical Theory; Feminist Theory and Research; and Second Language Acquisition.

Faculty

Carlee Arnett, Associate Professor
Ph.D. (University of Michigan)
Germanic linguistics, cognitive grammar

Gail E. Finney, Professor
Ph.D. (UC Berkeley)
Turn-of-the-century culture, modern drama, feminism, psychoanalysis and literature/film, postwar German women writers, 19th-century European fiction

Jaimey Fisher, Professor
Ph.D. (Cornell University)
Film studies, twentieth-century German literature, intellectual history, psychoanalysis

Elisabeth Krimmer, Professor
Ph.D. (University of Massachusetts at Amherst)
Gender studies, history and representation of war, German literature 1800-2000, Hollywood film

Sven-Erik Rose, Associate Professor
Ph.D. (University of Pennsylvania)
German-Jewish literature and thought, Holocaust studies, German literature 1750-present, critical theory

Chunjie Zhang, Assistant Professor
Ph.D. (Duke University)
Eighteenth-century German literature and culture, postcolonial studies and cultural theory, German-Chinese literary and cultural relations

Affiliated Faculty

David Biale (History)
Edward Dickinson (History)
Jeff Fort (French)
Kari Lokke (Comparative Literature)
Neil Larsen (Comparative Literature)
Christopher Reynolds (Music)
Lenora A. Timm (Linguistics)

Opportunities and Support

Graduate studies in German leading to the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees are supported by TAships, Associate Instructor positions, and fellowships, generally with five-year packages. Graduate students have the opportunity not only to teach beginning language courses, but also more advanced language courses as well as literature and culture courses.

Graduate students also have the opportunity to apprentice with a professor in the department, an experience that allows close consultation in the development of teaching content and course strategies.

Outstanding applicants can qualify for a Max Kade graduate fellowship. The Office of Grad Studies offers many forms of support such as internal fellowships (fellowships to support campus diversity, dissertation fellowships, research mentorships), external fellowships, and travel awards. We encourage qualified students to apply.

Examples of Recent Graduate Seminars

Turn-of-the 20th Century Austrian and German Culture
Kafka and the History of Theory
New German Cinema
The Bildungsroman
Goethe’s Faust
The Classical Age of German Literature
German Romanticism
Heinrich von Kleist
Brecht: His Critics and His Legacy
The Teaching of German
Cognitive Grammar for Applied Linguists
Militarism and Democracy: The Case of Weimar Germany
Postwar Women Writers
Women, War, and Migration
German Prose Literature of the Holocaust
Cultural Encounters and Transcultural Imaginations
What is Art? Aesthetic Theory from Kant to Adorno