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**First Year Arts**

**Beginners German**

**Course Booklet**

**2025-2026**

**First Year Co-ordinator**: To be confirmed

**Language Lecturer**: Mr. Vincent O’Connell, Room AMB-2005

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**Head of Discipline:** Dr. Deirdre Byrnes, Room AMB-2003

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

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|  | **Academic Year 2025-2026** |
| **2025 (Semester 1)** |  |
| Start of teaching – 1st years | Monday 8th September |
| End of teaching all years | Friday 28th November |
| Study Week | Monday 1st December - Friday 5th December |
| Semester 1 Exams | Monday 8th December – Friday 19th December |
| Christmas Holidays | Start Saturday 20th December |
| **2026 (Semester 2)** |  |
| Start of Teaching | Monday 12th January |
| End of Teaching | Thursday 2nd April |
| **Easter** | **Good Friday 3rd April to Easter Monday 6th April** |
| Field Trips | Tuesday 7th April to Friday 10th April |
| Study Week | Monday 13th April to Friday 17th April |
| Semester 2 Exams | Tuesday 21st April – Friday 8th May |
| Autumn Repeat Exams | Tuesday 4th August to Friday 14th August |
| **Holidays** | **Easter: Good Friday 3rd April to Easter Monday 6th April** |
|  | **Bank Holidays: Monday 27th October 2025/ Tuesday, 17th March 2026/ Monday 4th May 2026/ Monday 1st June 2026 / Monday 3rd August 2026** |

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

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| **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 GR1101 German Language and Culture (Beginners) should register for GR130 (Semester 1) and for GR131 (Semester 2).

**Important information about in-house assessments**:

Both GR1101 and GR1103 contain graded in-class tests. **A medical certificate or the approval of an Extenuating Circumstance is required for a student to be able to sit the in-class test at a later date**. More information regarding the Extenuating Circumstance Scheme can be found here: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/colleges-and-schools/arts-social-sciences-and-celtic-studies/student-information/studentformsandlinks/>

**GR1101 German Language and Culture (Beginners) (5 hours per week)**

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 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 learning.

All content and grammatical progression comply with the requirements of level A1of the *Common European Framework of References for Languages*.

Core texts:

*Menschen A1.1 Kursbuch* and *Menschen A1.1 Arbeitsbuch* for Semester 1

*Menschen A1.2 Kursbuch* and *Menschen A1.2 Arbeitsbuch* for Semester 2

*Menschen Glossary*

The texts are available for purchase in the campus bookshop.

Assessment (Semester 1):

Written examination (GR1101-1) at the end of Semester 1: 50%

Oral examination and listening test: 25%

Continuous assessment: 25% (weekly assignments and tests covering grammar, writing and reading comprehension)

Assessment (Semester 2):

Written examination (GR1101-2) at the end of Semester 2: 50%

Oral examination and pronunciation recording: 15%

Literature test (in-class test): 10%

Continuous assessment: 25% (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.

**GR1103 Skills for Studying German (Beginners) (1 hour per week)**

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, and the 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

Learning outcomes:

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

**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).