Honours in Germanic Studies
Department of Germanic Studies

1. What is it?
Honours involves two semester-length seminar courses on different topics in Germanic culture and society, plus a dissertation of 18,000-20,000 words on an original research topic of interest to the student, prepared under the supervision of an academic member of staff with appropriate research expertise.

2. Why study Honours?
It distinguishes your BA from others in the workplace. Employers increasingly demand Honours.

It gives you the opportunity to explore in depth what interests you in Germanic Studies.

If you wish to pursue an academic career, Honours is an essential step to MA and PhD programs.

3. What will you learn?
To hone your skills to read critically, and fully understand, a wide range of German-language written and cultural texts.

To independently research and evaluate the culture of the German-speaking world using appropriate critical and theoretical approaches.

To deepen your knowledge of selected aspects of German-speaking cultures and societies.

To be able to formulate your own opinions on these cultural texts and social issues and to communicate them effectively both in English and German.

1 What are the prerequisites?
48 senior credit points in German (as a major) with a credit average of 70% or above and prior permission from the department.
Honours Coordinator’s Contact Details: Dr Cat Moir
cat.moir@sydney.edu.au

Departmental Application Closing Date: Friday 26 October 2018

Entry Requirements for Honours and Unit Descriptions of Honours Seminar and Thesis Units can be found in the Subject Area section for the Department of European Studies in the Arts and Social Sciences Undergraduate Handbook. Please also see the Sydney Courses Honours page for more information.

Examples of dissertations
History Wars in the Global 80s: The West German Historikerstreit and the Cold War, 2018 (Kate Stanton).

Greening the Grimms: An Ecocritical Reading of the Kinder- und Hausmärchen, 2018 (India Cordony).

The Infinite Unbound: Romantic Longing for the Transcendent in the Poetry of Anna Letitia Barbauld and Friedrich Schlegel, 2016 (Sophie Kaldor, joint with English).

‘Die Stimmen, die es unternehmen, zu sprechen’. The Free Indirect Mode as Theme and Technique in Nachdenken über Christa T., 2015 (Amanda Stewart).

Enrolment
In the first instance you should discuss your intention to apply for Honours with the Honours Coordinator. Once you have been accepted into the Honours program by the Honours Coordinator (or Coordinators for Joint Honours) please go to Sydney Courses and locate your Degree with Honours (e.g. Bachelor of Arts Honours). Click on ‘Apply’ on the right-hand side.

Please note: although there is a note below ‘Apply’ that indicates that the information is for prospective students, current students are also deemed ‘prospective students’ for Honours and therefore need to apply through Sydney Student.

Hear from a current student
Kate Stanton completed an undergraduate degree in Ancient History and Germanic Studies and is writing a thesis entitled “History Wars in the Global 80s: The West German Historikerstreit and the Cold War”.

“My Honours year in the Germanic Studies Department has given me the opportunity and freedom to further explore topics I found interesting in both my Germanic Studies Major and History Major in a meaningful and academically challenging way. It’s been rewarding to read history sources in the original German, which is a culmination and display of the skills I’ve learnt at the University of Sydney throughout my degree. I’m so glad I’ve had the opportunity to combine, consolidate and expand on my knowledge from my undergraduate coursework.”—Kate