

History and Culture of German Speaking Countries (A000883)

Course size	<i>(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)</i>			
Credits 5.0	Study time 150 h	Contact hrs	45.0 h	

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024

B (semester 2)	Dutch, English, German	Gent	lecture
			independent work
			practical

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Lemey, Ruth	LW22	staff member
Leuschner, Torsten	LW06	lecturer-in-charge
Kurtz, Paul Michael	LW01	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - German)	5	B
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - German)	5	B
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - German)	5	B
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Greek)	5	B
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Italian)	5	B
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Spanish)	5	B
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Swedish)	5	B
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures	5	B
Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures	5	B
Bachelor of Arts in History	5	B
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	B
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German)	5	B

Teaching languages

Dutch, English, German

Keywords

History, culture, German-speaking countries

Position of the course

In this introductory course, students are familiarised with various aspects from both the history of the German-speaking countries and the 'Landeskunde' and culture of the German-speaking countries.

Contents

In the History part, all periods from the Middle Ages until the present day are dealt with in partly chronological, partly thematic order. Relatively more attention is paid to the history of the 19th and 20th centuries than to the preceding centuries. These lectures are taught in English. For each weekly lecture there is a mandatory reading assignment in German.

The Culture part first discusses various aspects of the German-speaking countries (Landeskunde) such as geography and population, the political system, the media etc. The main focus is on Germany, but the other German-speaking countries (including East Belgium)

are also covered. Next, a range of culture-related topics are covered in greater depth, including cultural heritage, cultural history and present-day culture.

Three voluntary practice sessions will be offered in the course of the term which elaborate on the content of the Culture part of the course and link it to language proficiency.

Initial competences

general historical, geographical, political and cultural knowledge from secondary education.

Final competences

- 1 To demonstrate insight into important historical, political and cultural aspects of the German-speaking countries.
- 2 To demonstrate knowledge of the culture of the German-speaking countries in the wider sense, including e.g. cultural history and aspects of civic culture.
- 3 To demonstrate an overview of the outlines (and possibly constants) of the history of the German-speaking countries.
- 4 To apply the above-named knowledge and insights in the interpretation of topical developments in the German-speaking countries.

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

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture, practicum, self-reliant study activities

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lecture, prepared by weekly mandatory background readings (as specified at the beginning of the term)
- Independent work: writing a paper (optional) for the part 'History' and/or for the part 'Culture' (optional)
- Practicum: three voluntary sessions that elaborate on the content of the Culture part of the course and link it to language proficiency
- Because of COVID19, modified forms of work can be rolled out if this proves necessary.

Learning materials and price

Powerpoint slides accompanying the lectures and mandatory background reading, all provided through Ufora

References

For the History part (mandatory): F. Bedürftig, *100 Bilder - 100 Fakten deutsche Geschichte* (2017) / H. Schulze, *Kleine deutsche Geschichte* (1998) / G. Verbeeck, *Een geschiedenis van Duitsland: Sporen en dwaalsporen van een natie* (2010) / F. Boterman, *Moderne geschiedenis van Duitsland, 1800-heden* (2005).

For the Culture part (recommended): R. Luscher, *Von der Wende bis heute: Landeskunde Deutschland für Deutsch als Fremdsprache*. Verlag für Deutsch (annually updated edition, published at the end of January) / K. Versluis, *De sympathieke reus: cultuurwijzer voor het moderne Duitsland* (2008) / W. Gössmann, *Deutsche Kulturgeschichte im Grundriss* (2006) / Frits Boterman, *Cultuur als macht. Cultuurgeschiedenis van Duitsland 1800-heden* (2013) / Herfried Münkler, *Die Deutschen und ihre Mythen* (2010)

Course content-related study coaching

Students can ask lecturers questions both during and outside the office hours and also via e-mail.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term assessment

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

Written examination, assignment

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

Written examination, assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods*Assessment moment*

post-sessional: written exam (mandatory)

in-sessional: one or two papers (optional)

Calculation of the examination mark

100% post-sessional (written exam) OR 75% in-sessional (written exam) and 25% in-sessional (optional paper for either the part 'history' or the part 'culture') OR 50% post-sessional (written exam) and 50% in-sessional (optional papers for the part 'history' and for the part 'culture').
The two parts (Culture and History) each represent 1/2 of the final mark.

Facilities for Working Students

Students can be excused from attending lectures.-