



National University of Ireland, Galway  
*Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh*

# **German**

## **Course Descriptions**

### **First Year B.A. Students (Beginners)**

**2011/12**

Appendix 1: Contacts

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Appendix 3: Marking Scheme

**First Year Coordinator: Dr. Christa Löffler** (contact details see Appendix 1)

**Entry requirements for B.A. students:**

No previous knowledge of German is required for the Beginners' classes.

**Schedule of Courses**

<i>Code</i>	<i>Module</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>ECTS</i>
GR130	Beginners German Language I	1	5
GR131	Beginners German Language II	2	5
GR136	Introduction to German Cultural Studies (Beginners)	1 and 2	5

**Registration instructions:**

Registration and teaching begins in the week of 12 September 2011.

**Dates and Semesters 2011-12**

<b>First Semester</b>	
First Year Orientation	Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> & Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> September, 2011
Registration and teaching begins in the week of 13 <sup>th</sup> September, 2010 in accordance with information which will be provided to students	Monday, 12 <sup>th</sup> September, 2011
Teaching ends	Friday, 2 <sup>th</sup> December, 2011
Study Week	Monday, 5 <sup>th</sup> December, 2011
Examinations begin	Monday, 12 <sup>th</sup> December, 2011
Examinations end	Friday, 16 <sup>th</sup> December, 2011
Christmas Vacation	Saturday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December, 2011 Sunday, 8 <sup>th</sup> January, 2012
<b>Second Semester</b>	
Teaching begins	Monday, 9 <sup>th</sup> January, 2012
Teaching ends for Easter and teaching is finished for the Semester	Friday, 30 <sup>th</sup> March, 2012
Study Week	Monday, 4 <sup>th</sup> April, 2012
Examinations	Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> April
Easter Vacation and study week	Saturday, 31 <sup>st</sup> March - Monday, 16 <sup>th</sup> April, 2012
Examinations end	Friday, 18 <sup>th</sup> May, 2012

## Course Descriptions

### **GR 130 Beginners German Language I (Semester 1, 5 hrs. per week)**

**Please note: Students with Leaving Cert. German can only register for 1<sup>st</sup> Advanced German course.**

Lecturer: Martin Rahl

Course Description: This intensive course is specifically aimed at students with little or no previous knowledge of German. Students will acquire basic language skills and a broad insight in cultural aspects of the German speaking countries. At the end of semester one, students can introduce themselves in German, understand, ask and answer simple questions, understand and talk about familiar topics such as their hobbies and interests, their living situation and their family and friends in German, write short postcards and e-mails and fill in basic forms in German.

Prerequisites: none

Approach to learning and teaching: The course follows an action-oriented, communicative approach in language learning and teaching. Students are encouraged to actively participate and interact in order to develop the full range of language skills - speaking, writing, reading and listening - based on elementary grammatical structures. A weekly lesson in the multi-media lab and regular e-learning activities are essential parts of the course. All content and grammatical progression complies with the requirements of level *A1* of the *Common European Framework of References for Languages*.

Languages of instruction: German and English

Assessment and examination: End-of-term exams: 50% (written exam: 40%, aural exam: 10%)

Continuous assessment: 50% (Weekly assignments in writing, listening and reading comprehension and grammar, on paper as well as on *Blackboard*)

**Note: It is obligatory to attend all written, aural and oral examinations. Attendance in all classes throughout the term is compulsory. A language cannot be learned by proxy – so your personal attendance in class is of utmost importance. The Continuous Assessment Mark of 50% reflects this.**

Core texts: *Studio D A1*; Heiner Schenke and Karen Seago, *Basic German Grammar and Workbook* (Routledge).

## **GR 131 Beginners German Language II (Semester 2, 5 hrs. per week)**

Lecturers: Martin Rahl

Course Description: Continuation of GR 130 and at the same time final part of the beginners' course. At the end of semester two, students will have a broader range of vocabulary and grammatical structures to take part in simple everyday-conversation in German, and will be able to talk about a broader range of topics, such as their studies and student life, their childhood, future plans, food, fashion, music etc. Participants can read and understand short and simple texts on different subjects and write personal letters and e-mails.

Prerequisites: completion of GR 130

Teaching and learning methods: see above GR 130 for details. All content and grammatical progression complies with the requirements of level *A1* and *A2* of the *Common European Framework of References for Languages*.

Languages of instruction: German and English

Method of assessment and examination: End-of-term exams: 50% (Written exam: 30%, Oral exam: 20%)

Continuous assessment: 50% (Weekly assignments in writing, listening and reading comprehension and grammar, on paper as well as on *Blackboard*:

**Note: It is obligatory to attend all written, aural and oral examinations. Attendance in all classes throughout the term is compulsory. A language cannot be learned by proxy – so your personal attendance in class is of utmost importance. The Continuous Assessment Mark of 50% reflects this.**

Core texts: *Studio D A1*; Heiner Schenke and Karen Seago, *Basic German Grammar and Workbook* (Routledge).

## **GR 136 Introduction to German Cultural Studies (Beginners) (Semester 1 and 2, 1 hr. per week)**

**This module consists of the two following obligatory components:**

### **1. A brief overview of Modern German History**

**(Sem. 1; 1 hr. per week, counts 50% of the total mark of this module)**

Lecturer: Martin Rahl.

Course Description: The course will focus on 200 years of German history, starting with a French Emperor (Napoleon!) invading and occupying German Lands in 1805/1806 and finishing in 1990 with a reunited Republic of Germany which is part

of the European Union and has established a special partnership with its neighbour France. National ideas in all forms, both positive and negative, have always played a crucial role in the historical process leading from a political "Flickenteppich" (patchwork rug) to a democratic federal state and an economic superpower. Germany has regained its national self-confidence but at the same time continues being self-critical due to two World Wars caused by Germany in the first half of the 20th century. A focus of the course will be cultural developments in their political, social and economic contexts.

Teaching and learning methods: A lecture with interactive elements.

Assessment and examination: Continuous Assessment: 50%, In-class-test at the end of term: 50%

Attendance is obligatory and counts towards assessment. 1 % will be deducted from the total mark for every missed class.

Language of instruction: English

Core Text: Mark Allinson: Germany and Austria 1814-2000.

## **2. German Literary Texts**

**(Sem. 2, 1 hr. per week, counts 50% of the total mark of this module)**

Lecturer: Simone Klapper

Course description: Students will read and discuss literary texts by prominent German authors written in a language which is easy to understand.

Teaching and learning methods: The course will focus on developing reading skills in German. Reading and discussions of short poetry and prose texts, mostly from the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, will introduce students to various aspects of German literature. The course programme will include world-famous writers such as Rainer Maria Rilke and Franz Kafka.

Methods of assessment and examination: Active participation including a presentation (50%), end of term in-class test (50%). Attendance is obligatory and counts towards assessment. 1 % will be deducted from the total mark for every missed class.

Language of instruction: German and English

Core texts: Handouts

## **Appendix 1: CONTACTS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN**

Arts Millennium Building  
National University of Ireland, Galway

Head of Department: Professor Hans-Walter Schmidt-Hannisa  
Room AM 307  
Tel: 091 492239  
E-mail: h.schmidthannisa@nuigalway.ie  
Fax. 091 494572

Administrative Assistant: Ms. Geraldine Smyth  
Room AM 306  
Tel: 091 492226  
E-mail: geraldine.smyth@nuigalway.ie

Administrative Queries: Ms. Geraldine Smyth  
9.15 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Consultation hours for all members of staff will be displayed on their office doors at the beginning of the Semester.

Students are encouraged to come and discuss their studies with a staff member on an individual basis.

First year co-ordinator:

**DR. CHRISTA BRENNAN-LÖFFLER**

Ph.D. (Salzburg), Applied Language Teacher

Room AM 301

Tel. 492967

E-mail: christa.brennan@nuigalway.ie

*Research Interests:* language teaching methodologies and language learning strategies, language learning through music, comparative study of mythology and folk tales.

**For further details, please check our Departmental website**

**[www.nuigalway.ie/german](http://www.nuigalway.ie/german)**

## Appendix 2: CHECKLIST FOR THE PRESENTATION OF ESSAYS

Always go through the following checklist for presentation before typing the final draft of your take-home essay, and again before submitting it.

Every essay should include a cover page with the following information:

	Example:
Title of Essay	The treatment of the disabled in the <i>Kritisches Volksstück</i>
Name of Student	Niamh McCormack
Course Number and Name	GR314: 20 <sup>th</sup> -Century German Writing
Name of Course Lecturer(s)	Dr. Deidre Byrnes
Date of Submission	12 December 2004

- Essays must be typed (double-spacing). Hand-written essays will not be accepted.
- Be sure to include page numbers.
- Leave one-inch margins on both right and left-hand sides of each page.
- Do not use plastic covers on your essay.
- Proof-read and correct your essay carefully, at least twice, before handing it in.
- Always retain a copy of your essay, in case the copy you handed in is mislaid.
- Have your essay registered and stamped in the Departmental Office.

### Plagiarism

*Plagiarism* means presenting the words of another writer as if they were your own. This is a serious matter, and if it is detected in your essay it will result in a failure mark. The way to avoid plagiarism is very simple: always put quotation marks around someone else's words and credit them to their source which might be a book, a journal, or the internet. If you borrow ideas from another writer, say so in the text or in a footnote.

### Formatting

For the right method of formatting, quoting from articles and books, footnoting, using abbreviations, creating a bibliography etc., consult the *MHRA Style Book* or *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* if the essay is in English, and the Duden edition *Wie verfaßt man wissenschaftliche Arbeiten?* or *Die schriftliche Arbeit* if the essay is in German.

### Appendix 3: Marking Scheme

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Honours standard</b>
A	70-100	First Class Honours
B+	60-69	Second Class Honours Grade 1
B-	50-59	Second Class Honours Grade II
C	45-49	Third Class Honours
D	40-44	Pass
E	0-39	Fail