1. Rationale for the Revision of the German Major and Minor

In a Department Meeting on February 5, 2015, attended by Prof. Meike Werner, (Department Chair), Prof. Lilla Balint, Prof. Sara Jackson, Prof. Lutz Koepnick, Prof. Margaret Setje-Eilers, Prof. Per Urlaub, Prof. Christoph Zeller, and Prof. James McFarland, the following changes to the undergraduate Program of Concentration in German were adopted by unanimous vote of the four tenured or tenure-track faculty, with the intention of integrating the German major and minor more closely into the larger arts and sciences community. These changes reflect the latest pedagogic and disciplinary advances in the field of German Studies and make the demands and rewards of a concentration in German more transparent to undergraduate students.

The primary revision of the concentration in German is the consolidation of our current two tracks, a program in German language and literature and a program in German studies, into a single concentration in German. The two tracks no longer reflect clearly distinguishable approaches to the study of culture. A single well-designed major in German Studies, together with a sensibly organized curriculum, can, without any loss of intellectual rigor, accommodate a broader range of student interests.

In addition to this consolidation, we have also decided to count the second year of language study toward the major. This reflects most recent research in second language acquisition and would be in sync with the programs of other foreign language departments at Vanderbilt. This change allows students who begin the study of German after their Freshman fall to complete a major, without reducing the overall expectations of thirty credit hours.

The department has also decided to equip the major with a single survey course in English (GER 2441 [183]) that would both provide those students who are majoring with a common point of reference, as well as offering an attractive general introduction to German studies for students outside the department.

The distinction of “German text” and “German content” courses in the current course catalog has been eliminated. The purpose of these categories was to allow
students to apply credit hours earned outside the department, or in English-language courses taken in the department, toward their German major. In practice, these categories have proved to be obscure and unhelpful. Instead, we suggest that students must take at least nine credit hours of upper level courses in the department, and can apply no more than six credit hours of English-language courses from any department toward the major, with the approval of the DUS. This promises to simplify the criteria without sacrificing flexibility for students.

In addition to revamping the major, we have also revised the minor. It, too, has been reduced from two separate tracks to a single track, and made considerably more flexible. We will recognize any 15 credit hours taken in residence at the department in German, together with GER 2441 [183], the English-language survey course, as constituting a minor concentration in German. At present, the minor is an abbreviated major, and is most often made use of by students who discover late in their undergraduate careers that they will not be able to complete the major. Our new design appeals more broadly. On the one hand, it allows students who are primarily interested in learning the German language to document this interest by earning a minor with those language courses and an additional survey or literature course. On the other hand, it also encourages students who may enter the German program at Vanderbilt with inherited language skills to explore our upper level curriculum without the full commitment of majoring in the discipline.

It is our considered opinion that these changes to the structure of our major and minor will increase their appeal to the student population at large by clarifying the expectations and benefits associated with these concentrations. These changes will also bring the major more into line with majors offered by other language departments at Vanderbilt, as well as allow it better to reflect the discipline of German Studies as it is pursued in other universities around the world. Below please find the current catalog copy with the emendations we are suggesting.

Sincerely

Meike Werner,

Assoc. Prof. of German and European Studies
Chair, Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages
The Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages offers a broad array of courses taught in German, Russian, or English on a wide variety of topics related to these languages, cultures, histories, and societies. For students who want to engage with German or Russian culture in a more substantive way, the Department offers programs of concentration in German and in Russian.

The Department sponsors lectures on topics related to German and Russian society and culture, films, symposia, and other German- and Russian-themed activities. Students are encouraged to apply for living space in McTyeire International House in the German and Russian sections, and German majors with sufficient academic qualifications are invited to join Delta Phi Alpha, the National German Honor Society.

Many students majoring in German enroll in study abroad programs in Germany or Austria, and/or the Vanderbilt in Berlin Program in conjunction with the Free University in Berlin. Less formal activities, such as a weekly Kaffeestunde, Mahlzeit (lunchtime conversations) or the Stammtisch at a local pizza parlor, are also open to undergraduates. For further information, please see http://as.vanderbilt.edu/german/.

The Russian program has a special commitment to undergraduate training in all aspects of Russian culture and language. Thus, students are able to pursue their particular interests within the Russian program while simultaneously being held to a measurable standard. For further information, please see http://as.vanderbilt.edu/russian/.

Program of Concentration in German (Track I)

Students majoring in German demonstrate advanced proficiency in oral and written German, as well as detailed understanding of significant aspects of German-speaking cultures, histories, and societies by the successful completion of at least two courses above 2441 taught in German. Students are required to complete a total of 30 credit hours of coursework beyond GER 1102, including the following:

Core course: 2441 [183]
German language in context: 6 credit hours of 2201 [103], 2202 [104],
2281[105], 2282 [106], 2320 [213], 2321 [214] 6
German culture and history: 6 credit hours in 2310W [201W],
2341 [221], 2342 [222] 6
Electives: No fewer than 15 additional credit hours of coursework in the GER subject area or approved by the DUS in German; no more than 6 credit hours of which may be in courses taught in English; at least 9 credit hours above 2441 15
Total credit hours: 30

Students are permitted to count a maximum of 6 credit hours of instruction in courses outside the GER subject area toward the major, with the approval of the DUS of German. First-Year Writing Seminars offered in the GER subject area or approved by the DUS count toward electives in the major, and toward the 6 credit hour total of instruction in English. Up to 6 credit hours either earned through AP exams or transferred from other institutions may count toward the major.

**German Language Proficiency**

In addition, students majoring in German will be tested for language proficiency their junior year and will be required to write a senior paper due the semester prior to graduation. The director of undergraduate studies in German should be consulted for precise details on these special learning outcome assessments.

**Honors Program (Track II)**

Candidates for honors in German who meet College of Arts and Science and departmental requirements must complete all requirements for the concentration in German. In addition, students

- must study a minimum of one semester at a German-speaking university (or gain the equivalent experience);
- complete 6 credit hours of 5000-level (graduate) courses beyond the basic course requirement;
- maintain at least a 3.30 cumulative GPA in courses that count toward the German major and a 3.30 cumulative GPA;
- write an honors thesis and pass an oral examination during their final semester.

**Vanderbilt in Berlin**

The seven-week, seven-credit hour Vanderbilt-in-Berlin summer program
offers students an opportunity to study German, improve German language skills, and take courses in English and German. This program is also open to students with no prior knowledge of German. Students participate in a weeklong orientation course on the history and culture of Berlin (1 credit hour), then take two six-week courses (6 credit hours) or one intensive language course (6 credits hours). All courses include regular excursions to course-related locations. A limited number of scholarships are available.

Minor in German

A minor in German documents a student’s basic competence in the German language as well as familiarity with German-speaking culture. Students can fulfill the requirements of a minor concentration in German by taking GER 2441 [183], and 15 credit hours in the GER subject area, of which 6 credit hours must be earned in courses taught in the German language, for a total of 18 credit hours.

Goethe-Institut Certificate in Business German

Students completing GER 2216 [216] may take an examination at a Goethe-Institut to obtain the Bulats Deutsch-Test für den Beruf, a certificate in Business German recognized by businesses worldwide. Further information is available on the Goethe-Institut website: (www.goethe.de/en/spr/kup/prf/prf/bul.html).

Program of Concentration in German and European Studies

Students pursuing the interdisciplinary major in German and European studies combine their focus on German language and literature with a study of modern Europe in its political, economic, and cultural diversity. The German and European studies joint major consists of a minimum of 42 credit hours of course work. A semester of study abroad in the Vanderbilt in Germany program is recommended. Course work for the major is distributed as follows:

German (24 hours)

*Introduction to German Studies (3 credit hours):* GER 2310W [201W]
*German language and culture (3 credit hours):* GER 2320 [213] or 2321 [214]
*German civilization (6 credit hours):* GER 2341 [221], 2342 [222]
*German literature and culture (12 credit hours):* GER 3323 [223], 4535 [235], 3343 [243], 4548 [248], 4563 [263], 4564 [264], 4565 [265], 4566 [266], 4569 [269], 4574 [274], 3375 [275], 3378 [278], or appropriate substitute approved by the director of undergraduate studies in German.
European Studies (18 credit hours)

European Studies core courses (9 credit hours): EUS 2201 [201], 2203 [203], and 4960 [250] (requires thesis);

Social Science (3 credit hours): PSCI 2210 [210], 3211 [211] or appropriate substitute with the approval of the EUS adviser;

History (3 credit hours): HIST 2720 [172], 2260 [226], 2270 [227], 2280 [228], 2290 [229], 2300 [230], or other appropriate course selected in consultation with the EUS adviser;

Humanities (3 credit hours): EUS 3890 [240], 2260 [260] (Berlin or Vienna) or other appropriate course selected in consultation with the EUS adviser.
THE Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages offers programs of concentration in German language and literature, German studies, and Russian.

Students in the German program take a wide variety of courses in the language, culture, and literature of German-speaking countries. Additional courses in history of art, European studies, history, philosophy, political science, and humanities complement the offerings in the German department. The Vanderbilt in Germany programs at the University in Regensburg and in Berlin provide students with unique opportunities to study German language and culture in a native context. On the Vanderbilt campus, students often choose to live in the German hall at McTyeire International House where they practice German in everyday situations with an international group of undergraduate and graduate students from many disciplines. Delta Phi Alpha (the National German Honorary Society) offers opportunities for student-organized extracurricular events. Various lectures are presented by scholars of national and international renown each semester; symposia sponsored by the department are also open to our students. In a less formal setting, interested students and faculty gather weekly for Kaffeestunde. For further information see vanderbilt.edu/german.

The Russian program has a special commitment to undergraduate training in all aspects of Russian culture and language. Students choose from a wide variety of courses: the program offers survey sequences on nineteenth- and twentieth-century Russian literature and culture as well as such courses as Jews in Russian Culture, Stalin’s Evil Empire, Russian Cinema, Crime and Punishment, and Short Russian Novels. The department offers majors in Russian and in Russian and European studies. Students can also minor in Russian or Russian area studies. Students considering majoring in Russian should consult with the director of undergraduate studies in Russian early in their studies to design an individual program. Many students find it beneficial
to combine a Russian major with a second concentration in a related field. Students have the opportunity to spend a semester, a summer, or a May session studying in Russia.

The Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages offers a broad array of courses taught in German, Russian, or English on a wide variety of topics related to these languages, cultures, histories, and societies. For students who want to engage with German or Russian culture in a more substantive way, the Department offers programs of concentration in German and in Russian.

The Department sponsors lectures on topics related to German and Russian society and culture, films, symposia, and other German- and Russian-themed activities. Students are encouraged to apply for living space in McTyeire International House in the German and Russian sections, and German majors with sufficient academic qualifications are invited to join Delta Phi Alpha, the National German Honor Society.

Many students majoring in German enroll in study abroad programs in Germany or Austria, and/or the Vanderbilt in Berlin Program in conjunction with the Free University in Berlin. Less formal activities, such as a weekly Kaffeestunde, Mahlzeit (lunchtime conversations) or the Stammtisch at a local pizza parlor, are also open to undergraduates. For further information, please see http://as.vanderbilt.edu/german/.

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*Program of Concentration in German (Track I)*

**Program I: German Language and Literature**

Students majoring in German are required to take at least 30 hours from courses numbered higher than 105, not including German 245. German 223 is highly recommended. The following are required:

6 hours in German 213, 214, or 216

6 hours in German 221, 222

9 hours in German beyond 222

9 hours in German electives

**Total hours: 30**

Please note that majors are permitted a maximum of 6 hours of German courses in which the language of instruction is English. Majors are expected to consult their advisers before registration each semester.
Program II: German Studies

Students majoring in German studies are required to complete a total of 30 hours of course work beyond GER 105, including the following:

- **German 201W** 3
- 3 hours in German 213, 214, or 216 3
- 6 hours in German 221 and 222 6
- 6 hours of German beyond 222 6
- 6 hours in “German text” courses (defined below) 6
- 6 hours in “German content” courses (defined below) 6

Total hours: 30

Students majoring in German demonstrate advanced proficiency in oral and written German, as well as detailed understanding of significant aspects of German-speaking cultures, histories, and societies by the successful completion of at least two courses above 2441 taught in German. Students are required to complete a total of 30 credit hours of coursework beyond GER 1102, including the following:

- **Core course:** 2441 [183] 3
- **German language in context:** 6 credit hours of 2201 [103], 2202 [104], 2281 [105], 2282 [106], 2320 [213], 2321 [214] 6
- **German culture and history:** 6 credit hours in 2310W [201W], 2341 [221], 2342 [222] 6
- **Electives:** No fewer than 15 additional credit hours of coursework in the GER subject area or approved by the DUS in German; no more than 6 credit hours of which may be in courses taught in English; at least 9 credit hours above 2441 15

Total credit hours: 30

Students are permitted to count a maximum of 6 credit hours of instruction in courses outside the GER subject area toward the major, with the approval of the DUS of German. First-Year Writing Seminars offered in the GER subject area or approved by the DUS count toward electives in the major, and toward the 6 credit hour total of instruction in English. Up to 6 credit hours either earned through AP exams or transferred from other institutions may count toward the major.

**German Language Proficiency**

In addition, students selecting this concentration—majoring in German—will be tested for language proficiency their junior year and will be required to write a senior paper due the semester prior to graduation. The director of undergraduate studies in German should be consulted for precise details on these special learning outcome assessments.
Honors Program (Track II)

Candidates for honors in German who meet College of Arts and Science and departmental requirements must complete all requirements for the concentration in German. In addition, students must study a minimum of one semester at a German-speaking university (or gain the equivalent experience);

complete 6 credit hours of 300–5000-level (graduate) courses beyond the basic course requirement;

maintain at least a 3.30 cumulative GPA in courses that count toward the German major and a 3.30 cumulative GPA;

write an honors thesis and pass an oral examination during their final semester.

Vanderbilt in Berlin

The objective of the seven-week, seven-credit hour Vanderbilt-in-Berlin summer study abroad program is to offer students an opportunity to begin studying German, improve German language skills, and take courses in English and German. This program is also open to students with no prior knowledge of German. Students participate After participating in a weeklong orientation course on the history and culture of Berlin (1 credit hour), students then take two six-week courses (6 credits hours) or one intensive language course (6 credits hours) for those without previous knowledge of German. All courses include regular excursions to course-related locations. Students benefit from daily linguistic and cultural contact in the authentic environment of Berlin, the historical and cultural nexus of Germany. A limited number of scholarships are available.

Minor in German

Program I: German Language and Literature

The minor in German consists of a minimum of 18 hours of coursework beyond or above the level of German 105, excluding German 245 and courses taken as independent study. Specific requirements are as follows:

- 3 hours from German 213 or 214
- 6 hours from German 221 and 222
- 6 hours from German 220 and above
- 3 hours of one elective course

³ This requirement is met by the 3 credits from Program I.
Program II: German Studies

The minor in German studies consists of a minimum of 18 hours of course work as follows:

German 201W 3
3 hours from German 213, 214, or 216 3
6 hours from German 221 and 222 6
3 hours of German above German 223 3
3 hours of one elective course 3

Total hours: 18

A “German text” course is one in a discipline other than German literature (such as German history, women’s and gender studies, political science, religious studies, philosophy), which may be taught in English and in which the student reads course texts in German to a significant degree (e.g., more than half the texts would be read in the original German). A “German content” course focuses on German literature or a neighboring discipline (such as German history, German political science, or German philosophy) in which course texts may be read in English or German. Students must consult the instructor of the course regarding “German text” courses, and they must secure the approval of the director of German Studies for both “German text” and “German content” courses. “Elective courses” must be approved by the director of undergraduate studies.

A minor in German documents a student’s basic competence in the German language as well as familiarity with German-speaking culture. Students can fulfill the requirements of a minor concentration in German by taking GER 2441 [183], and 15 credit hours in the GER subject area, of which 6 credit hours must be earned in courses taught in the German language, for a total of 18 credit hours.

German Studies Majors

In addition, students selecting this concentration will be tested for language proficiency their junior year and will be required to write a senior paper due the semester prior to graduation. The director of undergraduate studies in German should be consulted for precise details on these special learning outcome assessments.

Goethe-Institut Certificate in Business German

The department serves as a test center for the Goethe-Institut, administering the Zertifikat Deutsch für den Beruf (ZfB), a certificate in Business German.
recognized by businesses world-wide. The exam is offered in conjunction with the Business German course.

Students completing GER 2216 [216] may take an examination at a Goethe-Institut to obtain the Bulats Deutsch-Test für den Beruf, a certificate in Business German recognized by businesses worldwide. Further information is available on the Goethe-Institut website: (www.goethe.de/en/spr/kup/prf/prf/bul.html).

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*Social Science (3 credit hours):* PSCI 2210 [210], 3211 [211] or appropriate substitute with the approval of the EUS adviser;

*History (3 credit hours):* HIST 2720 [172], 2260 [226], 2270 [227], 2280 [228], 2290 [229], 2300 [230], or other appropriate course selected in consultation with the EUS adviser;

*Humanities (3 credit hours):* EUS 3890 [240], 2260 [260] (Berlin or Vienna) or other appropriate course selected in consultation with the EUS adviser.
Dear Jonathan,

Attached you will find the application materials for a CEP decision on proposal for revision to German major and minor curriculum, approved pending minor revisions, by the Committee for Education Programs on April 16th, 2015 (5 voting in favor). Attached are the revised documents, redline and approval memo indicating that the CEP is recommending this for consideration by Faculty Council. Note there are no changes other than 4-digit course numbering in the German and European Studies Major section.

Best Regards,

Brian Bachmann

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