The free Hanseatic city-state of Hamburg is known as the “Gateway to the World,” owing to its status as one of the most important port cities in northern Europe since the Middle Ages. Today, Hamburg is the second largest city in Germany by population. As a center of commerce, transport, and technological innovation, it has become an international metropole whose local culture is imprinted with identities and institutions from around the globe. Hamburg has long ranked among Germany’s most culturally diverse cities. It has been the home and inspiration to world-renowned artists, authors, intellectuals, and leaders, including author Wolfgang Borchert, philosopher Ernst Cassirer, composer Johannes Brahms, filmmaker Fatih Akin, designer Karl Lagerfeld, and Chancellor Angela Merkel.

German 253 is intentionally designed to meet the interests of three primary groups: students who have completed the FOL-G and are seeking a capstone immersion experience; German majors or German Studies concentrators who are unable to spend a semester studying in Germany; and students who would like an introduction or capstone to a longer study abroad experience. Our hope is to gather students from a variety of disciplinary specializations (language, literature, STEM, art, music, social sciences, and more!) in order to discover and compare the many diverse approaches one can take to German studies.

By engaging with authentic texts and native speakers, students learn about Hamburg’s social, cultural, political, and economic connections and transformations and deepen their German language skills. The daily schedule will generally consist of morning class meetings to discuss readings, build advanced language competency, and prepare for/debrief from site visits and individual ethnographic fieldwork observation. Afternoons will be spent doing group or individual exploration and observation in Hamburg’s diverse neighborhoods, businesses, and cultural institutions, including museums, art galleries and music venues. To deepen our exploration of Hamburg’s regional and international connections, we will make day-long to Lübeck and Bremen and an overnight trip to Flensburg on the Danish border. The course culminates with individual final projects that examine the city from diverse disciplinary perspectives such as literature and arts, science and technology, or politics and economy.

**Course Requirements:**
- Attendance of all scheduled class sessions, tours, talks, and other events
- Regular, meaningful contributions to class discussion
- Daily journal recording cultural and linguistic observations
- Midterm examination
- Final project with written and oral components

**Housing:** In Hamburg students will stay at a hostel near public transportation (students will share rooms with private bathrooms with other St. Olaf students). During the overnight visit to Flensburg, students will stay with host families.

**Cost:** $3,675, includes housing, daily breakfast and a per diem for one other meal, admission to museums, galleries, tours, performance tickets, group travel arrangements, and group expenses. ***Does not include*** international airfare (estimated at $1475.00), additional meal needs (estimated at $500.00), or personal spending (varies depending on student need).