



German as a New Minor Subject

Details for the Academic Year 24/25

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 most evil 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.

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. Literature and textual studies introduce you to key aspects of modern German literature and film, and to reading and analysing literary texts in German.

Year 2: In addition to language classes, you choose 2 further modules from a range of seminars with a literary, filmic, cultural or historical focus. These can include seminars on the phenomenon of National Socialism, Hitler, German-Jewish literary and cultural history, and themes from 20th century and contemporary German and Austrian literature.

Year 3: In addition to language classes, you choose 2 further modules from a range of seminars with a literary, filmic, cultural or historical focus. These can include seminars on great Germanic thinkers, such as Marx, Nietzsche and Freud, themes from 20th century German and Austrian literature and also on research methods.

What will I do?

Junior Fresh

GRU11001 – German Language 1 MT [5 ECTS] core compulsory

GRU11002 – German Language 1 HT [5 ECTS] core compulsory

GRU1102Y – Introduction to German Literature and Film [10 ECTS] core compulsory

Second Year / Junior Sophister [10-20 ECTS]

If you select Major with Minor exit pathway

GRU22001 – German Language 2 MT [5 ECTS] core compulsory

GRU22002 – German Language 2 HT [5 ECTS] core compulsory

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

If you select Single Honors exit pathway:

GRU22001 – German Language 2 MT [5 ECTS] core compulsory

GRU22002 – German Language 2 HT [5 ECTS] core compulsory

Third Year/Senior Sophister [20 ECTS]

GRU33001 - German Language 3 MT [5 ECTS] core compulsory

GRU33002 - German Language 3 HT [5 ECTS] core compulsory

Plus two seminars [each weighted at 5 ECTS] chosen from a range of modules with a literary, historical, filmic, 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; 20th Century Short Stories/Novellas (incl. Gottfried Benn, Robert Musil, Thomas Mann); Marx and Nietzsche; and Research Methods.

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 written, oral and aural examinations.

Contacts

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