

SCHOOL OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

GERMAN

The B.A. Major in German provides students with a comprehensive knowledge of both spoken and written German. Students will be introduced to a wide range of aspects of contemporary German society and culture through the study of numerous multimedia materials and documents in the target language that will be included in the advanced courses in area studies, translation, linguistics and literature. The German programme offers a major and a minor.

Students majoring in German are encouraged to attend a 4-week intensive summer language course (**GRMN3119. Overseas immersion language course – German**) at a university in a German-speaking country during the semester break after their 2nd year. Successful completion of such a course at the appropriate level will count as 6 credits towards their major requirements. Longer stays of one to two semesters are also encouraged and can be arranged through the German Programme.

In order to major in German, students must initially complete two introductory courses, i.e., **GRMN1001** (6 credits) and **GRMN1002** (6 credits). In their second, third and fourth years of study, they must take a total of at least 54 credits of courses of which up to 6 credits may be from a list of approved non-GRMN courses. These courses are normally distributed as follows:

- 24 credits from courses at level 2XXX, of which 12 credits must be from the core language courses **GRMN2001** and **GRMN2002**.
- 30 credits from courses at level 3XXX or 4XXX, of which 12 credits must be from the core language courses **GRMN3001** (6 credits) and **GRMN3002** (6 credits) and 6 credits from **GRMN3022**, **GRMN4001** or **GRMN4006** capstone courses designed to allow the application of disciplinary knowledge and principles acquired in the first, second and third years.

The BA in German combines well with all other majors in the Faculty of Arts, in particular with courses and Programmes in linguistics, literature, translation and area studies such as European Studies. Students from other faculties such as Business and Economics, Education, Engineering, Science, Social Sciences, etc. might find the Programme useful to widen their international outlook and intercultural communication skills and to enhance their chances for postgraduate studies at an international level.

Major (72 credits)

To complete a major in German, students are expected to take a total of 72 credits with the following components:

- **Prerequisite courses (12 credits):**
GRMN1001. German I.1
GRMN1002. German I.2
These courses will be offered to undergraduates in Year 1 or 2.
- **Any 6-credit Arts Faculty introductory course to be taken from outside the major in German**
- **Core courses (24 credits):**
GRMN2001. German II.1
GRMN2002. German II.2

GRMN3001. German III.1

GRMN3002. German III.2

These courses will be offered to undergraduates in Year 2, 3 and 4.

- **Elective courses (24 credits):**

At least four 6-credit elective courses from the list below

These courses will be offered to undergraduates in Year 2, 3 and 4. Up to 6 credits may be from a list of approved non-GRMN courses. Students are advised to check with the offering departments about prerequisites and the availability of these courses.

- **Capstone experience courses (6 credits):**

One of the following capstone courses:

GRMN3022. German project (capstone experience); or

GRMN4001. German IV (capstone experience); or

GRMN4006. Introduction to teaching German as a foreign language (capstone experience)

These courses will normally be offered to undergraduates in Year 4.

Minor (36 credits)

To complete a minor in German, students are expected to take a total of 36 credits with the following components:

- **Prerequisite courses (12 credits):**

GRMN1001. German I.1

GRMN1002. German I.2

These courses will be offered to undergraduates in Year 1 or 2.

- **Core courses (24 credits):**

GRMN2001. German II.1

GRMN2002. German II.2

GRMN3001. German III.1

GRMN3002. German III.2

These courses will be offered to undergraduates in Year 2, 3 and 4.

Core Courses

GRMN1001. German I.1 (6 credits)

This course does not require any previous knowledge of German. Students will acquire basic linguistic, cultural, and communicative competencies (oral, aural, and verbal) in German. In addition to regular language classes, students will further enhance their language skills in small tutorial groups.

Prerequisite: Nil

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN1002. German I.2 (6 credits)

This course is a continuation of **German I.1** that expands on previously acquired linguistic, cultural and communicative competencies in German with a balanced emphasis on speaking, listening, reading, and writing. In addition to regular language classes, students will further enhance their language skills in small tutorial groups.

Prerequisite: **GRMN1001. German I.1** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN2001. German II.1 (6 credits)

This course is a continuation of **GRMN1002. German I.2**. It deepens verbal communicative skills, such as textual analysis, listening comprehension, composition, and translation through the use of diverse pedagogical approaches. In addition to regular language classes, students will further enhance their language skills in small tutorial groups.

Prerequisite: **GRMN1002. German I.2** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

GRMN2002. German II.2 (6 credits)

This course is a continuation of **GRMN2001. German II.1**. It continues to deepen verbal communicative skills, such as textual analysis, listening comprehension, composition, and translation using diverse pedagogical approaches. In addition to regular language classes, students will further enhance their language skills in small tutorial groups. Students are strongly encouraged to attend an intensive summer immersion course at a university in a German-speaking country upon completion of this course.

Prerequisite: **GRMN2001. German II.1** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

GRMN3001. German III.1 (6 credits)

This course is a continuation of **GRMN2002. German II.2**. It provides students with practice of linguistic and cultural competencies at an advanced level. Furthermore, students will gain insights into patterns, structures, and terminology in fields, such as literature, business, and journalism. In addition to regular language classes, students will further enhance their language skills in small tutorial groups.

Prerequisite: **GRMN2002. German II.2** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

GRMN3002. German III.2 (6 credits)

This course is a continuation of **GRMN3001. German III.1**. It provides students with continued practice of linguistic and cultural competencies at an advanced level. Furthermore, students will expand their understanding and deepen their practice of previously learned structures and patterns in various contexts. In addition to regular language classes, students will further enhance their language skills in small tutorial groups.

Prerequisite: **GRMN3001. German III.1** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Capstone Experience Courses

GRMN3022. German project (capstone experience) (6 credits)

In this course, students will explore an approved topic in German with guidance from a German Programme teacher. To complete the course, students will submit a 4,000-word essay in German and present their findings to peers and teaching staff.

Prerequisite: **GRMN3001. German III.1**

Co-requisite: **GRMN3002. German III.2** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: Coursework assessment shall count 100% of the grade awarded for German project

GRMN4001. German IV (capstone experience) (6 credits)

This advanced language course focuses on enhancing reading, writing, and speaking skills in German at the B2 level as established by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). It is a culmination of skills and knowledge which students acquired during their previous studies in German (Years 1-3). These advanced language skills will enable students to continue their studies in a German-speaking environment.

Prerequisite: **GRMN3002. German III.2** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN4006. Introduction to teaching German as a foreign language (capstone experience) (6 credits)

This course is specially designed for students of the German Programme looking to enrich their skill base in learning German and to acquire core knowledge for teaching German as a foreign language. The course combines theoretical principles and practical training, allowing the integration and application of disciplinary knowledge acquired in students' early years of study. The course also creates a cross-institutional collaboration with external organisations and integrates different perspectives to foster best synergies. It provides students with a learning platform and valuable experience in teaching a foreign language. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a supervised observation and engage in teaching firsthand.

Prerequisite: **GRMN3001. German III.1** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective Courses

GRMN2021. Chinese-German translation (6 credits)

This course is an introduction to translating texts from German to Chinese and from Chinese to German using a variety of texts written in different styles. It will provide students with intermediate level translation skills, a further understanding of German grammar and additional information on contemporary German topics. Special attention will be given to the particular problems or common errors arising from differences in grammar and other influences from the students' mother tongue. Students will practise additional structures and texts gradually. This is a practical rather than a theoretical course for translation. Students will be expected to do practical work in class as well as at home.

Prerequisite: **GRMN1002. German I.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN2023. Media and society (6 credits)

This course provides students with insights into German society through its portrayal in various forms of media. Students will analyze major issues in German society over the past 60 years, such as the American influence on German society, the changing role of women, or the impact of immigrants on German society, by studying authentic German materials, such as advertisements, TV commercials, newspaper articles, songs, and films. A special focus will be on the role of language in media.

Prerequisite: **GRMN1002. German I.2**

Co-requisite: **GRMN2001. German II.1** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN2024. Producing German texts (6 credits)

In this course, students will practice the skills necessary to produce different types of text in German, such as letters, essays (descriptive/argumentative), or short stories. With a strong focus on practical work, students will submit weekly or biweekly compositions of 150-300 words.

Prerequisite: **GRMN1002. German I.2**

Co-requisite: **GRMN2001. German II.1** or **GRMN2002. German II.2** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN2027. Understanding Germany and her German-speaking neighbours (6 credits)

This course is designed to aid students in better understanding Germany and her German-speaking neighbours by providing them with an introduction to topics that relate to major current events and developments in these countries from the diversified political and social to cultural aspects. Topics include Germany's political system, contemporary life in unified Germany, family and social life, German customs and traditions, and multicultural aspects of German society. Students will work individually, in pairs, and in groups. They will present the result of their work to their fellow students for peer review. This involves project work and class work. They will use new media to allow practice and improvement of multiple literacies. During the course, students will be required to complete in-class tests, submit a research paper written in German and conduct a presentation on a topic of their choice. This course will also give an overview of other German speaking countries. Classes will be conducted in German and English. Guest lecturers will be invited to give talks on selected topics. Students will have the opportunity to discuss and raise in-depth questions during the talks.

Prerequisite: **GRMN2001. German II.1**

Co-requisite: **GRMN2002. German II.2** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN2028. German conversation & vocabulary (6 credits)

This course enables students to improve their pronunciation and intonation skills. Based on the knowledge and skills acquired during their previous German studies, students will learn new linguistic features as well as reinforce and strengthen existing ones. This course provides students with further opportunities to improve their reception and production of German sounds and enhance their linguistic proficiencies.

Prerequisite: **GRMN1002. German I.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN3023. English-German translation (6 credits)

In this course, students practice translating from English to German using a variety of texts written in different genres. These texts on contemporary life in German-speaking countries and Hong Kong cover topics like culture, politics, and social life. The insights students gain from reading these texts will enable them to draw inter-cultural comparisons between German-speaking cultures and their own. Students will share their work with their peers to encourage in-class discussion and peer review.

Prerequisite: **GRMN3001. German III.1**

Co-requisite: **GRMN3002. German III.2** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN3027. German for business (6 credits)

This course is designed to prepare students for working in a German-speaking company, institution, or environment. It focuses on the practical parts of working in a professional context of a German business. Students will enhance their understanding of cultural differences and hone their oral, aural, textual, and communicative competencies to successfully apply for a job/internship and to handle daily activities in a German-speaking company. Topics include business etiquettes & social skills training, analyses of company profiles, and business relations between Germany and Hong Kong. Students will also design a personal portfolio which will include a selection of their business writing. Visits to German, Austrian or Swiss companies and institutions may be organized based on availability. During reading week, students may gain insights into the day-to-day workings of a company. Occasional guest speakers provide students with a deeper understanding of different aspects in the German speaking business world. Classes will be conducted in German.

Prerequisite: **GRMN2002. German II.2**

Co-requisite: **GRMN3001. German III.1** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN3028. Kino! Studies in German cinema (6 credits)

This course provides students with an overview of German cinema from the first major German expressionist film *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* in 1922 to the present within a cultural and social framework. Students will gain insights into major shifts in life and culture in Germany. Classes will be conducted in German.

Prerequisite: **GRMN2002. German II.2** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN3029. History of the German language and German linguistics (6 credits)

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the major fields of history of the German language and German linguistics as they apply to Standard German. It will introduce students to the broad outlines of the historical development of the German language from the earliest times until the modern period. It will look at some of the key sound changes and at the grammatical developments which give the modern language its distinctive features. There will also be discussions on regional variation within the German-speaking world. The linguistic aspect of this course will cover the traditional branches of linguistic theory: phonology, the study of the sounds and sound systems; morphology, the study of word structure, and syntax, the study of sentence structure.

Prerequisite: **GRMN2001. German II.1** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN3031. Internship for students of German (6 credits)

This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity for experiential learning, while working in a German business/organization. Integrating their previously acquired academic knowledge with practical workplace experience at the host company, enables them to work in Austrian, German, Swiss companies, or businesses with strong ties to German-speaking countries. Students may intern at any point between Years 3 and 4, either fulltime during the lecture-free period or part-time during the semester (minimum of 120 hours). Preparatory activities and assessments include composing a CV and a cover letter in German, a written report, and a presentation at the end of the internship. Students are asked to make their own internship arrangements with an organization of their choice in liaison with the course/internship coordinator. Students must submit an English description of their proposed internship with an acceptance letter from the host company, for consideration to the Course Coordinator.

Prerequisite: **GRMN2002. German II.2** or **GRMN3001. German III.1** or **GRMN3002. German III.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework (graded on a distinction/ pass/ fail basis)

GRMN3032. From Goethe to Grönemeyer – Reading German texts (6 credits)

Students will enhance their language skills and extend their knowledge of German-speaking countries through analyses and discussions of various German literary genres, such as poems, plays, short stories, fairy tales, and song lyrics. All teaching materials and the medium of instruction will be in German.

Prerequisite: **GRMN2002. German II.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN3033. Gender equality in German-speaking countries and the European Union (6 credits)

Gender equality has been a core value in most of the developed countries worldwide. In the European Union, equality between men and women is considered a fundamental right. This course offers an overview of the situation in gender equality in German-speaking countries and in major countries of the European Union, in historical and cross-cultural perspectives. The first part of the course includes an introduction of key developments and impacts of gender equality. In the second part of the course students will consider

the current gender situation and issues in contemporary society. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to compare gender challenges between German-speaking countries and their own.

Prerequisite: **GRMN2002. German II.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN3119. Overseas immersion language course – German (6 credits)

This course provides an opportunity to study German and to experience linguistic and cultural immersion in a partner institution located in a German-speaking country. The course usually takes place in the summer months (e.g., June, July and/or August) (courses may also be offered in the winter break) and the duration of the stay may vary from two weeks to one month but must include at least 60 hours of formal class tuition. Students typically take part in this course after completing their second year of language studies at HKU. The course is designed to build on and to reinforce the language competence acquired during the previous years of study as well as to prepare the participants for more advanced work in the final years of the Programme.

Prerequisite: **GRMN2002. German II.2** or comparable level acquired elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework. In order to be granted credits for this course, participants have to ensure that the course builds on their previous academic work completed at HKU and is offered at the A2 level or above of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFRL) Additionally, after completion of the course, students have (1) to produce a formal statement of attendance and certified transcript bearing mention of the final grade(s) obtained from the host institution, as well as the level attained according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages; (2) to provide a portfolio including (i). a learning journal written in German approximately 1,000 words relating to daily class activities and, (ii). samples of assessment (written assignments, tests, examinations, projects etc.) along with evaluation results.

GRMN4003. Deutsch aktuell – current issues, films and music in German (6 credits)

In this course, students will use the language skills acquired during their previous language studies to hold in-class discussions and submit assessments using an advanced level of German. The focus of this course is on current affairs in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland, including politics, lifestyle, music, and film. Students will also compare how media in countries other than Austria, Germany, and Switzerland, present the countries in focus. The medium of instruction and most materials is German.

Prerequisite: **GRMN3002. German III.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN4004. Intercultural communication German-Chinese (6 credits)

To communicate and work within diverse cultural environments and to operate successfully in today's increasingly globalized diverse world, students not only need the required language skills, but they also need to be culturally sensitive and competent. This course will provide students with knowledge, social skills and relevant attitudes to improve communication with individuals from other cultures. It will help students to develop intercultural awareness and competence for communicating with speakers from German-speaking countries.

Prerequisite: **GRMN3002. German III.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

GRMN4005. Advanced Chinese-German translation (6 credits)

In this course, students will translate texts with complex structures between German and Chinese using a variety of texts written in different styles at a more advanced and detailed level. Students will gain advanced level translation skills and a further understanding of German grammar and syntax. The course will invite students to explore linguistics within the interactional, communicative contexts of the texts. Students will practise additional structures and texts gradually and learn about the stylistic differences between various types, such as newspaper articles, literary texts, and business correspondence.

Prerequisite: **GRMN3002. German III.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

Approved non-GRMN elective courses:

Please note that these courses may have prerequisites. Students should also confirm the availability of these courses with the respective units.

- EUST2010. European identity (6 credits)
- EUST2012. Problems of contemporary European politics and society (6 credits)
- EUST2015. From cinema to society: Understanding Europe through film (6 credits)
- EUST2022. European transitions – Germany and Central Europe after the Second World War (6 credits)
- EUST2030. The modern imagination in Europe (6 credits)
- EUST3010. European political and economic institutions and processes (6 credits)
- EUST3011. European values in conflict (6 credits)
- EUST3012. The EU as a global actor and EU-China relations (6 credits)
- EUST3015. The Holocaust and its legacies (6 credits)
- EUST3020. The making of the West: From Descartes to Rorty (6 credits)
- HIST2125. Nazi Germany, the Holocaust and the Jews (6 credits)