

Second year – Department of German Language

German 2: Text Comprehension

This course prepares students to effectively comprehend texts of various kinds (factual, evaluatory, literary) at an advanced beginner's and intermediate level. The main focus of this course is to improve students' reading skills. Students will be progressively guided to autonomously read, understand and evaluate different (factual and literary) texts related to their interests and to their field of study. To this purpose, students will be familiarized with different text types comprising different functions, including informative, persuasive, directive and argumentative functions, and their distinctive linguistic features. Texts can be taken from different resources including easy-to-read newspapers and journals or appropriate sources from the internet. Reading strategies and the activation of existing communicative resources play a major role in the development of students' reading competence. Therefore, the course also aims to expand and advance the students' range of strategies for before, during and after reading (e.g. activation of prior knowledge, using text links, answering questions about the text). This creates to a sound basis for academic reading in the content-and-language integrated courses in the 2nd year and the content courses in the 3rd year of study.

German 2: Oral Skills

The main focus of this course is the development of students' listening comprehension and oral communication. The aim of this course is to enable students to communicate with others on a basic level about common and general topics, and, building on this, to develop students' communicative skills so that they will be able to master everyday communication and use relevant routines.

By the end of the course, participants should be able to show that they can understand the main points when listening to clearly pronounced standard spoken German covering familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure etc. Furthermore, participants should be able to demonstrate that they can use a repertoire of frequently used phrases/ speech acts correctly in familiar situations. To consolidate and further develop these skills, students will discuss topics in simulated talk shows or role-plays in the classroom.

German 2: Writing Skills

This course enables students to express themselves and to communicate in German using written text. Students are encouraged to write simple connected texts on topics which are familiar or of personal interest, using a wider range of connectors and structuring their texts appropriately (e.g. by following a chronological and/or logical order). Moreover, students are enabled to produce different types of texts such as personal notes, informal letters, creative and imaginative texts.

As in "German 1: Writing Skills", writing strategies and the activation of existing communicative resources play a major role in this course and are fostered accordingly. Students are enabled to plan,

execute, monitor, evaluate, and, if necessary, modify their own writing process. By the end of the course, they should be able to show that they have developed writing skills that will enable them to start writing short texts related to their closer environment.

German 2: Linguistic Structures

This is a general language course with a specific focus on linguistic structures. It complements the second year course "Introduction to Linguistics" by fostering the development of implicit grammatical knowledge, i.e. the ability to speak and write in German with adequate grammatical accuracy. Therefore, authentic language tasks that promote the understanding and the active use of grammatical structures in typical communicative situations are at the heart of the course. Although some technical linguistic terms are used in class to introduce new concepts and categories, the focus is on acquiring knowledge about selected grammatical phenomena more implicitly and unconsciously.

At the end of the course, students should be able to show that they have acquired a repertoire of frequently used phrases and linguistic structures that they can use reasonably accurately in familiar situations. They are expected to display a good command of German grammatical structures in general to express their ideas comprehensibly, even though grammatical errors may still occur.

Introduction to Linguistics

This course promotes both the acquisition of content knowledge in the academic field "Linguistics" and the development of the target language competency. The principal aim of this course is to develop students' explicit grammatical knowledge, i.e. meta-linguistic knowledge about selected grammatical phenomena of German. Based on the grammatical knowledge already acquired in practical language classes, students are provided with the tools necessary to analyze German grammatical structures on a meta-linguistic level and compare them to other languages such as English and/or Kurdish. Meta-linguistic knowledge is taught in a way that also fosters the acquisition of implicit grammatical competence.

By the end of the course, students should be able to demonstrate that they are familiar with key terms and basic linguistic concepts of German grammar, analyze linguistic structures accordingly, and have acquired reading comprehension competencies with more accessible linguistic texts and descriptions.

Introduction to German Cultural Studies

This course offers an introduction to and familiarization with selected topics and current discourses in the German-speaking countries and the development of the target language competency. It provides an insight into social, historical and political developments in Germany, the German-speaking countries and Europe. Topics covered during the course include: 1. The Individual and Society, 2. History and Responsibility, 3. Politics in a Democracy.

Use is made of current materials and topics that are up-to-date and relevant to the students' interests and the course of study. The students and their personal experiences and reflections when dealing with

current discourses are in the centre of attention, rather than pure facts and data. A multi-perspective and critical view on topics and discourses is presented and discussed in class. This will help to sensitize students to different cultural concepts and cultural diversity, not only amongst countries but also amongst groups of people within a society. Step by step, students shall be enabled to handle content independently and critically. Furthermore, with the help of the offered topics the language competencies of the students will be developed and consolidated.

Working with films and texts

This course provides an introduction to German film and different types of texts. The students work with a diversity of (authentic) materials such as literary and non-literary texts, audio and audio-visual texts as well as pictures and sound. Students will be familiarized with aesthetic uses of language. They will get to know different types of texts and media in German language. Students will be encouraged to work creatively with them. For this purpose, a diversity of creative tasks will be offered during the course, such as research online, listen to audio-materials, watch films, write texts etc. In addition, the focus of this course is to improve students' reading and listening skills, as well as audio-visual comprehension. The cultural aspect of films and texts is also a supplement to the course "Introduction to German cultural studies".

Core Curriculum

- English Language 2