

I'm Erin McGlothlin. I'm associate professor here in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. I also am in the Department of Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, and I'm the Director of Research and Grants for our Center for the Humanities.

What I find about our department to be so great is we are challenging, and we expect a lot out of our grad students because this is a place where we expect excellence, but we're also very nurturing and we mentor. And that combination of sort of the challenge and the mentoring is what I think is very special about this place.

Our department has a very interdisciplinary focus. German Studies, in general, is very interdisciplinary in nature. Among all of the language departments, it's probably the most interdisciplinary, and it has been for a while. For our graduate students, this means that we are connected with other departments on campus, with other research fields that are "hot" or emerging. We work with other faculty, we teach with other faculty, and this allows our students to also get to know other faculty so they get a chance to see what's out there. They kind of taste from the buffet of interdisciplinary options even when they're only taking classes within our department.

We're finding that the way that we solve the challenge is to work with our colleagues and to embrace methodologies from other disciplines. And so, across the humanities, we're finding that interdisciplinary scholarship is the way to go. And it's certainly been a great way for German studies to be relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In places where German Studies has not looked outside of its own field, it's found it's been declining. And we're not declining because we are picking up some of the better methods and the better research perspectives from other fields, so it's invigorated our field and invigorated our department as well.