

## German: Area Studies (A703311)

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

**Credits 4.0**                      **Study time 120 h**

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024**

A (semester 1)                      Dutch, German                      Gent                      seminar  
independent work

**Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024**

Benzing, Carolin Juliane                      LW22                      staff member  
Campe, Petra                      LW22                      lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024**

	<b>crdts</b>	<b>offering</b>
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Applied Language Studies)	4	A
Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, German)	4	A
Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, German)	4	A
Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, German)	4	A
Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, German)	4	A
Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, German)	4	A
Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French, German)	4	A
Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Italian)	4	A
Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Italian)	4	A
Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Italian)	4	A
Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Russian)	4	A
Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Russian)	4	A
Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Russian)	4	A
Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Spanish)	4	A
Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Spanish)	4	A
Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Spanish)	4	A
Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Turkish)	4	A
Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Turkish)	4	A
Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, German, Turkish)	4	A
Exchange Programme Applied Language Studies	4	A

**Teaching languages**

German, Dutch

## Keywords

German; Area Studies

## Position of the course

The course unit "German: Area Studies" (D4M0) aims to extend the students' background knowledge of, and insights into, the typical cultural characteristics of German society and its political, economic and social organisation. As a result, students can, applying the necessary dose of translation, interpreting or communication criticism, contextualise core concepts, as well as understand and critically interpret German news media. Since classes are taught in German, students expand their terminological command of names of institutions and social phenomena.

Exchange students may take up this course unit, for which no prior knowledge of Dutch is required.

## Contents

Other than in the course unit "German: Cultural History" (D2CG), which is a linear survey of history, the topics in this unit "German: Area Studies" (D4M0) are introduced chronologically *and* thematically, with the course covering the most important characteristics of German society, e.g. - recent German history (after WWII); - political structure (e.g. Bund – Länder); - media; - economic and social institutions and problems; - cultural identity of modern reunited Germany; - international relations (diplomatic relations with different European countries and the EU; global international relations). Moreover, lessons also focus on the history and present of Austria, Switzerland and German-speaking minorities. We work a.o. with newspaper articles as these are texts which professional translators, interpreters or multilingual communicators are likely to come across.

## Initial competences

The students:

- are familiar with important concepts and realia from the cultural history of the German language area;
- can retrieve information about the German language area's cultural history, drawing on appropriate sources;
- can frame the German language area's current affairs in a cultural and historical context.

## Final competences

- 1 Having a command of German, at C1+ level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages for writing and oral skills (production and interaction) and at C2 level for comprehension (listening and reading) [MV/T/MC.1.1.; assessed].
- 2 Having advanced knowledge of the cultural and institutional backgrounds of the German language area and based on that knowledge, critically reflecting on social developments in the language area [MV/T/MC.1.2.; assessed].
- 3 Actively following new developments both within the discipline of translation, the discipline of interpreting, or the discipline of communication in organisations and multilingual, intercultural contexts, and within the general context of language and culture, reflecting on these critically and placing them in a broad social and intercultural context. [MV/T/MC.3.1.; assessed].
- 4 Displaying a commitment to lifelong learning [MV/T/MC.3.4; not assessed].
- 5 Integrating language and culture sensitivity and respect for diversity into scientific work, the professional environment and the social debate [MV/T/MC.5.2.; not assessed].

## Conditions for credit contract

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

## Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

## Teaching methods

Seminar, Independent work

## Extra information on the teaching methods

In guided self-study, students process online study material, such as audio-visual presentations, texts, listening excerpts, videos, etc.

Working methods can change due to the health-crisis (Covid-19).

## Learning materials and price

PowerPoint presentations, documents with illustrations, audio-visual material etc. will be made

available on the electronic learning environment.

## **References**

### **Course content-related study coaching**

Consultation hour (MS Teams) or by appointment via e-mail

### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

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

not applicable

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

Oral exam

The exam consists of a detailed analysis of a quote related to one of the topics discussed in class and a concise analysis of four concepts from several topics dealt with in class. Moreover, students choose a book and a film prior to the exam from a list selected by the professor. They present the link between the book, the film and the quote and the concepts of their exam. Students are given 15 minutes to prepare the analysis.

Second session: same

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

Oral exam (100%)

### **Facilities for Working Students**

Possibility to be exempted from class attendance

Possibility to sit examination at a different time

Feedback can be given by appointment

### **Addendum**

D4M0