

German Linguistics III (A000449)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

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Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027 **crdts** **offering**

Teaching languages

German

Keywords

German, linguistics, syntax, language variation

Position of the course

Nobody speaks German the way it is written. But what are e.g. syntactic constructions that are typical of spoken German, and how can they be described formally and analysed structurally?

This course zooms in on a number of **syntactic phenomena at the clausal left periphery** and looks at factors that influence the word order in the left periphery, or are influenced by it, such as information structure and prosody, but also language contact and sociolinguistic factors.

Contents

After a short refreshing of existing knowledge about syntactic analysis (acquired in e.g. ATW and German Linguistics 2), we discuss a number of constructions and their possible analysis based on a number of linguistics articles (in German). The students read those articles independently for the session in which they will be covered, and send in 3-5 questions about the article in preparation of the class. On the basis of these, the sessions will partially be built dynamically around this input. One of the students leads the discussion. Next to that, the students work on a corpus of spoken German in order to research in which contexts the constructions discussed in the literature are found. They present the results of their research in an individual presentation.

The necessary techniques for academic writing will be rehearsed and advanced. There is a tutorial (7.5h) accompanying this course, where students are guided for their research task.

The reading tasks contribute to 30% of the final grade, the presentation for 40% (these tasks together form a portfolio), and the oral exam for 30%.

Initial competences

To have completed all prior compulsory courses in German Linguistics and German Language Proficiency or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

Final competences

- 1 To have gained an insight into the hierarchical nature of clause structure.
- 2 To be able to analyse (non-standard) syntactic constructions in German within a formal syntactic framework.
- 3 Independent and critical processing of academic linguistics texts.

4 An independent and critical application of the theoretical tools also to new data.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- 15h lecture
- 15h seminar
- 7,5h independent study: prepare reading tasks
- 7,5h tutorial (6 sessions)

Study material

Type: Reader

Name: Reader with articles, slides

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Additional information: slides for the lecture part, reader with articles for the literature discussions

References

Background:

- Adger, David. 2015. Syntax. *WIREs Cognitive Science* 2015, 6:131–147
- D'Alessandro, Roberta. 2019. SYNTAX FOR DUMMIES: How to read (and draw) syntactic trees. Universiteit Utrecht: Uil-OTS.
- Jäger, Agnes. 2012. Syntax. In Heinz Drügh et al. (Hgg.), *Germanistik. Sprachwissenschaft, Literaturwissenschaft, Schlüsselkompetenzen*, 64-79. Stuttgart: Metzler.

Course content-related study coaching

Individual and group tutoring.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

- (i) Portfolio & participation:
 - 1 reading assignments: preparation of the in-class discussion of the articles (reading, sending in questions, leading discussion, participation in discussion)
 - 2 research task and presentation
- (ii) Oral exam

Calculation of the examination mark

70% in-sessional evaluation

- 30% participation (preparation of reading assignments)
- 40% research task and presentation

30% post-sessional evaluation: oral exam

If the student does not pass the in-sessional assessment, a second opportunity is offered through a compensatory activity between the first and second exam periods.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from certain educational activities requiring student attendance
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Feedback can be given by email, telephone or by appointment

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy (<https://www.ugent.be/student/nl/administratie/flexibel-studeren>)