



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE

UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

**First Year Arts
Beginners German
Course Booklet**

2023-2024

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Language Lecturer: Mr. Vincent O'Connell, Email: vincent.oconnell@universityofgalway.ie

Please note: The modules in this course (GR1101 and GR1103) are **only for students with no previous knowledge of German.**

Essay Guidelines: All essays which form part of the assessment of any module within the BA German programme must adhere to the format and the referencing system laid out in the discipline's essay guidelines, available on the Discipline of German website (Section: Undergraduate Programmes).

Discipline of German website: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/german/>

Academic Year 2023 -2024

2023 (Semester 1)

Start of teaching for First Years

Monday 18th September

End of teaching all years

Friday 24th November

Study Week

Monday 27th November - Friday 1st December

Semester 1 Exams

Monday 4th – Friday 15th December

Christmas Holiday

Saturday 16th December

2024 (Semester 2)

Start of Teaching

Monday 8th January

End of Teaching

Thursday 28th March

Easter

Good Friday 29th March to Easter Monday 1st April

Field Trips

Tuesday 2nd April to Friday 5th April

Study Week

Monday 8th April to Friday 12th April

Semester 2 Exams

Monday 15th April – Wednesday 1st May

Autumn Repeat Exams

Tuesday, 6th August to Friday 16th August

Holidays

St. Brigid's Day: Monday 5th February 2024

Easter: Good Friday 29th March to Easter Monday 1st April 2024

Bank Holidays: Monday 30th October 2023 / Monday, 18th March 2024

Monday 6th May 2024/ Monday 3rd June 2024 / Monday 5th August 2024

Students must register for GR1101 and for GR1103.	
GR1101 German Language and Culture (Beginners) 15 ECTS	Semester 1 and Semester 2
GR1103 Skills for Studying German (Beginners) 5 ECTS	Semester 1 and Semester 2

Important notice for visiting students:

Visiting students wishing to take the module German Language and Culture (Beginners) should register for GR130 (Semester 1) and for GR131 (Semester 2).

GR1101 German Language and Culture (Beginners) (5 hours per week)
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Lecturer: Vincent O Connell

Course description: This course is specifically aimed at students with no previous knowledge of German. Students will acquire basic language skills and a broad insight into cultural aspects of the German-speaking countries. At the end of the course, students will be able to discuss familiar topics such as their hobbies and interests, their living situation, family and friends. They will also be able to write short postcards and e-mails and fill in basic forms in German. In Semester 1, language work in the multi-media laboratory will help students to improve their pronunciation and to gain confidence in their communicative skills.

In Semester 2, one class per week will be devoted to the study of literary texts. This class will focus on developing reading skills in German. Reading and discussion of short poetry and prose texts, mostly from the 20th and 21st centuries, will introduce students to various aspects of German literature.

Approach to learning and teaching: The GR1101 course follows an action-oriented, communicative approach in language learning and teaching. Students are encouraged to actively participate and interact to develop the full range of language skills - speaking, writing, reading, and listening - based on elementary grammatical structures. Students should spend a minimum of four hours per week practising outside of the classroom. The lecturer will provide exercises and learning strategies for self-conducted studying.

All content and grammatical progression comply with the requirements of level *A1* of the *Common European Framework of References for Languages*.

Assessment (Semester 1):

Written examination (GR1101-1) at the end of Semester 1: 30%

Oral examination and pronunciation test: 30%

Continuous assessment: 40% (weekly assignments and tests covering grammar, writing and reading comprehension)

Assessment (Semester 2):

Written examination (GR1101-2) at the end of Semester 2: 30%

Oral examination and pronunciation test: 30%

Literature test (in-class test): 20%

Continuous assessment: 20% (weekly assignments and tests covering grammar, writing and reading comprehension)

A language cannot be learned by proxy. Therefore your personal attendance in class is of utmost importance.

Core texts: *Menschen A1.1 Kursbuch* (ISBN 978-3193019011), *Menschen A1.1 Arbeitsbuch* (ISBN 978-3193119018), *Menschen Glossary* (ISBN 978-3-19-051901-9). The texts are available for purchase in the campus bookshop.

Note: It is obligatory to attend for all written, aural and oral examinations.

<p>GR1103 Skills for Studying German (Beginners) (1 hour per week)</p>

Lecturer: Tina-Karen Pusse

Language of instruction: English

Course description:

The course explores the basis for effective ways of studying in general and studying a foreign language and culture specifically.

In semester 1, the focus is on individual learning techniques and self-motivational skills, group learning, efficient exam preparation, memory and retention, tools for reading, speaking, writing and listening comprehension, basics of German grammar terminology and phonetics.

In semester 2, the focus is on enabling and encouraging students to interpret literature or other cultural products. It introduces relevant literary terms, reading strategies, narratology and genre theory. The final course segment introduces students to film analysis and aims to convey awareness regarding approach and terminology while discussing examples from German film history.

In both semesters, continuous engagement with course materials through an online learning journal is essential and will help to prepare for the in-class exam at the end of term.

Assessment (Semester 1):

Learning journal: 40%

In-class exam: 60%

Assessment (Semester 2):

Learning journal: 40%

In-class exam: 60%

Learning materials: Handouts, videos, online articles, provided in class.

Learning outcomes:

If you engage continuously with this class, you will find out which learning strategies come easier to you, and in which areas you will have to put in more work. You will develop professional study methods, as well as strategies to approach literary texts and films.