

German Studies

Course List

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Course Description

(Unless otherwise specified, all are 3-unit term courses of three hours of classwork per week.)

GER 1110

German Language: Beginners I

This course does not require any prior knowledge of German. As the first in a sequence of six courses, it lays the foundations for all further German language studies. It provides basic training in spoken German, emphasizing oral skills and listening comprehension. A general introduction to German culture and customs goes together with the language instruction.

GER 1120

Business German Right From the Start I

This course is designed for beginners' students interested in special language skills for professional purposes. It will proceed faster than the general language courses and concentrate strongly on language for business and commerce. Grammatical structures and vocabulary will be presented and practised through business-related situations, concentrating on oral expression and listening comprehension. Students are not expected to have any prior knowledge of German.

GER 1210

German Language: Beginners II

Continuation of GER 1110, putting emphasis on understanding and practice of everyday spoken German as used in different socio-cultural situations. Mastery of major sentence patterns. Prerequisite: GER 1110 or equivalent competence.

GER 1220

Business German Right From the Start II

Continuation of GER 1120. This course aims at developing written expression and reading comprehension. It concentrates on specialized vocabulary and stylistic features of German in the area of business and commerce. Oral communication skills will be further trained, emphasizing communicative strategies used in the professional environment. Prerequisite: GER 1120.

GER 1310

Summer Intensive German: Beginners Level

6 U (fee-based summer intensive language course)

This is a summer intensive German language course for beginners, covering full syllabus of GER 1110 and 1210. (Please read the Study Scheme Note.)

GER 2110

German Language: Intermediate I

Intermediate Language course as a continuation of the Beginners' level. Training in the four language skills - listening, speaking, reading and writing - with strong emphasis on developing a level of oral proficiency which allows the creative use of the language in a variety of uncomplicated communicative tasks and situations. Selected topics on various aspects of life in Germany will be included. Prerequisite: GER 1210 or 1310 or equivalent competence.

GER 2130

Culture and Society: The German Experience from a Cross-cultural Perspective

3 U; 2 Lect. 1 Tut.

Germany as a once divided and then unified nation with a complex history and rich culture continues to attract international interest. This course investigates trends and developments in contemporary German culture and society from a cross-cultural perspective: How Germany comes to terms with the history of Nazi dictatorship and World War II and how she copes with the repercussions of the unexpected unification will be highlighted through reference to comparable problems of selected Asian countries. The situation of young people and women in society, trends in popular culture, attitudes towards education, work ethics and other issues will be approached in the same way. Finally, the discussion will focus on the changes brought by processes of acculturation and globalization that will shape German society for the twenty-first century. The course contents will be illustrated by up-to-date audiovisual materials. No knowledge of German is required.

GER 2210

German Language: Intermediate II

Continuation of GER 2110. Prerequisite: GER 2110 or equivalent competence.

GER 2230

German Literature Appreciation

3 U; 2 Lect. 1 Tut.

This course is designed to introduce students to some most representative figures in German literature. Emphasis is to be placed on the critical and analytical reading of their major works in English or Chinese version.

GER 2310

Summer Intensive German: Intermediate Level

6 U (fee-based summer intensive language course)

This is a summer intensive German language course, covering full syllabus of GER 2110 and 2210. Prerequisite: GER 1210 or 1310 or equivalent competence. (Please read the Study Scheme Note.)

GER 3110

German Language: Advanced I

This course gives students a wider command of structure and vocabulary in both the spoken and the written language with emphasis on expression of personal opinion and argumentative strategies. Selected topics reflect aspects of contemporary German culture. Prerequisite: GER 2210 or 2310 or equivalent competence.

GER 3120

German Reading Skills

3 U; 2 Classwork 1 Tut.

This course aims at strengthening the students' confidence in reading authentic texts in German without having always to refer to dictionaries. Effective reading methods will be presented and applied to texts on current social and cultural affairs, with a strong emphasis on German-Chinese cross-cultural issues. Based on the topics presented in texts, oral and written expression will be further developed. Prerequisite: GER 2210 or 2310 or equivalent competence.

GER 3210

German Language: Advanced II

Continuation of GER 3110. Prerequisite: GER 3110.

GER 3220

German Conversation

3 U; 2 Classwork 1 Tut.

This course aims to enhance both listening and speaking ability in German. Selected student-oriented stimuli and topics (social and contemporary issues and personal views) will help to practise the expression and exchange of ideas. Classroom activities may include dialogue, narration, speech, discussion and debate in direct approach or by using some means of multimedia. Prerequisite: GER 2210 or 2310 or equivalent competence.

Study Scheme

Minor Programme

Students are required to complete a minimum of 18 units of courses listed below:

(i)	Required Courses:	
	(GER 1110 or 1120) and (GER 1210 or 1220), or 1310	6 units
	GER 2110 and 2210, or 2310	6 units
(ii)	Elective Courses:	6 units
	6 units of other courses offered by the programme	
<hr style="width: 100%;"/>		Total: 18 units

Note: For students who have taken GER 1110 or 2110 and enrol in the summer intensive course GER 1310 or 2310, only the units of the summer intensive course will be counted towards the requirements for graduation.