GER102/GER1102 German I

Course Title : German I
Course Code : GER102/GER1102
Year of Study : 2, 3 & 4 in priority (open to Year 1)
Number of Credits/ Term: 3
Mode of Tuition : Tutorial
Number of Sections : TBC
Teaching Hours per week: 3 hours per week
Total Teaching Hours : 42 hours
Category in Programme : Elective (free)
Course Material : Optimal Al Lehrbuch
Pre-requisite : Nil
Co-requisite : Nil
Exclusions : Nil
Exemption Requirements : n/a
Recommended : Nil
Restriction : Nil

Course Description
The course focuses on introducing students to a third language and its culture with a view to preparing them to enter the global workplace. The emphasis is on providing students with an enjoyable, stimulating and interactive learning experience by creating opportunities for them to discover the new culture and practice using the language. Furthermore, the course encourages students to learn German more independently by completing an ePortfolio.

The course has been developed with students’ instrumental motivation in mind and is aiming to give them a foundation to prepare for a recognised German examination (such as Goethe-Zertifikat A1 or level one (A1) on the six-level scale of competence laid down in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages – CEFR).

Note: GER102/GER1102 students enrol in this course to gain credits. They are therefore very motivated to learn this new language and expect to get as much help as possible with their studies to get a good grade. So, although GER102/GER1102 is similar in content to the equivalent non credit-bearing course GER101/GER1101, students in this course will be more challenged with continuous assessment assignments such as the e-Portfolio independent learning project and also, with homework. This is to enable GER102/GER1102 students to gain broader exposure and a more comprehensive understanding of the language.
Aims
The main aims of this course are to:

- provide students with the language tools necessary to communicate both orally and in writing at an elementary level in German
- develop students’ confidence and ability to communicate in a new language and maintain their interest by providing varied, engaging and interactive activities
- get students to experience the German culture through songs, selected episodes from films and cartoons and other activities
- increase students’ awareness of the global workplace through the introduction of a new culture
- develop students’ independent learning skills through the use of an e-Portfolio

Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the GER102/GER1102 course, students will be able to:

- use essential linguistic features of German such as numbers, gender of nouns, plurals of nouns, pronouns, definite & indefinite articles, present tense and demonstrate the ability to change the word-order in statements vs questions
- talk or write about topics related to home, family, friends, city, classical and modern music, using appropriate vocabulary
- use key phonological aspects of this language to make themselves understood in oral exchanges
- communicate orally in everyday social exchanges, displaying an appropriate cultural awareness
- demonstrate an appropriate level of understanding of spoken language of various types

And, students will:
- have developed their self-study skills, thus ensuring better progress whilst learning German and establishing effective learning habits (see below for further details)

Indicative Content
Topics will follow the recommendations of the European Council for the learning, teaching and evaluation of European languages. This is reflected in the course main teaching material, Optimal A1, Textbook & Workbook. Various types of authentic materials will be used along with the main textbook to achieve the course aims.

Cultural material and activities will expose students to various aspects of German life as well as motivate them and facilitate their progress in learning the language.

Language and cultural content of the course will include:
- Basic grammar features, speech patterns and vocabulary required to converse on such topics as home, family, friends, city, food, shopping, daily routine, etc.
- Role plays to develop students’ speaking skills
- Watching video extracts to develop listening skills
- Reading texts to develop reading skills and expand vocabulary
• Writing short passages to develop writing skills and encourage independent vocabulary building
• Watching television programmes, episodes from documentaries, feature films and cartoons
• Independent internet-based research to increase language as well as cultural awareness

**Teaching Method**

Students will be encouraged to use and explore the new language through interactive methods of learning. Activities will be performed individually and in small groups.

Since communicating orally and developing confidence in the ability to learn a foreign language will be paramount in this course, a maximum class size of 20 will be set.

**Measurement of Learning Outcomes**

Students will be assessed in the following ways:

1. They will demonstrate their learning and study habits outside the classroom through the use of an e-Portfolio. They will upload tasks in speaking, listening, grammar and vocabulary onto your e-Portfolio at regular intervals. The Self-Study module will also help them to consolidate what they have learned in class and to gain further exposure to the new language.
2. A speaking test will assess their ability to communicate (including pronunciation skills) in a social exchange situation.
3. The final exam will test their understanding of a) key linguistic features of German, b) vocabulary and c) listening, reading and writing skills.
Assessment
The assessment is 50% by continuous assessment and 50% by final examination. It will follow the regular grading system, i.e. grades A to F. Components of the two modes of assessment include:

Final exam (50%):

1. Listening
2. Grammar/Vocabulary
3. Reading
4. Writing

Continuous assessment (50%):

1. Speaking* 25%
2. Self-Study** 25%

* An oral exchange with the teacher around the topics covered so far.
** The Self-Study module will require the use of an electronic portfolio which students will be requested to build according to clear and specific guidelines. For this module, students will be expected to independently use online materials as well as the library catalogue in German to include various language exercises (vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing, etc.) in their ePortfolio. Training on how to use the ePortfolio platform will be provided and it is students’ responsibility to attend training sessions.

Required/Essential Readings
Müller, M., Rusch, P. et al.: Optimal A1 Lehrbuch; Langenscheidt (Berlin und München), 2004

Recommended/Supplementary Readings

References
Müller, M., Rusch, P. et al.: Optimal A1 Arbeitsbuch; Langenscheidt (Berlin und München), 2004

On-line references
www.langenscheidt.de/optimal
http://www.goethe.de/ins/cn/hon/lrn/enindex.htm
## SYLLABUS GER102/GER1102

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Communication objectives</th>
<th>Linguistic objectives</th>
<th>Cultural Awareness</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Greetings and self-introduction</td>
<td>Basics of pronunciation; introduction of verb conjugation: 1st &amp; 2nd person singular</td>
<td>Regional variations in Germany, Austria &amp; Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Asking simple questions; numbers 1–10</td>
<td>using question words “wo, woher, wie”</td>
<td>Importance of German Speaking countries in Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Country of origin, place of residence; languages</td>
<td>Verb conjugation: 1st, 2nd and 3rd person singular &amp; plural</td>
<td>Formal and informal ways of speaking - I</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Revision of learned content</td>
<td>Differences in word order in statements &amp; 2 types of questions; prepositions “aus &amp; in”</td>
<td>Formal and informal ways of speaking - II</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Asking for information</td>
<td>Definite articles in singular; genders (masculine, feminine, neutral)</td>
<td>German cities</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Asking for places of interest in a city</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Describing how to find your way around (Giving directions?)</td>
<td>Verbs requiring direct objects;</td>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>Speaking test</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Revision of learned content</td>
<td>Revision of verb conjugation in singular and plural</td>
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<td>Self-Study module: Grammar Task</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Days of the week</td>
<td>Function of articles in a sentence</td>
<td>German music scene (classical, traditional and modern) - I</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Months and dates</td>
<td>article changes in nominative and accusative forms (singular)</td>
<td>German music scene (classical, traditional and modern) - II</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Expressing personal preferences</td>
<td>plural of nouns; adverbs</td>
<td>Famous German Pop Music bands</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Expressing likes and dislikes</td>
<td>article changes in nominative and accusative forms (singular)</td>
<td>Speaking about Music Styles</td>
<td>Self-Study module: deadline for submission of ePortfolio</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Revision and Practise</td>
<td>Revision and summary of all the above</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final examination</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*Note: The schedule proposed above is tentative. It may be modified according to student progress and time available.*