

First year – Department of German Language

Mission Statement

The programme of study offered by the Department trains teachers of German as a foreign language in Kurdistan and leads to the degree Bachelor of Arts in German as a Foreign Language ("Deutsch als Fremdsprache", DaF). Programme graduates will be competent in the German language and familiar with major cultural issues of the German-speaking countries. Students will also be prepared to act as so-called "cultural mediators" in a wide range of contexts. The programme covers both theoretical and practical contents in the field of study. This includes language training as well as training in Scholarly and Research Work, German Cultural Studies, Literature, Film and Media Studies, (Applied) Linguistics, Didactics, Methods and Methodology, Testing and Evaluation, amongst

German 1: Text Comprehension

This course prepares students to comprehend texts in order to access and use information (within the texts). The main focus of this course is to develop and improve students' reading skills. The teaching of general text competences aims to enable students to communicate with the help of written information. They will be familiarized with certain text types and its distinctive linguistic features. The course provides students with techniques and strategies that will allow them to understand and make use of specific contents, topics and structures of written material. Familiarization with various text types, reading goals and reading styles (global, selective, detailed reading) will help to create a basis for academic reading.

German 1: Oral skills

The main focus of this course consists in developing students' listening comprehension and oral communication. As a first step, students shall be enabled to communicate with others about common and general topics. Building on this, students will develop discursive strategies for everyday communication as well as relevant communicative routines.

By the end of the course, successful participants will be able to participate in familiar communicative situations without previous preparation. At the same time, they will be able to use a range of simple linguistic structures.

German 1: Writing skills

This course enables students to express themselves and to communicate in writing. Students will be prepared to write texts on familiar and routine matters and are familiarized with short authentic and auto-biographical texts. Four functions allocated to writing are at the center of this course: a) writing as a tool of communication (e.g. e-mails), b) writing for memorising information (e.g. memo), c) writing as

a tool to express themselves (e.g. diary), d) writing to learn (e.g. vocabulary). Strategies and the activation of existing communication resources play a major role in increasing/improving students' writing competence at a beginner's level and are fostered accordingly.

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to demonstrate that they have developed basic writing skills that enable them to write simple phrases and sentences linked with simple connectors. They will be able to write about everyday aspects of their environment as well as briefly and simply describe events, past activities and personal experiences.

German 1: Linguistic Structures

The specific focus of this general language course is linguistic structures. As such, the aim of the course is to foster both the development of implicit grammatical knowledge as well as knowledge about linguistic structures. Furthermore, the course also aims to prepare students to produce correct and meaningful structures in communicative contexts.

By the end of the course, participants will be able to demonstrate that they have developed linguistic routines to communicate in everyday situations. They should also be able to show that they can make use of various linguistic structures, manage new and non-prepared communicative situations and express themselves with regard to abstract issues and topics. Students will also be familiarized with key terms and basic grammatical concepts of the German language.

Core Curriculum

- English Language 1
- Kurdology
- Academic Debate
- Computer Skills