

233 Reasons why you should study German at Notre Dame

American Studies

1. According to the U.S. census, Germany is the ancestral home of 50 million Americans, far exceeding the figure for any other nation.
2. The first Germans arrived in Jamestown, Virginia, already in 1608, before the Pilgrims.
3. In 1688, German-Americans in Germantown, Pennsylvania, were the first to protest against slavery.
4. German was so widely spoken in early America that a few days after the Declaration of Independence was adopted, a German language version was published.
5. In its early days the state of Wisconsin considered adopting German as its official language.
6. Many famous Americans have been or are of German heritage: Ben Affleck, Eberhard Anheuser, Hannah Arendt, Niel Armstrong, Fred Astaire, Lauren Bacall, Kim Basinger, Ingrid Bergman, Louis Brandeis, Sandra Bullock, George Armstrong Custer, Doris Day, Leonardo DiCaprio, Marlene Dietrich, Walt Disney, Theodore Dreiser, Kirsten Dunst, Amelia Earhart, Albert Einstein, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Tina Fey, Clark Gable, Bill Gates, Lou Gehrig, Walter Gropius, Patricia Highsmith, Steve Jobs, Grace Kelly, Henry Kissinger, Heidi Klum, David Letterman, Jack Nicklaus, Barack Obama, Elvis Presley, Erich Maria Remarque, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Theodore Roosevelt, Babe Ruth, Charles Schulz, Joseph Schumpeter, John Philip Sousa, John Steinbeck, Levi Strauss, Clement Studebaker, Dr. Suess, Kurt Vonnegut, and Renée Zellweger, among others.
7. The best way to understand America is to view it from the perspective of another culture, ideally a well-informed culture that is partly supportive and partly critical of the U.S.

Anthropology

8. Some of the early precursors of anthropology as a social science were German, including Gottfried Herder, Georg Forster, and Alexander von Humboldt.
9. Many well-known figures in American and British anthropology started their careers in Austria or Germany, including Franz Boas, who is known as the father of American anthropology. Others include, for example, Paul Kirchhoff and Siegfried Frederick Nadel.
10. The study of anthropology in Germany is partly enriched by the tradition of philosophical anthropology, which developed in the 18th century and has remained a distinctive element of the German tradition.
11. Although in the U.S. the four fields of anthropology are often isolated from one another, a major tendency in the anthropology of the German-speaking countries is toward close cooperation among archeologists, cultural anthropologists, biological anthropologists, linguists, and even historians in the form of regional ethno-historical and cultural-historical research.
12. Some of the world's premier anthropological museums are located in Germany, most especially, in Berlin, where we offer a semester abroad.

Art, Architecture, and Aesthetics

13. Mathias Grünewald created one of the most memorable and well-known crucifix scenes in the history of art.
14. Albrecht Dürer was the greatest artist of the Northern Renaissance.
15. Caspar David Friedrich is arguably the most fascinating Romantic painter of all time.
16. Anselm Kiefer and Gerhard Richter are among today's most prominent living artists.
17. The discipline of art history was shaped more by Austrians, Germans, and Swiss than by scholars from any other tradition, including Heinrich Wölfflin, Ernst Gombrich, Hans Sedlmayer, and Erwin Panofsky.
18. The most famous architectural movement in the 20th century was the Bauhaus movement, which inaugurated modern architecture.
19. Aesthetics as a term and a discipline was invented by Germans in the 18th century.
20. Only a small number of great philosophers have made aesthetics central to their work, but the German tradition is an exception: Immanuel Kant, G. W. F. Hegel, Friedrich Schelling, Arthur Schopenhauer,

Friedrich Nietzsche, Martin Heidegger, Theodor Adorno, and Hans-Georg Gadamer, among others, wrote extensively about art, literature, and aesthetics.

21. Aesthetics is one of the signature strengths of Notre Dame's German faculty.

Business and Economics

22. Studies have shown that businesspeople who have lived in a foreign country are 35% more likely to develop new ideas.
23. After English, German is the most prominent language of world business.
24. Germany is consistently one of the world's largest exporters and currently ranks third internationally, behind China and the U.S.
25. The German economy ranks number one in Europe and number four worldwide.
26. Direct investment by Germany in the United States represents over a trillion euros; more than 1,100 German companies do business here.
27. Of the ten most innovative companies worldwide, four are located in Germany.
28. Bertelsmann is the largest publishing company in the world, and SAP is the largest business software company worldwide.
29. Germany has the highest worker productivity in Europe.
30. According to the 2012-14 UNCATD World Investment Prospects Survey of best places to invest, Germany ranks third in the world.
31. Germany is host to two-thirds of the world's trade fairs.
32. Nine of the world's largest companies are German: BASF, BMW, Daimler, Deutsche Post, Deutsche Telekom, E.ON, Metro, Siemens, and Volkswagen. Additional influential German companies include Adidas, Bayer, Boehringer/Ingelheim, Bosch, Deutsche Bank, HochTief, Hoechst, Infineon, Lufthansa, and Mannesmann.
33. According to the *Economist*, Switzerland ranks first internationally on the indices for Innovation, Technological Readiness, and Lowest Brain Drain.
34. The German-speaking countries are the third most important trading partners of Australia.
35. Germany is the leading international trading partner for businesses in Indiana and ranks fifth for the U.S. overall.
36. The world's first savings bank was founded in Oldenburg, Germany in 1786.
37. Europe's largest department store, KaDeWe (Kaufhaus des Westen), is in Berlin and has approximately 60,000 square meters.
38. The Japanese, who have one of the world's most powerful economies, understand the advantages of learning German: 68% of Japanese students study German.
39. Not only is Germany an economic powerhouse, but its scholars have developed fascinating economic ideas, including Ordoliberalism, which stipulates that a thriving and just free market depends on a strong state, one that creates a proper legal and regulatory environment for the economy, maintains a healthy level of competition, and enacts a normative concept of social security and social justice, an idea that drove the social market economy of postwar Germany and the *Wirtschaftswunder*.
40. One of the founders of experimental economics was Reinhard Selten, a German economist who won the Nobel prize for his work in game theory.
41. Notre Dame business majors find that German widens their cultural and intellectual horizons beyond the practical courses they take in business while simultaneously giving them a career advantage as bilingual graduates.
42. Notre Dame undergraduates can take our departmental course in Business German, and they can combine German and Economics to complete the International Economics Major.

Career and Vocation

43. Students choose German because they have a passion for the subject, the language, the country, the people, the rich intellectual and cultural tradition. But students benefit not only from the intrinsic value

of exploring German, they also develop a number of capacities that allow them to flourish beyond college.

44. German teaches skills that are needed in business, for example, how to listen attentively, think clearly, and communicate persuasively. Year after year communication skills top the list in the Job Outlook national survey of attributes deemed most important in college-educated job candidates.
45. German students also learn critical thinking and problem-solving skills, how to uncover flaws in assumptions and arguments, formulate meaningful questions, weigh contradictory and disparate evidence, and recognize what is of greater and lesser value. Every business needs to draw on such capacities in determining its priorities.
46. Exposed to interdisciplinary methods, Notre Dame German majors develop the capacity to be receptive to new ideas, gather diverse kinds of materials, and organize information into a coherent whole. The capacity to synthesize a broad array of ideas and data is essential for good decision making on any issue.
47. Through their study of German language and culture, majors develop an appreciation for diversity and an understanding of what makes us both common and different that help them relate to others. Such interpersonal skills are essential to effective business.
48. The German curriculum at Notre Dame fosters a love of learning that encourages the capacity to continue to learn. Dramatic shifts in technology, cultural contexts, and market forces demand receptivity to change and innovation. Being able to stretch into new areas is essential for business leadership. As managers gain higher levels of authority, their responsibilities broaden, such that they must develop knowledge of new fields.
49. In a 2013 survey conducted by Hart Research Associates, 93 percent of employers said that a demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems is more important than a candidate's undergraduate major. More than 9 in 10 of those surveyed say it is important that those they hire demonstrate intercultural skills and the capacity for continued new learning.
50. In 2013 *Science* magazine reported that after reading literature, people performed better on tests measuring empathy, social perception, and emotional intelligence, important skills for life and for work.
51. Research shows that people think differently in a foreign language. Above all, they avoid falling into common cognitive traps and committing logical errors.
52. Research shows that bilingual speakers have a stronger executive control system in the brain, which allows them to focus selectively on what is necessary and avoid distraction; this increases their efficiency and effectiveness.
53. Students from throughout the University, from business and engineering to the diverse range of majors in the arts and sciences choose to combine German with another major, drawing on both disciplines as they develop their careers.
54. Because of high demand and modest supply, knowledge of German brings a higher earnings premium than most other languages.
55. Students who study German and have had experience abroad find that this background provides a main talking point at interviews and allows them to stand out from the crowd, especially in fields such as business and engineering, where knowledge of German can be strongly advantageous.
56. Recent German majors have gone on to a variety of wide-ranging positions in business. German majors now work at such firms as Accenture, Bank of America, Eli Lilly, Fidelity, Nokia, Oppenheimer, and Target. They work as analysts, consultants, representatives, managers, and executives in areas ranging from finance and marketing to sales and global trade.
57. Also communications, media, and publishing are areas where German graduates find positions, including at companies such as Bloomberg, ESPN, and Reuters.
58. Many German graduates go on to the professions, such as education, law, and medicine. They are enrolled in law schools, medical schools, and doctoral programs at institutions from the University of Michigan to Vanderbilt University. They work, for example, at the Duke University Medical Center, the Mayo Clinic, and the St. Louis Children's Hospital.
59. Other graduates go on to public service. German majors work at the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of State as well as the Archdiocese of Chicago, Catholic Relief Services, the Children's Nutrition Program of Haiti, and the Salvation Army.
60. Many German graduates pursue service opportunities before making the transition to full-time employment. Students regularly go to Austria and Germany as Fulbright teaching assistants or Fulbright

or DAAD research scholars; others stay in the U. S., serving, for example, in the Alliance for Catholic Education or Teach for America.

Catholic Tradition and Values

61. Germany has a plethora of Christian heritage sites, ranging from the Romanesque Aachen Cathedral to small Baroque churches in the midst of the Bavarian Alps.
62. Every German city and town is defined by its church.
63. The German intellectual, literary, and spiritual tradition is one of the world's richest in terms of its engagement with deep religious questions.
64. A defining aspect of German literature is its deep integration of religious questions. This occurs not only with outstanding Catholic writers, such as Angelus Silesius, Johann Grimmelshausen, Joseph Freiherr von Eichendorff, Franz Grillparzer, Annette von Droste-Huelshoff, Adalbert Stifter, Hugo von Hofmannsthal, Alfred Döblin, Hermann Broch, Erich Maria Remarque, Elisabeth Langgässer, and Heinrich Böll, but also with great Protestant or Jewish writers, such as Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Friedrich Hölderlin, Georg Büchner, Theodor Fontane, Thomas Mann, Franz Kafka, and Gottfried Benn, among others.
65. One of the greatest theologian-popes of the modern era was a German, Benedikt XVI.
66. Notre Dame's German program has at least four faculty members who have written on topics relating to Catholicism, religion and literature, or religion and philosophy.
67. Notre Dame students are able to understand and explore their Catholic faith in our classes as well as gain access to some of the greatest thinkers ever to reflect on Christianity.

Classics

68. The most important modern language for scholarly study of the classics is German, partly because the origins of classical scholarship lie in Germany and partly because German scholars have been at the forefront of 19th- and 20th-century scholarship.
69. Several faculty members in German have knowledge of Latin or Greek or both, and several faculty members in Classics have knowledge of German, so faculty members in both departments can help you find ways to combine these two fields of study.

Community of Learning

70. German is one of the smaller majors at Notre Dame. As a result, you are guaranteed intimate classes. With ten to fifteen students in most courses, students actively participate and have close contact with faculty members, two essential elements of flourishing in college.
71. The departmental lounge in O'Shaughnessy Hall is a place where students can meet with their friends, enjoy a cup of coffee, check their email on the public computer, or read one of the books in our own library.
72. The German Department and the German Club offer a wide array of cultural and social activities, which allow you to get to know your fellow majors as well as faculty members in a relaxed and friendly environment. Such activities include Kaffeestunde, Stammtisch, and German Board Game Night.
73. Our German Club organizes annual excursions to Chicago's Weihnachtsmarkt as well as other social and cultural events, ranging from real German pretzel baking to a German soccer team that competes with other language teams.
74. Students and alumni remain connected also through the "German at the University of Notre Dame" Facebook page.

Customs, Practices, Traditions

75. German students are invariably fascinated and attracted by aspects of Germany that differ from the United States: pedestrian zones; the public transportation system; the culture of walking; the elevation of theater and music; the world-class bakeries; beautiful old university towns; the varieties of beer;

- dialects; regional costumes; the religious holidays; and the elevation of the outdoors, including garden plots on the edges of cities.
76. The Germans basically defined the celebration of Christmas, with the introduction of the Christmas tree and Christmas carols, such as “Silent Night” and “O Tannenbaum.”
 77. Many Notre Dame students are partly of German heritage and find that exploring the language and culture of their ancestry gives them a deeper intellectual and emotional link to their own past.
 78. The Department and the German Club sponsor events focused on German traditions, such as Oktoberfest and the singing of German Christmas carols. More importantly, when you go abroad, you will be able to participate in such events first hand.
 79. Most German beer is brewed even today according to the Reinheitsgebot or purity law, which stipulated that beer may contain only hops, malt, wheat, and water. The law was introduced some 500 years ago in the form of die Bayerische Landesordnung von 1516.
 80. Germany has approximately 1,300 breweries and produces some 5,000 brands of beer.

Education

81. The most significant revolution in higher education took place in Germany at the beginning of the 19th century. Led by developments in Halle, Jena, and Berlin, the German universities inaugurated the modern research university, introducing the unity of teaching and research, academic freedom, and the concept of formation or Bildung. They also strengthened two essential principles of higher education: the intrinsic value of knowledge and the unity of knowledge across disciplines.
82. Germany continues to value higher education: 2.3% of German citizens receive a doctorate, the highest rate in the world.
83. America has had in its entire history only one president with a doctorate, whereas a majority of the politicians who have led postwar Germany as chancellor or president have had a doctorate.
84. Whereas the most recent budget of the National Endowment for the Humanities represents 0.1% of the total federal funding for research and development, Germany elevates the humanities, which are central to the Catholic tradition. In Germany 8-9% of its federal research funding is regularly allocated to the humanities.
85. Germany has extensive and attractive student and faculty exchanges with the U.S. and invests greatly in support of Americans studying in Germany
86. Germany enrolls more international students than any country except the U.S. and the U.K., and it offers peerless levels of financial support for students from throughout the world.
87. Notre Dame has unusually high levels of grant support for summer experiences in Germany—language study, research, internships, and service projects.
88. Summer language programs in Germany, such as at the Goethe Institut, are considered the international gold standard, and funding opportunities exist not only through the Center for Languages and Cultures but also through the Department of German.
89. Notre Dame sends students to two of Germany’s most prestigious and appealing university towns: cosmopolitan Berlin and tradition-laden Heidelberg.
90. Alumni who reflect back on their Notre Dame experience often recall their semester or year abroad as the most formative and memorable of their entire Notre Dame education.
91. Notre Dame students have been very successful in obtaining one-year post-graduate teaching assistantships in Austria or Germany.
92. One can start German at Notre Dame at any level. One student who began German during the spring of his sophomore year received a Fulbright research fellowship, which allowed him to study philosophy in Berlin the year after graduation.

Engineering

93. Germany’s famous engineers include Daniel Fahrenheit, Rudolf Christian Karl Diesel, Karl Friedrich Benz, Gottlieb Daimler, Konrad Zuse, Ferdinand von Zeppelin, Otto Lilienthal, Hugo Junkers, Willy Messerschmidt, Wernher von Braun, Ernst Lehman, and Joseph von Fraunhofer, among others.

94. German inventions include: printing with movable type, the bicycle, the electric light bulb, the telephone, the dynamo, the refrigerator, the internal combustion engine, electric streetcars, motorcycles, automobiles, diesel engines, gliders, the X-ray, aspirin, spark plugs, the thermos bottle, the tape recorder, television, helicopters, jet engines, binary computers, bar scanners, chip cards, fuel cells, and MP3.
95. Arguably the best engineering education in the world is found at premier American universities and at German universities.
96. Germany is a leader in architectural, industrial, and automotive design. In automobile production, it is second in the world.
97. One-third of the world's hydro-electric installations come from Germany.
98. Germany is Europe's largest telecommunications market and the world's third largest.
99. German companies lead in the chemical market in the EU.
100. In research and development of high tech products, Germany is one of the top three worldwide.
101. The greater Munich area, with its more than 1,800 computer firms, has the world's fourth largest concentration of hardware and software producers, after Silicon Valley, greater Boston, and greater London.
102. A number of recent Notre Dame majors have successfully combined their study of German and Engineering.

Environmental Studies

103. No country has a greater tradition of environmental philosophy, politics, and engineering than Germany.
104. The term "ecology" was coined in Germany in the 19th century.
105. The German environmental movement dates back to the 19th century.
106. Germany introduced the world's first nature preserve in 1836 (Drachenfels, near Bonn).
107. Germany ranks second internationally and first among developed countries in the percentage of total land (42.4%) that is naturally protected.
108. Switzerland, Austria, and Germany rank in the top ten (with Switzerland first) in terms of rail kilometers traveled per person per year.
109. Switzerland, Austria, and Germany have the world's highest recycling rates.
110. The German philosopher Martin Heidegger was the first thinker to understand our use of technology and our treatment of the environment as a metaphysical problem.
111. Among the world's leading nations, Germany has the most powerful green party.
112. Germany leads the world in "green" renewable energy technology exports, including wind power and solar power.
113. Germany tops all other nations in wind energy production and in the use of photovoltaic cells for the production of electricity. The country produces half of all photovoltaic cells and one third of all windmills.
114. In terms of Environmental Performance, the *Economist* ranks Switzerland first, Austria seventh, and Germany eleventh.
115. At least three Notre Dame faculty members in German have done work on the philosophy of the ecological crisis or eco-criticism.

Film

116. There have been great German, Austrian, and Swiss directors across the ages, many of whom later had a presence in Hollywood, including F. W. Murnau, Fritz Lang, Ernst Lubitsch, William Wyler, Michael Curtiz, Josef von Sternberg, Billy Wilder, and Wolfgang Peterson.
117. Leni Riefenstahl is arguably the greatest and most fascinating female director of all time.
118. Perhaps the greatest mirroring of cinema and history occurred in the Weimar Republic, where the great German films capture much of the uncertainty of the age.
119. In the second half of the 20th century, Rainer Werner Fassbinder is considered one of the greatest film directors from any culture.

- Among the greatest films of recent decades, a number are German, among them Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck's masterful *Das Leben der Anderen*.
120. One of the most engaging multicultural directors of our age is the German-Turkish director Fatih Akin.
 121. The study of film was significantly shaped by German film theorists, among them the Hungarian-born Béla Balázs, Siegfried Kracauer, Rudolf Arnheim, and Lotte Eisner.
 122. German films are regularly shown on the Notre Dame campus as part of the Classic 100 Film Series and the Nanovic European Film Series.
 123. Notre Dame's German Department has at least two faculty members who occasionally teach film or have published on film.

Gender Studies

124. Germany gave women the right to vote before the U.S. allowed universal suffrage.
125. When you explore German at Notre Dame, you will have the opportunity to learn about a number of great German women, including theologians such as Hildegard von Bingen; writers such as Annette von Droste-Hülshoff, Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach, Elisabeth Langgässer, Ingeborg Bachmann, and Christa Wolf; artists, such as Käthe Kollwitz and Paula Modersohn-Becker; composers and musicians, such as Clara Schumann and Nena; film directors, such as Leni Riefenstahl, Margarethe von Trotta, and Caroline Link; philosophers, such as Hannah Arendt; scientists, such as Lise Meitner; actresses, such as Marlene Dietrich and Hanna Schygulla; feminists, such as Bettina von Arnim; resistance fighters, such as Sophie Scholl; and politicians, such as Angela Merkel, arguably the most prominent and powerful woman in the world today.
126. Three of the 11 Nobel prizes in literature awarded to women have gone to German writers.

History

127. No culture has produced a richer array of pioneering and significant intellectual-historical figures across such a vast array of fields, from aesthetics to sociology.
128. Friedrich the Great was one of the most complex and successful leaders in world history, as was centuries later Otto von Bismarck.
129. Germany is the home of the Reformation.
130. One of the greatest philosophers of history was G. W. F. Hegel, who was also the first to write a history of philosophy.
131. The Weimar Republic, with its political volatility and cultural richness, is one of the most studied periods of all time.
132. Few countries offer such a fascinating intertwining of economics and history.
133. Arguably the greatest puzzle of twentieth-century history was the ascendancy of National Socialism.
134. Germany has produced some of the greatest historians and methodologists of history, including Leopold von Ranke, Theodor Mommsen, and Wilhelm Dilthey; Mommsen won the Nobel Prize in Literature.
135. German archives are remarkably well organized and accessible and have been home to many research projects by Notre Dame faculty and students.

Language and Linguistics

136. German is the most widely spoken language in Europe.
137. In Western Europe, German is second only to English as the most often spoken language.
138. In Eastern Europe, German is the principal language of business, diplomacy, and tourism.
139. English is a Germanic language, which explains the rich number of cognates; these cognates make German relatively accessible, for example, apple and Apfel, water and Wasser, better and besser, salt and Salz, milk and Milch, silver and Silber, thief and Dieb, night and Nacht, god and Gott, say and sagen, way and Weg.
140. German has enriched the English language with words such as Angst, Bildungsroman, Bratwurst, Doppelgänger, gemütlich, Gestalt, Gesamtkunstwerk, Gesundheit, kaput, Kindergarten leitmotif,

Machtpolitik, Oktoberfest, Putsch, Realpolitik, Sauerkraut, Wanderlust, Weltanschauung, Wunderkind, and Zeitgeist.

141. Germany has many fascinating words, to name just a selection: aufheben, der Augenblick, druckreif, der Fachidiot, das Fernweh, der Fingerhut, der Frühschoppen, die Geborgenheit, der Möglichkeitsmensch, mundfaul, die Rhabarbermarmelade, die Schadenfreude, das Stinktief, traurigfroh, der Weltschmerz, and die Zweisamkeit.
142. Knowing different languages opens up new aspects of the world, since one sees the world through the categories of that language.
143. Students who know a second language display enhanced cognitive capacities, including pattern recognition, problem solving, flexibility, and creativity.
144. The complex structure of German aids American students with their knowledge of English grammar and their capacity to express themselves with articulate precision.
145. Notre Dame offers a large number of language grants for study in Germany, and German students have been unusually successful in this University-wide competition. In recent years approximately ten or more Notre Dame undergraduates have received each summer generous grants for language study in Germany.

Law

146. The German Constitution (the Basic Law) has overtaken the American Constitution as a model for new democracies. It is a rich document, partly similar to, and partly different from, our own tradition.
147. In literature classes, students develop hermeneutic skills, the capacity to interpret complex texts, which are ideal for the study of law.
148. Many of our German majors have gone on to the most competitive law schools, most recently the University of Michigan Law School. Other students taught by our faculty have graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and Stanford University law schools.

Literature

149. Germany represents one of the greatest literary traditions in all of world cultures. It is particularly known for its distinctive interweaving of literature and ideas.
150. Among German writers who are recognized across traditions, one would include Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Friedrich Schiller, Friedrich Hölderlin, Novalis, Heinrich von Kleist, E.T.A. Hoffmann, the Grimm brothers, Georg Büchner, Heinrich Heine, Theodor Fontane, Thomas Mann, Rainer Maria Rilke, Hermann Hesse, Franz Kafka, Gottfried Benn, Bertolt Brecht, Günter Grass, Friedrich Dürrenmatt, Nelly Sachs, Paul Celan, Ingeborg Bachmann, Elfriede Jelinek, Bernhard Schlink, and Herta Müller.
151. Germany has so many literary masterpieces that not all have been translated. Reading them in the original is so much richer and more meaningful.
152. Thirteen Nobel Prizes in Literature have been awarded to German-language writers. Only English-language writers have received more.
153. The concept of “world literature” comes from Goethe. German can be productively combined with the study of any other language and literature, including English, where the ties between the two literary cultures are reciprocal, multifarious, and deep.
154. We offer courses in German studies broadly understood, but one of our distinctive strengths consists of our offerings on great German literature.

Medieval and Renaissance Studies

155. Some of the most interesting and innovative thinkers in the medieval era were Germans, among them Hildegard of Bingen, Albertus Magnus, Meister Eckhart, and Nicholas of Cusa.
156. Some of the best medieval literature was written in German, including the Nibelungenlied, Parzival, and the Minnelieder.

157. The study of medieval Germany offers a unique window onto the history of Catholicism, and the indirect traces of medieval Germany remain present throughout today's German-speaking world.
158. One of Notre Dame's distinctive strengths is the number of colleagues not only in German but also in History who work on medieval and early modern Germany.

Music

159. In a recent *New York Times* ranking of the ten greatest composers of all time, a majority were German, and the first four were German; in order they are Johann Sebastian Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Franz Schubert. Johannes Brahms was seventh and Richard Wagner ninth.
160. Among great German and Austrian musicians, one could also name George Frideric Handel, Joseph Haydn, Felix Mendelssohn, Richard Schumann, Richard Strauss, Gustav Mahler, Paul Hindemith, Arnold Schoenberg, Anton Webern, and Alban Berg.
161. If you go to Salzburg during the Festspiele in the summer, you can attend a Haydn Mass, a Mozart Mass, and a Beethoven Mass—all on the same day.
162. The Germans invented the clarinet.
163. Many students have taken advanced courses in both German and Music, and in recent years we have offered courses within the Department on opera and on Wagner.

Philosophy

164. Immanuel Kant and G. W. F. Hegel are arguably the greatest philosophers of the modern era.
165. The prominent names in German-speaking philosophy are almost countless: Meister Eckhart, Nicholas of Cusa, Paracelsus, Jacob Böhme, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, Immanuel Kant, Friedrich Schiller, Johann Gottlieb Fichte, Friedrich Schelling, G. W. F. Hegel, Arthur Schopenhauer, Ludwig Feuerbach, Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, Ludwig Wittgenstein, Edmund Husserl, Max Scheler, Karl Jaspers, Martin Heidegger, Walter Benjamin, Theodor Adorno, Arnold Gehlen, Hans Jonas, Hans-Georg Gadamer, Karl-Otto Apel, and Jürgen Habermas.
166. One of Notre Dame's distinctive strengths in philosophy is German philosophy.
167. The Department itself is home to arguably the best known contemporary German philosopher of his generation, Vittorio Hösle, author of at least 25 monographs, including such major works as *Hegels System and Moral und Politik* as well as his recent and much acclaimed *Kleine Geschichte der deutschen Philosophie*.

Politics

168. Germany is the leading country in Europe.
169. Forbes magazine ranked Angela Merkel the world's second-most powerful person.
170. In wrestling with the recent economic crisis in Europe, Germany has played the most crucial role.
171. Germany is one of our country's most important allies.
172. Germany's postwar economic and democratic development, its rich integration into Europe, and its peaceful revolution makes it one of the world's most interesting countries for recent political history.
173. Seven Germans or Austrians have received the Nobel Peace prize.
174. Political Science and German is a common double major at Notre Dame.
175. Former President Horst Köhler visited Notre Dame in 2011 and had lunch with students of German.

Program in Liberal Studies

176. Many of the great books explored by PLS students—works by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Immanuel Kant, G. W. F. Hegel, Karl Marx, Leopold von Ranke, Friedrich Nietzsche, Max Weber, Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, Albert Einstein, Martin Heidegger, Franz Kafka, and Thomas Mann—were written in German.

177. One excellent way to enrich one's broad, classical curriculum is to master a modern language. A recent PLS student wrote his thesis with a faculty member in German, reading Nietzsche and Mann in the original. He is now pursuing a doctorate in German at Princeton.

Psychology

178. Wilhelm Wundt pioneered the world's first experimental psychology lab.

179. Sigmund Freud is the father of psychoanalysis.

180. Carl Jung founded analytical psychology.

181. The study of psychology in Germany is partly animated by the country's rich tradition of philosophical anthropology, which is closer to the Catholic concept of the person than is a reductionist model of the self.

Quality of Life and Popularity

182. In 2014, Germany moved ahead of the U.S. as the world's most popular country in an international survey measuring the popularity of countries around the world. Areas considered included exports, governance, culture, people, tourism, and immigration/investment.

183. According to a 2013 BBC poll of more than 26,000 people in 22 countries, Germany is viewed more positively than every one of the other 23 countries tracked.

184. In a recent "Quality of Living Survey," published by *Mercer*, seven cities in German-speaking countries ranked in the top ten worldwide: Vienna first, Zurich second, Munich fourth, Düsseldorf fifth, Frankfurt seventh, Geneva eighth, and Bern ninth.

185. The lifestyle magazine *Monocle* ranks Vienna fifth, Zurich sixth, and Munich eighth in its top-ten cities for livability.

186. In terms of the *Economist's* Global Peace Index, Austria, Switzerland, and Germany all rank in the top fifteen of most peaceful nations.

187. In terms of life expectancy, Switzerland, Austria, and Germany all rank higher than the U.S.

188. More than 12 million students in Eastern Europe are learning German.

189. On the internet, .de is second only to .com in the number of web addresses.

Scholarship

190. Many of the Western world's most important works of mathematics, chemistry, physics, engineering, medicine, psychology, sociology, political theory, art history, music, literature, film theory, theology, and philosophy, were written in German.

191. With a total number of 102 Nobel Prizes in all fields, Germany trails only the U.S. and the U.K.

192. 10% of the world's books are published in German, and for scholarly publications German is the second most commonly used language.

193. Many graduate programs recommend or require a knowledge of German. Fields range from physics, chemistry, and biology to art history, linguistics, and religious studies. At the University of California at Berkeley, for example, more disciplines recommend a knowledge of German as a valuable supplement than any other language.

194. In most university libraries, books in German rank second only to those in English.

195. Germany enrolls the third-highest number of international students in the world and ranks first in the amount of financial support it offers them.

196. Notre Dame students have been very successful in obtaining one-year or two-year post-graduate grants from the Fulbright Foundation and the German Academic Exchange Service (the DAAD) to study and conduct research in Germany.

Science

197. Early advances in biology, chemistry, and physics were dominated by Germans.

198. German is the second most commonly used scientific language.

199. Germany is the third largest contributor to research and development.
200. 37 Nobel Prizes in Physics, 38 in Chemistry, and 30 in Medicine have been awarded to scientists from German-speaking countries.
201. Albert Einstein is the father of modern physics, and most research subfields in physics exist because of him.
202. The largest particle accelerator in the world is in Switzerland.
203. In patent applications, Germany ranks third worldwide.
204. German majors have gone on to medical school, and they bring different capacities to the study of medicine, allowing them to stand out from the crowd. Recent disciplinary figures nationally reveal that majors in foreign languages and literatures have higher rates of acceptance to medical school than any of the diverse majors within the biological sciences.

Sociology

205. Max Weber is one of the pioneers and towering figures in the history of sociology.
206. Among the most prominent sociologists of the 20th century, one would include the early German sociologists Ferdinand Tönnies and Georg Simmel; more recently Arnold Gehlen; various members of the Frankfurt School, including Theodor Adorno, Max Horkheimer, Herbert Marcuse, and Jürgen Habermas; and figures such as Norbert Elias, Niklas Luhmann, and Ralf Dahrendorf.
207. Although contemporary German sociologists use the same quantitative tools as American sociologists, many of them are more philosophical in orientation and so offer a great complement to the dominant American tradition.

Sport

208. Germany won the most recent World Cup championship, in 2014. Both Germany's men's and women's soccer teams have won the World Cup, the men four times and the women two times. Germany is the only country with this distinction.
209. In terms of World Cup finals, Germany has the most finishes in the top two, top three, and top four. In terms of championships, only Brazil has more. Germany also has the most consecutive finishes in the top eight, with 16 from 1954 to 2014.
210. Germany has played the most World Cup matches and has scored the most World Cup goals.
211. Germany was banned from participating in the World Cup in 1950; by 1954 it was champion.
212. Germany hosted the World Cup in 2006.
213. In 2013 the two finalist soccer teams for Europe's Champion's League were from the same country, Germany.
214. In the Winter Olympics of 1998, 2002, and 2006, Germany was the top medal winner. In 2010, Germany was second, Switzerland sixth, and Austria ninth.
215. Due to the dominance of the German-speaking countries in alpine skiing, German is the sport's primary language.
216. With 44 medals in the 2010 Summer Olympics, Germany was fifth best of the participating countries.
217. Some of the world's top tennis players, including Martina Hingis and Roger Federer, come from Switzerland.
218. Sebastian Vettel and Michael Schumacher have been dominant figures in Formula 1 racing.
219. Christian Ehrhoff, Jochen Hecht, Jonas Hiller, Marco Sturm, and Thomas Vanek and are some of the many hockey players in the NHL who are German.
220. Dirk Nowitzki, NBA superstar, is German.
221. A 2013 Notre Dame graduate and German major started at quarterback for Berlin's American football team, the Berlin Bears, during his semester abroad.

Theology

222. The founder of the Reformation and the greatest Protestant theologian of all time is a German, Martin Luther.

223. The greatest contributors to philosophical theology have been Germans, prominent among them G. W. F. Hegel.
224. Any student of theology must wrestle with the hermeneutics of suspicion, which is dominated by Germans and Austrians: Ludwig Feuerbach, Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Sigmund Freud.
225. Many of the greatest Catholic and Protestant theologians of the modern era came out of the German tradition, among them, Friedrich Schleiermacher, Rudolf Otto, Rudolf Bultmann, Karl Barth, Paul Tillich, Erich Przywara, Karl Rahner, Hans Urs von Balthasar, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer.
226. Not only is Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, one of the great theologian popes, a German, but Pope Francis studied theology in Germany and quoted the German poet Friedrich Hölderlin, apparently his favorite poet, both in his first address to the Cardinals and his first major interview.
227. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI was once offered a faculty position at Notre Dame.
228. One of the distinctive strengths in theology at Notre Dame is the German tradition.

Tourism

229. The United States is one of the favorite tourist destinations for Germans, who are the world's no. 2 travelers, just behind the U.S. and well ahead of all other countries. Tourists from German-speaking countries comprise more than 25% of all foreign tourists in the U.S.
230. Not only do Germans travel more than most other persons, but when traveling, Germans love to encounter others who speak German.
231. Americans with a knowledge of German have a much richer experience when they visit Austria's, Germany's, and Switzerland's small villages; their historic and well-preserved cities, such as Bamberg, Bern, Innsbruck, Regensburg, Rothenburg ob der Tauber, and Salzburg; their rivers, seas, and mountains; and their cultural centers and cosmopolitan cities, with their extraordinary musical and theatrical offerings.
232. Some of Europe's most beautiful and fascinating destinations are in Germany, including, for example, Berlin, with its vibrancy, history, and culture; München, with its deep Catholicism and Bavarian charm; Heidelberg, with its distinctive old town and castle; Dresden, with its cultural and artistic history; the medieval Romantic Road; the mountainous Black Forest; the Bavarian Alps, with its peerless beauty; and the magical Rhine cruise from Koblenz to Bingen.
233. The world's tallest church is the Ulm Münster.

Last Updated: 8 February 2015

Sources: Most information is readily available in the public domain. For other sources, please contact [Mark Roche](#).