



National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

German

Course Descriptions

Final Year B.A. Students

2011/12

3rd Year B.A.

4th Year B.A. International

Year Coordinator: Tina-Karen Pusse

Consultation time: Wednesday 10.30-11.30 a.m.

Entry requirements: A pass in Second Arts German or its equivalent, for example in the case of visiting and exchange students. Students registered for the B.A. International must also have achieved a satisfactory academic performance during their year abroad.

Compulsory Modules: Students are obliged to take all six modules on offer. All modules have the value of 5 ECTS.

For further details, please check our 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
GR341 German Language I	
GR337 German Cultural Studies I <i>Students must register for the compulsory component and one of the optional components.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of German Literature and Culture (Compulsory) 60% • Methods of Foreign Language Teaching (optional) 40% • Doing Radio (optional) 40%
GR338 German Cultural Studies II <i>Students must register for the compulsory component and one of the optional components.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended Essay (compulsory) 50% • Memory in Contemporary German Writing (optional) 50% • Rilke, Sonette an Orpheus (optional) 50%

Semester 2 All modules are compulsory.	
Module	Components
GR342 German Language II	
GR339 German Cultural Studies III <i>Students must register for the compulsory component and one of the optional components.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of German Literature and Culture (compulsory) 50% • German Language Cinema 2 (optional) 50% • Medieval Literature (optional) 50% • German Play (optional) 50% • German Business Studies in a Global Context (optional) 50%
GR340 German Cultural Studies IV <i>Students must register for two of the optional components.</i> <i>Note: Components chosen for GR339, cannot be chosen for this module.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • German Language Cinema 2 (optional) 50% • Medieval Literature (optional) 50% • German Play (optional) 50% • German Business Studies in a Global Context (optional) 50%

Course Descriptions

Semester I

GR 341	German Language I (4 hrs. per week)
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Lecturers: Martin Rahl, Gabi Behrens.

Course description: Four hours language tuition per week and one hour translation from English to German.

Prerequisites: Level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Learning objectives: The level to be reached on completion of the course corresponds to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages level C1, i.e. that students can

- understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts in German, and recognize implicit meaning
- express themselves fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions
- use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes
- produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organizational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.

Assessment and examination:

Continuous Assessment 50 %

Exams (50%)

- 20% oral exam
- 30% written exam - reading, writing, grammar

Please note: All weekly assignments have to be handed in within 7 days and will not be accepted later.

Core texts: R. Kohl-Kühn, A. Daniels. & C. Estermann, Mittelpunkt C1, Lehrbuch and Arbeitsbuch, Stuttgart: Klett 2008; supplementary material will be provided in class and on Blackboard.

GR337	German Cultural Studies I	
	Components:	
	History of German Literature and Culture Part 3	(compulsory, 60%)
	Methods of Foreign Language Teaching	(optional, 40%)
	Doing Radio	(optional, 40%)

History of German Literature and Culture Part 3 (2 hrs. per week)

Lecturer: Hans-Walter Schmidt-Hannisa, Michael Shields, Tina Pusse.

Course description: The module introduces students to the major epochs of German literature and culture of the first half of the 20th century (Fin de Siècle, Expressionism, Weimar Republic, Third Reich – exile and inner emigration). Exemplary texts will be discussed in their historical and cultural contexts. The aim of the module is to lay the foundation for a comprehensive understanding of each epoch which includes art, music, philosophy and other cultural areas.

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

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

Methods of Foreign Language Teaching (1 hrs. per week)

Lecturer: Annelie Eberhardt

Course description: Students are introduced to methods of teaching a foreign language effectively. Relevant course material are films from German secondary schools illustrating a variety of such methods. The practical application of the theories discussed will be in the form of sample lessons to be held and peer-evaluated at the end of the course, and of class plans to be developed for certain topic. The course is particularly designed for students considering a career as a teacher of foreign languages.

Prerequisites: Level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Approach to learning and teaching: Students will engage face-to-face and online through an interactive learning platform. Although the course has a practical focus, it will also encourage reflective and creative thinking.

Assessment and examination: Online homework (readings, discussions) 60%, sample lesson or class plan 40%. Attendance is obligatory and counts towards assessment. 1% will be deducted from the total mark for every missed class.

Core texts: Moodle platform of ‚Schule im Wandel‘ (Goethe-Institut), which serves as a European-wide project in foreign language teacher pre- and in-service education. Handouts.

Doing Radio (1 hr. per week)

Lecturer: Martin Rahl.

Course Description: In this “learning by doing” class, students will produce a German speaking Radio programme which will be broadcast on the campus radio station Flirt FM, regularly throughout the semester. Each programme will cover about 30 minutes and will include, German music, interviews, information on and reviews of German related events (public readings, movies, the annual German play) and study related information.

Students will gain insights into the making of radio programmes and become familiar with recording and editing techniques. The class will strengthen the students’ oral and aural skills in German.

After some training sessions, and a short introduction to the theory and practice of writing for speaking, the content of programmes to be produced will be discussed. Elements of the programmes to be broadcast will be prepared, recorded, and edited individually or in groups.

Teaching and learning methods: In the beginning of the semester, all participating students will attend training sessions run by FlirtFM. After this students will do practical work under the supervision of the lecturer.

Assessment and examination: group participation: 30%; individual sample of work: 40%; report on the project: 30%. Attendance is obligatory and counts towards assessment. 1 % will be deducted from the total mark for every missed class.

Note: Due to the practical nature of the course, no repeat option can be offered.

Language of instruction: German.

Core texts: to be announced.

GR338	German Cultural Studies II
	Components:
Extended Essay	(compulsory, 50%)
Memory in Contemporary German Writing	(optional, 50%)
Rainer Maria Rilke: <i>Sonette an Orpheus</i>	(optional, 50%)

Extended Essay

For details see handout *Guidelines of the Extended Essay* (available from Geraldine Smyth, AM 306)

Deadline for submission: Monday, 5th September 2011

A Viva, in which students have to discuss selected topics of their essay will be held in October 2011.

Important Note for Visiting Students Visiting students can write an essay of 2,500-3,000 words on a topic related to the content of one of their modules, or they can register for the two optional components instead of writing an extended essay. In special circumstances alternative arrangements can be made.

Visiting students planning to write an essay should contact one of the lecturers as soon as possible.

Deadline for submission is Monday 5th December 2011.

Memory in Contemporary German Writing (2 hrs. per week)

Lecturer: Deirdre Byrnes

Course description: Monika Maron is one of the most significant authors of her generation. She is an accomplished essayist, a critically acclaimed novelist, and an incisive social and political commentator. This course focuses on two of her texts: *Stille Zeile Sechs*, published in 1991, and Maron's family story *Pawels Briefe*, published in 1999. *Stille Zeile Sechs* charts a bitter and ultimately fatal struggle to write and rewrite conflicting memories of the GDR. In *Pawels Briefe* Maron attempts to reconstruct a family biography that historical forces had brutally ruptured. In so doing, she exposes familial memory gaps. Situating the texts within the context of individual, collective and cultural memory discourses, this module explores the emergence of memory as a central theme in contemporary German writing.

Method of Assessment: Essay (80%) and Presentation (20%). Attendance is obligatory and counts towards assessment. 1% will be deducted from the total mark for every missed class.

Core Texts: Monika Maron, *Stille Zeile Sechs* (Fischer); Monika Maron, *Pawels Briefe* (Fischer)

Rainer Maria Rilke: *Sonette an Orpheus* (2 hrs. per week)

Lecturer: Tina Pusse.

Course description: Students will be introduced to one of the highlights of 20th century poetry, Rilke's *Sonette an Orpheus*. Rilke's profound and mysterious poems are devoted to the mythical singer who represents *the* poet par excellence. Orpheus's verses were so powerful that they could tame wild animals and move the heart of Hades, the God of the Underworld. Rilke refers to this God-like singer in order to explore the relationship between art and nature and the role of the individual in the world. A close reading of Rilke's texts will allow students to understand his fascinating poetics of transformation, his ideas about other philosophical themes, and about mythology. We will also discuss alternative translations of selected poems which will broaden our general understanding of poetical techniques.

Method of assessment: presentation 40%, essay 60%. Attendance is obligatory and counts towards assessment. 1 % will be deducted from the total mark for every missed class.

Core text: Rainer Maria Rilke: Duineser Elegien. Die Sonette an Orpheus. Ed. by Wolfram Groddeck. Stuttgart: Reclam (ISBN: 978-3-15-009624-6).

Semester II

GR 342	German Language II (4 hrs. per week)
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Lecturers: Aine Ryan, Martin Rahl.

Course description: Four hours language tuition per week plus one hour translation from German to English.

Prerequisites: Level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Learning objectives: The level to be reached on completion of the course corresponds to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages level C1, i.e. that students can

- understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts in German, and recognize implicit meaning
- express themselves fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions
- use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes
- produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.

Assessment and examination:

Continuous Assessment (50%)

Exams (50%)

- 20% oral exam
- 30% written exam

Please note:

All weekly assignments have to be handed in within 7 days and will not be accepted later.

Core texts: R. Kohl-Kühn, A. Daniels. & C. Estermann, *Mittelpunkt C1, Lehrbuch and Arbeitsbuch*, Stuttgart: Klett 2008; supplementary material will be provided in class and on Blackboard.

GR339	German Cultural Studies III
	Components:
	History of German Literature and Culture (compulsory, 50%)
	German Language Cinema 2 (optional, 50%)
	Medieval Literature (optional, 50%)
	German Business Studies in a Global Context (optional, 50%)
	German Theatre Production (optional, 50%)

History of German Literature and Culture Part 4 (2 hrs. per week)

Lecturer: Simone Klapper, Deirdre Byrnes, Tina Pusse

Course description: The module introduces students to the major epochs of German literature and culture of the second half of the 20th century up to the present: post-war, literature of the GDR, experimental literature of the sixties and seventies, and the postmodern era. Exemplary texts will be discussed in their historical and cultural contexts. The aim of the module is to lay the foundation for a comprehensive understanding of each epoch which includes art, music, philosophy and other cultural areas.

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

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

German Language Cinema 2 - from 1945 to the present (3 hrs. per week)

Lecturer: Tina Pusse (Co-ordinator)

Course description: Starting with post-war cinema and finishing with contemporary films, this course aims to provide students with an understanding of the history of German cinema on the one hand, and a closer knowledge of major paradigms of film studies on the other hand. Students will watch significant German films (both popular and “artistic”) and become familiar with basic elements of film analysis and film theory. The focus of the course is the discussion of films and texts. Students are required to prepare a handout and a presentation for one session.

Methods of Assessment and Evaluation:

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 text: Reader.

Medieval Literature: The Myth of Narcissus and Echo (2 hrs. per week)

Lecturer: Michael Shields

Course description: The story of Narcissus and Echo has fascinated audiences since Ovid (1st c. AD) wrote the first definitive version. Narcissus, the most beautiful of young men, is loved by all but loves nobody until he sees himself in a well. Longing for his reflection, Narcissus dies gazing at it as it fades. Medieval versions are complex (they focus on Ovid’s idea that love and selfhood only exist in a sensory medium) but also culturally specific transformations (playing down the homosexual dimension); understanding them allows us to ask whether they anticipate central 20th-century psychological readings (Freud, Lacan).

The seminar is offered in two subjects, German and French. After working in separate groups during weeks 1-6, students in both groups come together in weeks 7-12 to discuss the French and German versions they have been working on.

Teaching and learning methods: *Stage I: Weeks 1-6: translation workshop.* Study of culturally distant texts. Students develop (transferable) skills in reading texts written in an unfamiliar language, using the help of available translations. We improve existing translations and produce a new English translation of an important version (Albrecht von Halberstadt/Georg Wickram) so that students of French can work with it. *Stage II: Weeks 7-12: comparing French and German versions:* Students discuss interesting aspects they have worked on (eg. aspects of language and translation, song or text performance, medieval vs. modern psychology etc.).

Method of assessment: 1) Translation assignment (week 6, 40%), 2) end-of-term essay (2000 words, in English or German, 60%). Attendance is obligatory and counts towards assessment. 1 % will be deducted from the total mark for every missed class.

Core texts: In-house reader plus translation projects produced by week 6.

German Business Studies in a Global Context (2 hrs. per week)

Lecturer: Doris Devilly

Course description: “Soweit es die Geschäftswelt angeht, wird die Welt mehr und mehr zu *einer* Welt.” (J. Nehru)

Germany is a major player in the international business world. The focus of this course will be on the economy and business culture of Germany which will be compared to the Irish business culture. The course will explore the skills necessary for a career in the German-Irish business world.

Course content:

Preparing for an international work environment

- analysis of skills Irish/German employers would expect from job applicants
- self-marketing: establishing a skills profile (hard, soft and transferable skills) and promoting it in the application process (written application and interview)
- introduction to cultural differences in German/Irish business style and etiquette

Opportunities and Challenges for Irish/German Businesses in the Global Market

- Globalisation & Investments (Ireland/Germany)
- Marketing and Global Branding
- The European Union: emerging markets and employment opportunities
- Finance & Taxation: challenges in a global crisis

Looking towards the Future

- Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) in business and learning
- Creativity & Innovation: Dublin & Berlin
- Economy & Ecology: investing in the environment
- Smart Economy: education industry and lifelong learning

Method of assessment: Presentation 40%. Course work 60%.

Course language: German

Core texts: in-house handouts and web-based resources on Blackboard.

German Theatre Production (2 hrs. per week)

Lecturer: Gabi Behrens.

Course description:

The German Department has a long tradition of bringing a German Play to the stage. The aim of this course is to prepare a popular German drama which will be performed in the Bank of Ireland Theatre in March 2012. Students will contribute to the performances in various ways, as actors, stage hands, lighting technicians, prompters, make-up artists, programme editors, costume designers etc. Final BA German students who choose this option will be assessed as detailed below. However the production is open to all students of German.

Participating in the performance of a play is an excellent way to improve rhetoric and language skills, but is also a valuable exercise in management and organization. Last but not least, students will acquire a deeper understanding of a work of literature.

Teaching and learning methods: the project requires regular and active student participation. Due to the practical nature of this course, a repeat option cannot be offered. Attendance and active participation are essential.

Language of instruction: German

Methods of assessment and examination: Contribution to the performance 60%, written work 40%.

Core texts: To be announced.

GR 340	German Cultural Studies IV
	Components:
	German Language Cinema 2 (optional, 50%)
	Medieval Literature (optional, 50%)
	German Business Studies in a Global Context (optional, 50%)
	German Theatre Production (optional, 50%)

See details under GR 339