

SCHOOL OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

GERMAN

The B.A. Major in German provides students with a comprehensive knowledge of both spoken and written German. In addition to the acquisition of these linguistic skills students will be introduced to a wide range of aspects of contemporary German society and culture through the study of numerous multimedia materials and documents in the target language that will be included in the advanced courses in area studies, translation, linguistics and literature. The German programme is offered both as a major and a minor.

All German Major Students are encouraged to attend an intensive summer language course (**GRMN3119. Overseas immersion language course – German**) of about 4 weeks' duration at a university in Germany during the summer or winter between their 2nd and 3rd year and successful completion of such a course at the appropriate level will count as 6 credits towards their major requirements. Longer stays of one to two semesters are also encouraged and can be arranged through the German Programme.

In order to major in German, students must initially complete two introductory courses, i.e. **GRMN1001** (6 credits) and **GRMN1002** (6 credits). In their second, third and fourth years of study, they must take a total of at least 54 credits of courses of which up to 6 credits may be from a list of approved non-GRMN courses. These courses should normally be distributed as follows:

- 24 credits from courses at level 2XXX, of which 12 credits must be from the core language courses **GRMN2001** and **GRMN2002**.
- 30 credits from courses at level 3XXX or 4XXX, of which 12 credits must be from the core language courses **GRMN3001** (6 credits) and **GRMN3002** (6 credits) and 6 credits from **GRMN3022**, a capstone course designed to allow the application of disciplinary knowledge and principles acquired in the first, second and third years.

The BA in German combines well with all other majors in the Faculty of Arts, in particular with courses and programmes on linguistics, literature, translation and area studies such as European Studies. Students from other faculties such as Business and Economics, Education, Engineering, Science, Social Sciences, etc. might find the programme useful to widen their international outlook and intercultural communication skills and to enhance their chances for postgraduate studies at an international level.

Major (72 credits)

To complete a major in German, students are expected to take a total of 72 credits with the following components:

- **Prerequisite courses (12 credits):**
GRMN1001. German I.1
GRMN1002. German I.2
These courses will be offered to undergraduates in Year 1 or 2.
- **Any 6-credit Arts Faculty introductory course to be taken from outside the major in German.**
- **Core courses (24 credits):**
GRMN2001. German II.1
GRMN2002. German II.2
GRMN3001. German III.1
GRMN3002. German III.2

These courses will be offered to undergraduates in Year 2, 3 and 4.

- **Elective courses (24 credits):**

At least four 6-credit elective courses from the list below

These courses will be offered to undergraduates in Year 2, 3 and 4. Up to 6 credits may be from a list of approved non-GRMN courses. Students are advised to check with the offering departments about prerequisites and the availability of these courses.

- **Capstone experience course (6 credits):**

GRMN3022. German Project (capstone experience)

This course will normally be offered to undergraduates in Year 4.

Minor (36 credits)

To complete a minor in German, students are expected to take a total of 36 credits with the following components:

- **Prerequisite courses (12 credits):**

GRMN1001. German I.1

GRMN1002. German I.2

These courses will be offered to undergraduates in Year 1 or 2.

- **Core courses (24 credits):**

GRMN2001. German II.1

GRMN2002. German II.2

GRMN3001. German III.1

GRMN3002. German III.2

These courses will be offered to undergraduates in Year 2, 3 and 4.

Core Courses

GRMN1001. German I.1 (6 credits)

This beginners' course does not require any previous knowledge of German. Students will acquire basic linguistic and communicative skills in German in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Apart from their regular language classes, students will be taught in small tutorial groups to further enhance their language skills.

Prerequisite: Nil

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN1002. German I.2 (6 credits)

This course is a continuation of **German I.1**. It combines linguistic and communicative skills in German with a balanced emphasis on speaking, listening, reading and writing. Small tutorial groups, which will be arranged in addition to the regular language classes, will provide the students with an environment highly conducive to practicing their language skills. The course will also encourage students to exploit resources available on the *Internet* and in the SMLC's self-practice facilities (the *Practice Lab*) which provide a wide range of materials for language practice, such as audio and video discs, CD-ROMs and computer programmes.

Prerequisite: **GRMN1001. German I.1** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN2001. German II.1 (6 credits)

This course builds on the first-year work. It offers a balanced range of the various language skills through further syntax acquisition: reading and text analysis, listening comprehension, composition, translation, oral expression and communicative skills. A wide variety of teaching techniques is used. Small tutorial groups are arranged throughout the semester to optimise opportunities for interactive practice. All students continuing their studies in the third year are strongly encouraged to attend a summer intensive immersion course in Germany.

Prerequisite: **GRMN1002. German I.2** or comparable level acquired elsewhere. \

Assessment: 100% coursework.

GRMN2002. German II.2 (6 credits)

This course is a continuation of **GRMN2001. German II.1**. It offers a balanced range of the various language skills through further syntax acquisition: reading and text analysis, listening comprehension, composition, translation, oral expression and communicative skills. A wide variety of teaching techniques is used. Small tutorial groups are arranged throughout the semester to optimise opportunities for interactive practice. All students continuing their studies in the third year are strongly encouraged to attend a summer intensive immersion course in Germany.

Prerequisite: **GRMN2001. German II.1** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

GRMN3001. German III.1 (6 credits)

This course is a continuation of **GRMN2002. German II.2**. It offers a balanced range of language skills and furthers exploration of the various linguistic aspects of the language. Special attention will be given to language registers and patterns, specific terminology and structures used in a variety of fields (literature, press, business documents, etc.) to enable students to communicate at an advanced level in German. As in **German II.2**, small tutorial groups will be arranged to optimise opportunities for interactive practice.

Prerequisite: **GRMN2002. German II.2** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

GRMN3002. German III.2 (6 credits)

This course is a continuation of **GRMN3001. German III.1**. It offers a balanced range of language skills and furthers exploration of the various linguistic aspects of the language. Special attention will be given to language registers and patterns, specific terminology and structures used in a variety of fields (literature, press, business documents, etc.) to enable students to communicate at an advanced level in German. As in **German III.1**, small tutorial groups will be arranged to optimise opportunities for interactive practice.

Prerequisite: **GRMN3001. German III.1** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Capstone Experience Course**GRMN3022. German project (capstone experience) (6 credits)**

In this course students will study in-depth an approved topic of their choice in German. They will present their findings to their peers and teachers and submit a written project of around 4,000 words in German at the end of the course. Students wishing to enroll in this course are encouraged to make use of their stay in Germany to collect materials for their project and are strongly advised to attend the pre-course meeting.

Prerequisite: **GRMN3001. German III.1.**

Co-requisite: **GRMN3002. German III.2** or comparable level acquired elsewhere

Assessment: Coursework assessment shall count 100% of the grade awarded for German project

Elective Courses

GRMN2021. Chinese-German translation (6 credits)

This course is an introduction to translating texts from German to Chinese and from Chinese to German using a variety of texts written in different styles. It will provide students with intermediate level translation skills, a further understanding of German grammar and additional information on contemporary German topics. Special attention will be given to the particular problems or common errors arising from differences in grammar and other influences from the students' mother tongue. Students will practise additional structures and texts gradually. This is a practical rather than a theoretical course for translation. Students will be expected to do practical work in class as well as at home.

Prerequisite: **GRMN1002. German I.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN2023. Contemporary German society in the media (6 credits)

This course will provide students with background information on various aspects of post war Germany. Students will be asked to analyse significant issues in German society over the past 60 years, such as the American influence on German society, the changing role of women, or the impact of foreign immigrants on German society, by studying authentic materials in German (advertisements, TV commercials, newspaper texts, songs, film clips and movies).

Prerequisite: **GRMN1002. German I.2.**

Co-requisite: **GRMN2001. German II.1** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN2024. Producing German texts (6 credits)

This course will provide students with the skills needed to produce texts of different styles in German such as postcards, personal letters, formal letters, short essays (descriptive / argumentative), or short stories. The focus will be strongly on practical work. Students are expected to submit a piece of writing (150 - 300 words, depending on the type of writing) on a weekly or biweekly basis.

Each session will be divided into two parts:

Part I will be a discussion and analysis of texts prepared by the students following the introduction of the topic in the previous session. The discussion will focus both on the structure of the writings and as well as on grammatical and lexical correctness.

Part II will introduce the topic of the following session. Students will be given advice on how to approach the topic and how to structure their texts.

This course is taught in German supplemented by English.

Prerequisite: **GRMN1002. German I.2**
 Co-requisite: **GRMN2001. German II.1 or GRMN2002. German II.2** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.
 Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN2027. Understanding Germany and her German-speaking neighbours (6 credits)

The course is designed to give students a better understanding of Germany and her German-speaking neighbours by providing students with an introduction to topics that relate to major current events and developments in these countries from the diversified political and social to cultural aspects. Topics covered include Germany's political system, contemporary life in unified Germany, family and social life, German customs and traditions, and multicultural aspects of German society. Students will work individually, in pairs and in groups. They will present the result of their work to their fellow students for peer review. This involves project work and class work. They will be instructed on the use of new media to allow practice and improvement of both oral and reading skills.

During the course, students will be required to complete in-class tests, submit a research paper and conduct a presentation on a topic of their choice written in German from a list of topics. This course will also give an overview of other German speaking countries. Classes will be conducted in German and English. Guest lecturers will be invited to give talks on selected topics. Students will be given the opportunity to discuss and raise in-depth questions during the talks.

Prerequisite: **GRMN2001. German II.1**
 Co-requisite: **GRMN2002. German II.2** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.
 Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN2028. How to say it in German – Phonological and prosodic features of contemporary German (6 credits)

Communication difficulties often result from the incorrect use of linguistic expressions and a lack of knowledge regarding common phrases of a foreign language. This course is therefore designed to teach students a greater linguistic repertoire and understanding of prosodic features. The course will also enable students to improve their pronunciation and intonation skills.

Based on the knowledge and skills acquired during their previous studies, students will learn new linguistic features as well as reinforce and strengthen their already existing linguistic knowledge. Particular difficulties in German language usage which often may lead to confusion in the communication process will be discussed so that students will be able to identify these phenomena and develop adequate problem-solving strategies.

As communication difficulties arise not only due to incorrect use of linguistic expressions, but also through mispronunciation and inadequate use of prosodic features, the second focus in this course will therefore be on an intensive training of correct pronunciation and prosody. In this regard this course will provide students with further opportunities to improve their reception and production of German sounds and enhance their proficiency in the spoken language. Participants will be introduced to more advanced notions of German phonetics and phonology. Discussion topics concerning this matter will cover specific phonological phenomena and prosodic features in German, along with some paralinguistic features. Emphasis will be placed on various language discourses and registers in use in contemporary German.

Prerequisite: **GRMN1002. German I.2**
 Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN3023. English-German translation (6 credits)

In this course, students practice translating from English to German using a variety of texts written in different genres. These texts refer to contemporary life in Germany, other German-speaking countries and Hong Kong and usually deal with topics like culture, politics, and social life. The course will be divided into two parts: Part I will focus on the analysis of the major structural, lexical and semantic differences between German and English. Part II will concentrate on translating a variety of text genres from English to German in order to provide students with information on contemporary German topics and life-style.

Students will work individually, in pairs and in groups. They will take an active role in class by presenting the result of their work to their fellow students for peer review.

Prerequisite: **GRMN3001. German III.1**

Co-requisite: **GRMN3002. German III.2** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN3026. Fairytale princes, nature lovers and revolutionaries – The German Romantics (6 credits)

This course explores one of the most popular periods in German literature - German Romanticism. While this period is well known for its emotional and imaginative descriptions of nature and expressions of feelings, many of its writers also had been deeply affected by the historical, political and social events of their times. The course begins with providing a short overview over the literary and historical developments leading up to and following this period, followed by an in-depth study of authentic texts from various authors representing the two main streams of German Romanticism and it concludes by tracing Romantic influences in modern society.

Prerequisite: **GRMN2002. German II.2**

Co-requisite: **GRMN3001** or **GRMN3002** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN3027. German for business (6 credits)

This course is designed to prepare students for their future career at a German-speaking company or institution. It will be divided in two parts: Part I will equip students with the necessary communication, reading and writing skills in order to apply for a job/internship. Visits to German, Austrian or Swiss companies and institutions will be organized. During the reading week, students will gain an insight into the day-to-day work activities of a visited company. Part II will focus on the students' sharing experiences on the business entity. This includes analysis of company profiles. In addition, students will design a personal portfolio which will include a selection of their business writing. Guests will be invited to give students a deeper understanding of the differences between the working cultures of German and Chinese speakers. Classes will be conducted in German.

Prerequisite: **GRMN2002. German II.2**

Co-requisite: **GRMN3001. German III.1** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN3028. Kino! Studies in German cinema (6 credits)

The goal of this course is to analyze German cinema from the first major German expressionist film *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (*Das Kabinett des Dr. Caligari*) to the present time within a cultural and social framework so as to gain insight into some of the major shifts in life and culture in Germany.

Prerequisite: **GRMN2002. German II.2** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN3029. History of the German language and German linguistics (6 credits)

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the major fields of history of the German language and German linguistics as they apply to Standard German. It will introduce students to the broad outlines of the historical development of the German language from the earliest times until the modern period. It will look at some of the key sound changes and at the grammatical developments which give the modern language its distinctive features. There will also be discussions on regional variation within the German-speaking world. The linguistic aspect of this course will cover the traditional branches of linguistic theory: phonology, the study of the sounds and sound systems; morphology, the study of word structure, and syntax, as well as the study of sentence structure.

Prerequisite: **GRMN2001. German II.1** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN3031. Internship for students of German (6 credits)

This course offers students an internship learning experience by allowing them to take their classroom knowledge into the community. Students will have an opportunity for experiential learning, earn credits towards their degree, and engage in a rich experience while working in an organisation that demonstrates a real impact on society. The internship experience draws on the German Programme coursework to encourage students to apply their classroom knowledge to work in organisations that demonstrate the use of German in the community. Internships may be conducted at any point between the summer before a student enters Year 3 and the second semester of Year 4.

The duration of the internship will depend on the arrangement made between the student and the organisation, but should involve approx. 120 contact hours of committed service for the host organisation. Internships can be conducted during the semester (e.g. 8 hours/ week) or at full-time equivalent during the lecture-free period. Students should spend at least 15 working days with the organisation.

Staffing resources and operations mechanisms allowing, students will be assessed by the organisation contact throughout the duration of the internship and will also, if possible, receive a letter of reference from the organisation at the end of the internship. A written report (800-1,000 words) with a description, critical assessment of and reflection on the internship experience, will be assessed by the course supervisor at HKU.

Prerequisite: **GRMN2002. German II.2** or **GRMN3001. German III.1** or **GRMN3002. German III.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework (graded on a distinction/ pass/ fail basis)

GRMN3032. From Goethe to Grönemeyer – German reading course (6 credits)

This course is offered to students who have attained an advanced level of German in order to further enhance their language skills and extend their knowledge of the German-speaking countries through an analysis of various forms of literary texts in German. Students will analyze and discuss various texts written in different styles such as poems, excerpts from plays, short stories, fairy tales, and song lyrics. The teaching materials and the medium of instruction will be German.

Prerequisite: **GRMN2002. German II.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN3033. Gender equality in German-speaking countries and the European Union (6 credits)

Gender equality has been a core value in most of the developed countries worldwide. In the European Union, equality between men and women is considered a fundamental right. This course offers an overview of the situation in gender equality in German-speaking countries and in major countries of the European Union, in historical and cross-cultural perspectives. The first part of the course includes an introduction of key developments and impacts of gender equality. In the second part of the course students will look at the current gender situation and issues in contemporary society. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to compare the gender challenges in the covered areas with their own country.

Prerequisite: **GRMN2002. German II.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN3119. Overseas immersion language course – German (6 credits)

This course provides an opportunity to study German and to experience linguistic and cultural immersion in a partner institution located in a German-speaking country. The course usually takes place in the summer months (e.g., June, July and/or August) (courses may also be offered in the winter break) and the duration of the stay may vary from two weeks to one month, but must include at least 60 hours of formal class tuition. Students typically take part in this course after the completion of their second year of language studies at HKU. The course is designed to build on and to reinforce the language competence acquired during the previous years of study as well as to prepare the participants for more advanced work in the final years of the programme.

Prerequisite: **GRMN2002. German II.2** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework. In order to be granted credits for this course, participants have to ensure that the course builds on their previous work done at HKU and is offered at the A2 level or above of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFRL) and, after completion of the course, students have (1) to produce a formal statement of attendance and certified transcript bearing mention of the final grade(s) obtained from the host institution, as well as the level attained according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages; (2) to provide a portfolio including i. a learning journal written in German approximately 1,000 words relating to daily class activities and, ii. samples of assessment (written assignments, tests, examinations, projects etc.) along with evaluation results.

GRMN4003. Deutsch aktuell – current issues, films and music in German (6 credits)

This course will further develop the language skills students have acquired during their previous language studies to further increase their proficiency level in German. The focus of this course is on current affairs in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland, including politics, lifestyle, music, and film. Students will also compare and contrast how media in countries other than Austria, Germany, and Switzerland, present the countries in focus. The medium of instruction and most of the materials used will be in German.

Prerequisite: **GRMN3002. German III.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN4004. Intercultural communication German-Chinese (6 credits)

To communicate and work within diverse cultural environments and to operate successfully in today's increasingly globalized diverse world, students not only need the required language skills, but they also

need to be culturally sensitive and competent. This course will provide students with knowledge, social skills and appropriate attitudes to improve communication with individuals from other cultures. It will help students to develop intercultural awareness and competence for communicating with speakers from German-speaking countries.

Prerequisite: **GRMN3002. German III.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN4005. Advanced Chinese-German translation (6 credits)

This is a course for translating texts with complex structures between German and Chinese using a variety of texts written in different styles at a more advanced and detailed level. It will provide students with advanced level translation skills and a further understanding of German grammar and syntax. The course will also take text linguistics into account that deals with the interactional, communicative context of the texts, rather than just a sentence or word. Students will practise additional structures and texts gradually and learn about the stylistic differences of various fields (newspaper articles, literary texts, business correspondence and documents, etc.).

Prerequisite: **GRMN3002. German III.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

Approved non-GRMN elective courses:

Please note that these courses may have prerequisites. Students should also confirm the availability of these courses with the respective departments.

- EUST2010. European identity (6 credits)
- EUST2012. Problems of contemporary European politics and society (6 credits)
- EUST2015. From cinema to society: Understanding Europe through film (6 credits)
- EUST2022. European transitions – Germany and Central Europe after the Second World War (6 credits)
- EUST2030. The modern imagination in Europe (6 credits)
- EUST3010. European political and economic institutions and processes (6 credits)
- EUST3011. European values in conflict (6 credits)
- EUST3012. The EU as a global actor and EU-China relations (6 credits)
- EUST3015. The dark side of European civilization: The Holocaust (6 credits)
- EUST3020. The making of the West: From Descartes to Rorty (6 credits)
- HIST2073. Prussia in the age of absolutism and reform, 1648-1815 (6 credits)
- HIST2076. Germany and the Cold War (6 credits)
- HIST2086. Bismarck: The Iron Chancellor (6 credits)
- HIST2096. The history of foreign business in modern China, 1800-1949 (6 credits)
- HIST2125. Hitler's Germany (6 credits)