

## German Studies Action Plan (2008-2009 and beyond)

The following Action Plan is the result of the German Studies Department's retreat of May 19 – 22, 2008.

### Ongoing Curricular Plan:

- Integrate more thoroughly into our curriculum the various capacities and curricular goals outlined in the Smith Design for Learning
- Develop courses at the 200-level that incorporate yet more quantitative elements
- Develop further NEXUS-, PRS-, and FYS-courses and explore further innovative collaborations with the natural and social sciences, much like our new Environmental Studies course for the Hamburg JYA Program and the Five College course on Landscape and Color taught by Barton Byg at Smith this past spring
- Integrate research methodology and opportunities more thoroughly into our curriculum with special emphasis on assisting students in their efforts to win post-graduate fellowships.
- Introduce a new course GER 258: *Branding Germany: The Culture of Business in German-Speaking Europe*
- Conduct a search for a full-time colleague who can help implement our new curriculum and contribute new ideas toward its improvement.

### Specific Plans (Fall 2008):

- Submit proposals to CAP for a new **Presidential Seminar** in collaboration with the Government Department, two new **NEXUS-courses** (one on the *Methodology of Reading* [with SOC, ANT, FRN, ITL] and one on *Mysticism and Science* [with AST, PHY, REL, PHI]) and a new **First-Year Seminar** on *Evil in Modern Culture*
- Integrate guest lecturers both from within and from outside the department into GER 160 (*The Cultures of German-Speaking Europe*). And integrate guest lecturers from within the department in our other fall course offerings, so as to expose students to the breadth of scholarly and pedagogical strengths of department instructors.
- November 2008: Coordinate with the Five Colleges commemorative activities for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Kristallnacht* (“The Night of Broken Glass”)

- Hire a student assistant who can help us improve the department website to include a variety of features not currently offered, such as a listing of all department courses, a listing of fellowship winners to German-speaking Europe, with links to the Fulbright, DAAD and Smith College fellowship sites, the department newsletter, and more.

Specific Plans (Spring 2009):

- Integrate guest lecturers into our Spring 2009 inter-disciplinary courses, such as GER 248 (*The Culture of Science in German-Speaking Europe*), which is cross-listed with the History of Science Program, and GER 298 (NEXUS: *Cigarette Albums and Popular Education*)
- Exhibition of Tobacco Card Albums from Germany in the Neilson Library through the Mortimer Rare Book Room
- Multi-media exhibition on Ingeborg Bachmann, the pre-eminent poetess of German-speaking Europe after 1945. [Location TBD]

Specific Plans (Fall 2009):

- November 2009: Coordinate with Five Colleges and with other Smith College departments and programs (Art, Architecture, Government, History, etc.) commemorative activities for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall