



National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

German

Course Descriptions

Second Year B.A. Students

2011/12

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Entry requirements: Only students attaining 40% or more in the module cluster GR 143 or 50% or more in the module cluster GR 131 will be admitted to Second Arts German courses.

Compulsory Modules: Students are obliged to take all six modules on offer. All modules have the value of 5 ECTS. Modules GR232 and GR233 include optional components.

**For further details, please check our Departmental website:
www.nuigalway.ie/german**

Dates and Semesters 2011/12

<i>First Semester</i>	
Teaching begins	Monday, 5 th September, 2011
Teaching ends	Saturday, 26 th November, 2011
Study Week	Monday, 28 th November, 2011
Examinations begin	Monday, 5 th December, 2011
Examinations end	Friday, 16 th December, 2011
Christmas Vacation	Sunday, 18 th December, 2011 - Sunday, 8 th January, 2012
<i>Second Semester</i>	
Teaching begins	Monday, 9 th January, 2012
Teaching ends for Easter and teaching is finished for the Semester	Saturday, 31 st March, 2012
Easter Vacation and Study Week	Sunday, 1 st April - Thursday, 12 th April, 2012
Examinations begin	Friday, 13 th April, 2012
Examinations end	Friday, 11 th May, 2012

Semester 1 All Modules are compulsory.	
Module	Components
GR236 German Language I	
GR239 History of German Literature and Culture I	History of German Literature and Culture I (60%) Language and Rhetoric (40%)
GR238 German Studies I <i>Students have to choose two components</i>	Introduction to Linguistics (50%) The Truth about Women? Representations of Women in Literature and Art (50%) German Language Cinema 1 (50%)

Semester 2 All Modules are compulsory.	
Module	Components
GR237 German Language II	
GR235 History of German Literature and Culture II	History of German Literature and Culture II (60%) The Art of Reviewing (40%)
GR240 German Studies II <i>Students have to choose "Landeskunde" and one of the remaining three components</i>	Landeskunde (obligatory) (50%) Introduction to Sociolinguistics (optional) (50%) Family Fiction (optional) (50%)

Course Descriptions

Semester I

GR 236 German Language I (4 hrs. per week)
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Lecturers: Michael Shields, Dagmar Drabent.

Course description: This course (level B1+) will reinforce and build on the language skills acquired in first year. It will help students to become more comfortable in the practical use of German while deepening their understanding of grammar and structure. It will also prepare students for the ERASMUS-year abroad, which they will spend at universities in Germany.

Prerequisites: 40% or more in First Arts Advanced German, 50% or more in First Arts Beginners' German, or their equivalent.

Teaching and learning methods: The course will involve text production, including essay writing, conversation, oral presentations, discussion of topical themes, and listening comprehension. Attendance is vital and students are required to participate fully in all elements of the course.

Methods of assessment and evaluation: Two-hour written examination and oral examination: 50%; continuous assessment (written assignments, grammar exercises, essays, occasional in-class tests, presentations): 50%.

Core texts:

Aspekte B1+ Lehrbuch, Aspekte B1+ Arbeitsbuch and accompanying CDs. Each student should own a large bilingual dictionary. We recommend the new *Collins German Dictionary*.

GR239	History of German Literature and Culture I	
	Components:	
	History of German Literature and Culture I	60%
	Language and Rhetoric	40%

History of German Literature and Culture I (2 hrs. per week)

Lecturer: Michael Shields, Hans -Walter Schmidt-Hannisa

Course description: The module introduces students to the major epochs of German literature and culture from the Middle Ages to the end of the 18th century (Renaissance, Baroque, *Empfindsamkeit*, Enlightenment, *Sturm und Drang*, Classical Period). In the first instance, it provides an overview of relevant literary genres. This

is followed by close readings of exemplary texts which will be discussed in their historical and cultural contexts. The aim of the module is to lay the ground for a comprehensive understanding of each epoch which includes art, music, philosophy and other cultural areas.

Methods of assessment and examination: Two-hour examination. Attendance is obligatory and counts towards assessment. 1 % will be deducted from the total mark for every missed class.

Core texts: Helen Watanabe-O’Kelly (ed.), *The Cambridge History of German Literature*; handouts.

Language and Rhetoric (1 hrs. per week)

Lecturer: Tina Pusse

Course description: Good presentation skills are a key to success in courses, oral exams or at job interviews. This course will give you the opportunity to develop these skills and will also provide you with a theoretical understanding of Rhetoric. It will focus on verbal and nonverbal aspects of communication, on forms and strategies of effective oral presentation.

Methods of Assessment and Evaluation: Presentation: 60%; In-class test: 40%; Attendance is obligatory and counts towards assessment. 1 % will be deducted from the total mark for every missed class.

Core Texts: Handouts

GR238	German Studies I	
	Components:	
	Introduction to Linguistics	50%
	The Truth about Women? Representations of Women in Literature and Art	50%
	German Language Cinema I	50%
	<u>Students have to choose two components.</u>	

Introduction to Linguistics

Semester: 1

Contact hours: 12 lectures

Lecturer: Dr. M. Boland

Course description: What do we mean when we say that we ‘know’ a language? These introductory classes on the field of linguistics examine the idea of native speaker

competence, exploring key areas such as phonetics, phonology, morphology and meaning in language.

Teaching and learning methods: Lecture-based course.

Methods of assessment and examination: The course is assessed by two in-class exercises.

Language of instruction: English

Core text: Keith Allan *et al*, *The English Language & Linguistics Companion* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2010)

The Truth about Women? Representations of Women in Literature and Art around 1900 (Sem. 1; 2 hrs. per week)

Lecturer: Hans-Walter Schmidt-Hannisa, Simone Klapper

Course description: The time period around 1900 is marked by vast social and cultural changes, which resulted in social role models, particularly constructions of gender identity, being increasingly challenged. Since the establishment of psychoanalysis, the unconscious and the ‘enigma of the woman’ have become key themes in theory but also in literature and art. Psychoanalysis played a major role in constructions, such as the *femme fatale* and the *femme fragile*, in philosophy, literature and art. The defined role models of the bourgeois society were increasingly questioned as a hypocritical way of preserving patriarchal structures and excluding women from social participation.

The module focuses on the representation of women in contemporary literature, art, and theory. We will discuss texts of various genres (novella, short stories, poetry), depicting women and thematise gender issues, analyse representations of women in visual arts and examine theoretical approaches to understanding the “mystery of the woman”, for example in Freudian psychoanalysis. Writers and thinkers – mostly male – attempted to explore and describe the psychology of women, their various roles in family and society and the conflicts arising from the diverse expectations they were confronted with. On the one hand both literature and theory contributed immensely to the emancipation of women, on the other hand the images of women created in these sources still reproduced traditional concepts of gender and have to be deconstructed as male projections. A major local focus of the course will be Vienna, the home of psychoanalysis, of writers such as Arthur Schnitzler, Hugo von Hofmannsthal and Peter Altenberg, and painters such as Gustav Klimt and Egon Schiele. In addition we will read texts by Stefan Zweig and Rosa Mayreder.

Assessment: Take-home essay. Attendance is obligatory and counts towards assessment. 1 % will be deducted from the total mark for every missed class.

Core texts to be bought by students before start of term:

Arthur Schnitzler: *Fräulein Else*. Ditzingen: Reclam 2001.

Arthur Schnitzler: *Frau Berta Garlan*. Ditzingen: Reclam 2006.

Stefan Zweig: *Brief einer Unbekannten. Erzählung*. Fischer: Frankfurt a. M. 2006.

Excerpts of the following texts will be provided as handouts in class:

Stefan Zweig: *Leporella*; Rosa Mayreder: *Zur Kritik der Weiblichkeit*.

German Language Cinema 1 (3 hrs. per week)

Lecturer: Sabine Lenore Müller

Course description: The aim of the course is to provide students with an understanding of the history of German film from the beginning up to 1945. We will discuss modes of production as well as aesthetic aspects of the silent film era. We will look at the innovations in cinema during the Weimar Republic and finally at the function of cinema in the Nazi period. The course will introduce students to film theory and explore aspects of style and technique in 20th century German cinema. Special attention will be paid to “film classics” and their remakes and students will become acquainted with the relevant terminology of academic cinematic criticism. Teaching and learning methods: The course is lecture-based with student participation in the form of group work presented in class, reviews and short summaries of critical and theoretical texts..

Methods of assessment and examination: 30% presentation; 40% film review; 30% summary of critical and theoretical texts. Attendance is obligatory and counts towards assessment. 1 % will be deducted from the total mark for every missed class.

Semester II

GR237 German Language II (4 hrs. per week)
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Lecturers: Michael Shields, Dagmar Drabent

Course description: This course (level B1+) will reinforce and build on the language skills acquired in first year. It will help students to become more comfortable in the practical use of German while deepening their understanding of grammar and structure. It will also prepare students for the ERASMUS-year abroad, which they will spend at universities in Germany.

Teaching and learning methods: The course will involve text production, including essay writing, conversation, oral presentations, discussion of topical themes, and listening comprehension. Attendance is vital and students are required to participate fully in all elements of the course.

Methods of assessment and evaluation: Two-hour written examination and oral examination: 50%; continuous assessment (written assignments, grammar exercises, essays, occasional in-class tests, presentations): 50%

Core texts:

Aspekte B1+ Lehrbuch, Aspekte B1+ Arbeitsbuch and accompanying CDs.

Each student should own a large bilingual dictionary. We recommend the new *Collins German Dictionary*.

GR235:	History of German Literature and Culture II	
	Components:	
	History of German Literature and Culture II	60%
	The Art of Reviewing	40%

History of German Literature and Culture II (2 hrs. per week)

Lecturers: Sabine Müller, Tina Pusse

Course description: The module introduces students to the major epochs of German literature and culture of the 19th century (Romanticism, *Vormärz*, Realism, Naturalism). In the first instance, it provides an overview of relevant literary genres. This is followed by close readings of exemplary texts which will be discussed in their historical and cultural contexts. The aim of the module is to lay the ground for a comprehensive understanding of each epoch which includes art, music, philosophy and other cultural areas.

Methods of assessment and examination: Two-hour examination. Attendance is obligatory and counts towards assessment. 1 % will be deducted from the total mark for every missed class.

Core texts: Helen Watanabe-O’Kelly (ed.), *The Cambridge History of German Literature*; handouts.

The Art of Reviewing (1 hr. per week)

Lecturer: Tina Pusse

Course description: Cultural events, conferences and guest lectures are an integral part of academic life. The aim of this module is to encourage students to attend such events and to develop critical skills to describe and assess them. Students will write (in English and German) on a number of events such as theatre performances, exhibitions, readings by poets and other writers, dance and music performances, film screenings, guest lectures, panel discussions and conferences.

Methods of assessment and examination: Five short reviews. Class attendance is obligatory and counts towards assessment. 1 % will be deducted from the total mark for every missed class.

GR240: German Studies II

Components:

Landeskunde (compulsory) 50%

Introduction to Sociolinguistics (optional) 50%

Family Fiction (optional) 50%

Students have to choose one of the optional components.

Landeskunde (2 hrs. per week)

Lecturer: Martin Rahl.

Course description: This course is designed to prepare students for their ERASMUS-year in Germany. It introduces students to situations of everyday life and to specific elements of German culture and lifestyle they will encounter. Topics to be discussed include popular German music and sport, German media, the German reunification and its social and cultural consequences, German cultural identity today, foreigners in Germany and more. Part of the course will be an introduction to the German university system and student life. Students will learn how to find information and to compose their time tables, how to find accommodation, special student offers at German universities and where and how to socialise with German students.

The purpose of the course is to make students feel more comfortable and confident about living and studying in Germany by increasing their knowledge of relevant and practical social and cultural issues.

Teaching and learning methods: The course combines elements of lecture and seminar discussions. One of the two lessons each week will take place in the multi-media lab.

Assessment and Evaluation: Presentation: 50%, Homework and class project: 50% Attendance is obligatory and counts towards assessment. 1 % will be deducted from the total mark for every missed class.

Core Texts: Handouts provided in class and on Blackboard

Introduction to Sociolinguistics*

Semester: 2

Contact hours: 12 lectures and two tutorials.

Lecturer: Dr. M. Boland

Course description: The broad aim of these classes is to explore the interrelationship between language and society, and to equip students with a broad working knowledge of key issues in contemporary sociolinguistics. Topics covered in class include the dialect and language dichotomy, language variation and language contact.

Teaching and learning methods: Lecture-based course.

Methods of assessment and examination: This part of the module is assessed by a continuous assessment exercise (Reflective Commentary). More information will be provided in class.

Language of instruction: English

Core text: Peter Stockwell, *Sociolinguistics: A Resource Book for Students* (Second edition) (Routledge, 2007).

Family Fiction (2 hrs. per week)

Lecturer: Tina Pusse

Course description: The struggles and the dynamics that take place in families have always been an inexhaustible subject of literary exploration. Although it is not inevitable that at the end of a drama, an entire family lays slaughtered on the stage, like in *Hamlet*, families, at least in literature, are seen as social units where conflicts, sometimes devastating, arise. Very often family conflicts reveal general problems concerning gender roles, and concepts of masculinity and femininity. The course will analyse family conflicts in their historical contexts in novellas and short stories from Romanticism to Franz Kafka.

Method of assessment: Active participation including a presentation (40%), take-home essay (60%). Attendance is obligatory and counts towards assessment. 1 % will be deducted from the total mark for every missed class.

Core texts: Franz Kafka: *Die Verwandlung*. Stuttgart: Reclam 2006 (ISBN: 978-3-15-009900-1); Ludwig Tieck: *Der blonde Eckbert. Der Runenberg*. Stuttgart: Reclam 2006 (ISBN: 978-3-15-007732-0); E.T.A. Hoffmann: *Der Sandmann*. Stuttgart: Reclam (ISBN 3-15-000230-3).