

Topics of the Advanced Study of German Linguistics: Variation Linguistics (A001827)

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 1)	German	Gent	seminar independent work
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Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Leuschner, Torsten	LW06	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (main subject Linguistics and Literature)	5	B
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - German)	5	B
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - German)	5	B
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - German)	5	B
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German)	5	B
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Greek)	5	B
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Italian)	5	B
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Scandinavian Studies)	5	B
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Spanish)	5	B
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	B

Teaching languages

German

Keywords

variation, language change, corpora, popularization

Position of the course

In this advanced course, students acquire a thorough understanding of variation and on-going change in present-day German and of the relevant academic and popular points of view. While doing so, they maintain and expand their academic proficiency in German.

Contents

The content of the course refers to patterns of variation in present-day German through the prism of their popular perception/critique and scientific explanation. Based on weekly presentations which form the occasion for discussion, relevant topics, theories and debates concerning issues in synchronic linguistics will be dealt with at an advanced level through patterns of variation in present-day German on the one hand and divergent perspectives on them from linguistic criticism ("Sprachkritik", both academic and popular). The weekly topics are introduced by the lecturer, followed the next week by an respective in-depth presentation by a (group of) student(s).

Initial competences

Students have acquired thorough proficiency in German and substantial insight into major topics in synchronic German linguistics in the Bachelor

Final competences

- 1 to have gained a thorough insight into variation in present-day German, especially with regard to on-going linguistic changes and their reflection in divergent perspectives (academic and popular) on linguistic criticism ("Sprachkritik")
- 2 to support this insight through small research tasks in connection with the weekly topics
- 3 to be able to critically evaluate the scientific and popular literature on language variation and the theories and interpretations it contains
- 4 to be thoroughly proficient in written and spoken German, including techniques for collating and referencing information

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, self-reliant study activities

Extra information on the teaching methods

The course consists of weekly interactive seminars (2 x 75 mins), with active participation by the students expected throughout. Each student is also expected to give, or collaborate in, an interactive oral presentation which is then discussed in class. The presentation subsequently forms the basis for a written paper.

Participation and the presentation together account for 50% of the final grade. The paper accounts for the remaining 50%.

Two teaching units will be provided via asynchronous online teaching. External speakers may be invited for some sessions, which may then be taught online.

Because of COVID19, modified forms of work can be rolled out if this proves necessary.

Learning materials and price

Articles and other material through Ufora

References

standard works in German linguistics

Course content-related study coaching

Individual and group tutoring

Evaluation methods

continuous assessment

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Participation, assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Permanent evaluation: portfolio of weekly tasks

Calculation of the examination mark

50% term paper

50% active participation (weekly tasks + presentation)

Facilities for Working Students

1. Students can be excused from attending lectures.
2. Possible rescheduling of the presentation to a different time in the same academic year
3. Alternative time for feedback is possible

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy