

German Linguistics: Language variation (A005745)

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

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2024-2025

A (semester 2) German Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Bruijneel, Leen	LW06	staff member
Lemey, Ruth	LW22	staff member
Breitbarth, Anne	LW06	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Swedish)	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - German)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Italian)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Spanish)	5	A

Teaching languages

German

Keywords

German, linguistics, language variation, historical linguistics, language typology, sociolinguistics

Position of the course

Nobody speaks German the way it is written. But why? In this specialising course, students gain insights into the most important patterns of variation in German in a wider diachronic, diatopic and sociolinguistic perspective. It is intended as a preparation of the advanced variationist and historical courses in the Master.

Contents

The course is devoted to the historical, geographic, and social dimensions of variation in present-day German. Students get the chance to collect and process new data in their own, hands-on research project (e.g. transcription of spoken language), which they then interpret theoretically in a poster presentation in small groups. For this presentation, they will need to formulate a research question and independently consult relevant background literature. This research

project contributes 50% to the final grade.

The necessary techniques for academic writing and speaking will be rehearsed and advanced.

There is a tutorial (7.5 hours) in addition to the course, where special attention is paid to this.

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 major variation patterns of present-day German.
- 2 To be able to interpret these variation patterns from a sociolinguistic and historical perspective (broadly defined), and to appreciate the relevant methodological approaches and issues.
- 3 To formulate a research question.
- 4 To be able to adequately handle the relevant linguistic literature and self-collected research data in a poster presentation.
- 5 Use academic German proficiently at an advanced level.
- 6 Listening / understanding skills (in the context of the research project)

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, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

- 15h lecture
- 15h seminar; discussion of linguistic literature, data and tasks, assistance with the preparation of the oral and written tasks, oral presentations
- 7,5h tutorial: 6 sessions practicing language proficiency based on linguistic topics
- independent study: research project

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: slides

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Other

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Handouts

Name: handouts

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Other

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Software

Name: ELAN (transcription software)

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Online Available : Yes

Type: Audiovisual Material

Name: Speech recordings (audio / video) as empirical basis for the research task

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Other

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

- standard references in German linguistics and neighbouring disciplines

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

Written assessment

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

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Presentation, Written assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Assessment moment

Post-sessional (50%) and in-sessional (50%)

Assessment form

- Post-sessional: written exam
- In-sessional: research project incl. poster presentation, participation

The students must participate in both parts of the evaluation to be able to pass.

Calculation of the examination mark

50 % written exam

50 % participation

Important:

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.

If the student does not participate in the in-sessional OR postsessional evaluation, or has less than 10/20 for one of the evaluations, they can no longer pass the course as a whole. In case the average of the final score is equal to or higher than 10/20, the average is reduced to the highest non-passing grade (=9).

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination 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 (<https://www.ugent.be/student/nl/administratie/flexibel-studeren>)