

History and Culture of the German-speaking World (A005746)

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

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)

German

Gent

lecture

0.0h

independent work

0.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Benzing, Carolin Juliane

LW22

staff member

Leuschner, Torsten

LW06

lecturer-in-charge

Decock, Sofie

LW22

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

crdts

offering

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - German)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, German)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, German)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Italian)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Language Technology)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Russian)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Spanish)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Turkish)

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 Applied Language Studies

5

A

Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature

5

A

Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German)

5

A

Elective Set Culture and Society

5

A

Elective Set Southeast-European Language

5

A

Teaching languages

German

Keywords

History, culture, German-speaking countries

Position of the course

This course familiarizes students with the general and cultural history of the German-speaking countries. In this way, students expand the knowledge base that is required for language specialists with a background in linguistic and literary studies or applied linguistics.

Contents

This course (which is taught in German throughout) is dedicated to the general political, social, socio-economic and cultural development of Germany and the other German-speaking countries. An introductory, 'Landeskunde'-style survey of the present-day German-speaking countries is followed by a chronological walk through history from the Middle Ages onwards in which general and cultural history are integrated with each other as much as possible, focusing on the link between the past and the present. Mandatory background readings may be provided weekly.

Certain aspects of the content of the course may be investigated in greater depth individually in an optional paper (including a mandatory reflection on the use of sources and aids such as potentially GenAI) which accounts for a quarter of the final mark for the course. Writing a paper thus does not change the written exam but lowers the weight of the latter in the final mark by a quarter.

Initial competences

general historical, geographical, political and cultural knowledge from secondary education
sufficient listening comprehension in German

Final competences

- 1 Demonstrate knowledge of important aspects of the German-speaking countries in the present and their anchoring in the past
- 2 Demonstrate knowledge of the main patterns of the general and cultural history of the German-speaking countries.
- 3 Apply the relevant knowledge in interpreting present-day 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, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

lectures: 30 hrs (= 150 min weekly), possibly with mandatory background reading
autonomous work: optional paper (normally written in German)
This course assumes the responsible use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI). A reflection on the (non-)use of GenAI is mandatorily included in the optional paper.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Sprachkritik

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Other

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Course content-related study coaching

The lecturers are available for questions from students both during and outside their official office hours and by e-mail.

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

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

post-sessional: written exam

in-sessional: optional paper on a topic linked to the content of the course, including mandatory reflection on the sources and auxiliary means used (such as potentially GenAI)

Calculation of the examination mark

100% post-sessional (written exam) OR 75% in-sessional (written exam) and 25% in-sessional (optional paper)

If the student does not pass the course during the first exam period, the result of the in-sessional assessment, if applicable, will remain valid for the second exam period.

Facilities for Working Students

Students can be excused from attending lectures.-