

Dear incoming students, dear returning students!

Are you interested in learning German at Bowdoin? Or, in continuing your study of German?

In any case, the German department welcomes you back to Bowdoin's (online) campus and we are eager to communicate with you, as you are preparing to join or return to Bowdoin's vibrant, inspiring, and challenging academic community while also navigating the uncharted territory and experiences we find ourselves in this year and this fall semester. We are looking forward to resuming our work together in Brunswick.

We hope to kick-off of the 2020-21 academic year with some form of **our customary Open House and Welcome Reception, ideally bringing together first-year and more advanced students**. Exact time and location will be announced later this summer, but as usual all returning students are invited as well. We'll rekindle friendships, swap ideas and experiences, and meet new teaching assistants. If visa, travel, and health situations resolve, we may also welcome our Teaching Fellow from the University of Mainz in Germany.

Regardless, first-years will have the opportunity to chat informally with faculty soon upon their arrival on campus, as we will actively create opportunities for in-person interaction. You may also learn more about the resources for acquiring and practicing German, including courses and co-curricular programs, study away, and post-graduate options by contacting us in advance for an online meeting. You may or may not have checked out details on our website; if not, we invite you to do so! In 2017, our department was designated as a **Center of Excellence** by the AATG (American Association of Teachers of German) for our innovative curriculum and for the learning community we foster among our students.

If you are new to Bowdoin but studied German before, you may have completed the optional questionnaire posted on the orientation website. If we have further recommendations or questions regarding your placement, we'll be in touch. If you have any questions, you or your advisor should be in touch with Birgit Tautz, chair of the German department, at btautz@bowdoin.edu. Please see the **flyer posted on our webpage** to learn about courses scheduled and peruse the webpage to learn about and from our students' successes and accomplishments.

The reasons students have for beginning or continuing the study of German are many: language study as a humanistic endeavor, art and history, music and travel, politics and business, personal heritage, an interest in philosophy or world literature, preparation for study abroad, European pop culture, German film, and Germany's role as a leader in Europe, being a driving force in the continent's institutions and an engine of its economics, and shaping the debate on 21st century questions, the present as well as the future. Whatever your particular interest is, we welcome the opportunity to get to know you and work with you to achieve your individual goals.

We are looking forward to meeting you very soon and will be happy to meet with you in cyberspace or by phone until then!

Willkommen!

Jens Klenner

Jill Smith

Birgit Tautz, Chair, contact for any questions: btautz@bowdoin.edu