

## German Linguistics: Debating Linguistic Variation (A006658)

**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 1)	German	Gent	seminar	0.0h
			independent work	0.0h

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Leuschner, Torsten	LW06	lecturer-in-charge
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**Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027**

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

**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). If external experts are brought in for a session of its preparation, students can be assigned the task of leading the discussion.

**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 demonstrate a thorough insight into variation in present-day German, especially with regard to on-going linguistic changes and their reflection in

(Approved)

- divergent perspectives (academic and popular) on linguistic criticism ("Sprachkritik")
- 2 to support this insight through autonomous research tasks in connection with the weekly topics, potentially using GenAI
- 3 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 adequately collating and referencing information, potentially involving the responsible use of GenAI

#### **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, Independent work

#### **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.

If an external expert is brought in for a session, students can be assigned the task of preparing and/or chairing a discussion. Such sessions may be held online.

This course assumes that students use generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) responsibly. A reflection on the (non-)use of GenAI is mandatorily included in the written paper and may be discussed during the oral exam.

#### **Study material**

Type: Syllabus

Name: Sprachkritik

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Other

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Slides

Name: Variation im Deutschen

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Other

Available on Ufora : Yes

#### **References**

standard works in German linguistics

#### **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 open-book

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

Oral assessment open-book, Assignment

#### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Participation, Presentation, Assignment

#### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

#### **Extra information on the examination methods**

in-sessional: oral presentation, written assignment, participation

post-sessional: oral exam

### **Calculation of the examination mark**

#### **80% in-sessional evaluation**

The written assignment (Hausarbeit) accounts for 40% of the extra-sessional evaluation. The remaining 40% consist of 20% for the oral presentation and 20% for general participation in its various forms (incl. preparing and/of leading a discussion of an expert if relevant).

#### **20% post-sessional evaluation**

The post-sessional evaluation consists of an oral exam that takes the form of an reflection on the written assignment, including its embedding in the course as a whole.

All parts of evaluation are mandatory in order to pass the course. If a student fails to undergo part of the evaluation and the final mark is nevertheless 10 or more out of 20, the final mark is reduced to 9/20.

For the second examination period, the written assignment is re-submitted in revised form, and the oral exam is taken again.

### **Facilities for Working Students**

1. Students cannot 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