



German as a New Minor Subject

Details for the Academic Year 26/27

Why take this New Minor Subject?

German is spoken by some 100 million Europeans. To study German at an in-depth level is to order your very own passport to possibility. Not alone will you be highly employable in Ireland, the EU and further afield, you will also see the world around you differently.

Employers value the language skills of German graduates, and their ‘transferable skills’: the creativity, confidence, and sensitivity which marks the advanced linguist, the maturity and flexibility that comes from engaging with another culture, and from experience gained abroad. Recent graduates work for Google, Deutsche Bank, and Enterprise Ireland, also in telecoms, IT, education, public service, the media, law, and in universities in Ireland, Europe, and North America.

English may be the language of Shakespeare, but German is the language of Freud and Marx and some of the most influential ideas of our own time. The German-speaking world has produced thinkers, artists and innovators of astonishing brilliance and impact. It also inflicted on Europe the evilest regime it has ever seen—followed by the most profound reflection on that awful fact. All of this makes German a fascinating language to learn and a fascinating subject to study.

If you have completed German to post-Leaving Certificate (or equivalent), with us you will acquire advanced competence and fluency, spoken and written, in the German language. You will also develop reading and communication skills alongside methods of research and analysis in literature, history, culture, film, and society of the German-speaking countries. If you are interested in stretching your horizons, habits and hopes; if you are curious about the relationship between who we are and how we speak; if you want to understand the magic that can happen when cultures meet; if you consider literature, film and history all part of our human make-up... then German as a New Minor Subject at Trinity could be just for you.

[Please note that if you have not engaged with German formally for a year or more, we would highly recommend that you refresh your knowledge of the language before starting NMS in MT. For example, you might spend the summer in the German-speaking lands and / or take a refresher course].

What will I learn?

Year 1: The language programme builds on the written, oral, and aural skills you acquired at school and develops fluency and accuracy in expression. Literary studies introduce you to key aspects of modern German literature, and to reading and analysing literary texts in German.

Year 2: In addition to language classes, you choose two further modules from a range of seminars with a literary, filmic, linguistic, cultural or historical focus. These can include seminars on German and European Cultural History; German Literary History from its beginnings to the early 21st century; German-Jewish literary and cultural history from the early 20th century to the turn of the millennium; Franz Kafka; German Applied Linguistics; and themes from 20th century and contemporary German and Austrian literature.

Year 3: In addition to language classes, you choose two further modules from a range of seminars with a literary, filmic, linguistic, cultural or historical focus. These can include seminars on avant-garde literature and culture, such as Dada and Expressionism; Vampirism in literature and culture; boredom in contemporary capitalism; German literary history; German Applied Linguistics; and themes from 20th century German and Austrian literature.

What will I do?

First Year /Senior Fresh [20 ECTS]

GRU1100Y – German Language 1 MT + HT [10 ECTS] core compulsory; Contact Hours: 33 hours per term [3 hrs pw].

GRU1102Y – Introduction to German Literature [10 ECTS] core compulsory; Contact Hours: 22 hours per semester [2 hrs pw].

Second Year / Junior Sophister [10-20 ECTS]

If you select Major with Minor exit pathway:

GRU2200Y – German Language 2 MT + HT [10 ECTS] core compulsory; Contact Hours: 22 hours per semester [2 hrs pw].

Plus two seminars [each weighted at 5 ECTS] chosen from a range of modules with a literary, historical, filmic, linguistic or cultural focus. Seminars offered by the Department in recent years include German Cultural History; German Literary History; Franz Kafka; Dislocation and Identity in Modern German-Jewish Literature; (Inter)Cultural and Plurilingual Competences for Study Abroad.

If you select Single Honors exit pathway:

GRU2200Y – German Language 2 MT + HT [10 ECTS] core compulsory; Contact Hours: 22 hours per semester [2 hrs pw].

Third Year/Senior Sophister [20 ECTS]

GRU33001 - German Language 3 MT [5 ECTS] core compulsory; Contact Hours: 22 hours per semester [2 hrs pw].

GRU33002 - German Language 3 MT [5 ECTS] core compulsory; Contact Hours: 22 hours per semester. [2 hrs pw].

Plus two seminars [each weighted at 5 ECTS] chosen from a range of modules with a literary, historical, filmic, linguistic or cultural focus. Seminars offered by the Department in recent years include German Literary History; Vampires as a Literary and Cultural Theme in German literature; Boredom in German Literature and Philosophy; Introduction to German Linguistics; and Dada / Expressionism.

How will this be assessed?

You will be assessed by a combination of continuous assessment and exams. We use a mix of continuous assessment methods – essays, project work, presentations, and journals. Language modules are assessed by continuous assessment in the Fresh years and written and oral examinations in JS.

Contacts

Gilllian Martin gsmartin@tcd.ie