



GR 141 1BC1 & 1BC3

FIRST YEAR COMMERCE WITH GERMAN

First year Commerce with German is available to

- **students who applied through the CAO for the B.Comm. (International) with German programme: entry requirement Higher C3**
- **students of the first year Commerce (general) programme. (Leaving Certificate German)**

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Lecturers: **Doris Devilly**
 German Language (general & Business German)
 Social & Economic Studies (Landeskunde/Wirtschaftskunde)

Vincent O’Connell
 Email: vincent.oconnell@nuigalway.ie
 Language Lab. & Conversation

Consultation: D. Devilly: Tuesdays 1-3 o’clock in AM 318

Academic calendar:

Semester I	2011/2012
Teaching begins	Monday, 12 th September, 2011
Teaching ends	Friday, 2 nd December, 2011
Semester II	
Teaching begins	Monday, 9 th January, 2012
Teaching ends	Friday, 30 th March, 2012
Study Week	Monday, 16 th April, 2012 – Thursday, 19 th April, 2012
Examinations begin	Friday, 20 th April 2012
Examinations end	Friday, 18 th May 2012

Course Outline:

6 contact hours per week (Semester 1 & 2) are made up of:

- *German Language I: general & business German* (3 hrs.)
- *Society, culture & economy in the German-speaking world* (1 hour)
- *Language & multimedia laboratory* (1 hour)
- *Conversation: role-plays & discussions* (1 hour)

Course Aims and Objectives:

Students will follow a course, which is designed to

- build and expand on the language skills they already possess
- develop the ability to express ideas and argue convincingly in oral and written German
- expand existing vocabulary and introduce new business terminology
- equip students with the linguistic skills necessary to work and live for a summer in a German-speaking environment
- facilitate through authentic course materials from German/Austrian newspapers and magazines a feeling for and the insight into the cultural and social issues currently discussed in Germany/Austria.
- use continuous assessment and regular feedback in order to encourage and motivate students to actively participate and engaged with their chosen language
- convey a general understanding of social, political, economic and cultural affairs in the German-speaking world

Learning Outcomes:

After the end of the academic year first year students should be able to

- understand and feel comfortable with the use of general structures of German grammar in oral and written expression
- make basic oral presentations in German on a variety of general and business-related topics
- form opinions and discuss basic general and business-related topics
- translate a variety of simple texts and grammatical structures into English and German
- analyse different types of texts in German and discuss text-related questions
- read and answer basic general and business correspondence, write a letter of application and a CV as well as compose argumentative and descriptive essays on a variety of topics
- use self-study and multimedia laboratory facilities for autonomous learning and project work
- have a basic understanding of the culture and civilisation in German-speaking countries
- relate to social and economic affairs in Germany

Learning and Teaching Methods:

The programme actively engages students in the learning process, encouraging student participation from the outset. Small class size, role-plays, group discussions,

presentations, project work and an open and student-centred learning approach facilitate a productive and communicative learning environment. The extensive use of authentic materials, such as newspaper and magazine articles, blogs and podcasts ensure the contemporary focus of the curriculum. Self-study and multimedia laboratories provide access to Internet resources and multimedia language applications.

The language of instruction and communication is predominantly German ensuring that students are from the beginning exposed to the target language of their choice. All students have access to the Virtual Learning Environment *Blackboard* where they can find announcements, assignments, lecture notes, websites, videos and audio materials as well as a discussion group.

Textbooks:

DaF kompakt A2	Lehrbuch & Arbeitsbuch	Klett	Semester 1
DaF kompakt B1	Lehrbuch & Arbeitsbuch	Klett	Semester 2
Einfach Grammatik A1 bis B1	Übungsgrammatik Deutsch	Langenscheidt	All year
Collins German/English dictionary <i>and/or</i> electronic dictionary (ask course lecturer for recommendations)	New Edition	Collins	All year

Classroom materials:

- Course materials and texts for Business German
(*handouts from course lecturer*)
- Authentic texts for reading and text analysis are used from the following sources (more links on *Blackboard*):
www.welt.de
www.sueddeutsche.de
www.focus.de
www.stern.de
www.goethe.de
www.kronen.at
www.dwelle.de
www.deutschland.de
- Multimedia Laboratory Materials:
CD-ROMs "Einblicke"
 Podcasts, blogs, YouTube videos as well audio materials & DVDs

Course elements:

- **Grammar:**
In first year, students will receive a detailed revision of all basic elements and structures of German grammar, syntax, punctuation and orthography up to level A2+ or lower B1. (CEFR)
- **Introduction to Business German:**
An introduction to Business German focusing on the topics, language, vocabulary and structures used in everyday business dealings in the German-speaking world.
- **Reading skills:**
Analysis of various types of texts and selective reading with prepared and authentic texts from newspapers, magazines and articles from the Internet. Introduction to surface, selective and detailed reading skills as well as business texts.
- **Writing skills:**
Introduction to various writing skills in the general and business context, e.g. informal and formal correspondence, essay and free composition writing on general and business-related topics, basic job applications etc.
- **Conversation:**
General conversation and discussions on a variety of topics like family & friends, student life, youth problems, work and finance, plans for the future, media and multimedia, social networking, travel in Europe etc.
Conversation classes are conducted in the form of role-plays, plenary discussions, games, quizzes and free discussion.
- **Presentations:**
Introduction to formal presentation skills:
In first semester, groups of 2-3 students work on a language project which they present in class.
In second semester, students give an individual class presentation on a cultural/business topic of their choice. Each presentation is followed by a question and answer session. All presentations are held in German.
- **Multimedia laboratory:**
Students work with audio and multimedia applications to perfect existing language skills and expand on newly acquired skills. The use of Web 1.0 (Internet) and Web 2.0 (blogs, podcasts, social networks) technologies also facilitate students to gain insight into cultural and social aspects of the German-speaking world as well as engage in autonomous learning.
- **Society, culture and economy in the German-speaking world:**
This module will introduce students to important aspects of German, Austrian and Swiss culture and society as well as analysing basic economic developments in the German-speaking world. It will also give a brief introduction to Liechtenstein.

Topics will include:

- First impressions:
An introduction to Germany/Austria/Switzerland/Liechtenstein
- German language history & linguistics
- Population structure and multiculturalism in Germany
- Festivals and holidays/traditions in Germany, Austria and Switzerland
- Living in Germany (travel, social life, accommodation, communication etc.)
- Educational systems and vocational training in the German-speaking world
- Arts and media (music, film, literature, news & popular media)
- Youth and sport cultures
- City portraits: Berlin, Munich, Vienna
- Germany's economy: historical background, business sectors, companies, products, import/export, SME's, banking & finance etc.

Exams and Assessments:

First year students take their German written and oral examinations at the end of the academic year (April-May 2012).

Continuous assessment throughout the academic year is a vital part of the course as well as grades awarded for attendance and homework/project work.

Allocation of marks:

Applied German Language Paper I (2 hrs. written exam)	30%	3 ECTS
Social & Economic German Paper II (2 hrs. written exam)	20%	2 ECTS
Oral Examination	20%	2 ECTS
Continuous Assessment	30%	3 ECTS

Continuous assessment:

Language tests (semester 1)	5%
Business German tests (semester 2)	5%
Oral presentation (semester 2)	5%
Aural tests (semester 1 & 2)	5%
Homework/project work & attendance (all classes)	10%

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 – therefore your personal attendance in class is of utmost importance. The Continuous Assessment Mark of 30% reflects this.