

**First Year German**

**Course Booklet**

**(Post-Leaving Certificate German)**

**2025-2026**

**First Year Co-ordinator**: Dr. Tina-Karen Pusse, Room AMB-2051

Email: tina-karen.pusse@universityofgalway.ie

**Head of Discipline:** Dr. Deirdre Byrnes, Room AMB-2003

Email: deirdre.byrnes@universityofgalway.ie

**Discipline Administrator**: Natalie Nevin, Room AMB-2006

Email: natalierebecca.nevin@universityofgalway.ie

**Discipline of German website:** <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/german/>

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Academic Year 2025**–**2026**  |
| **2025 (Semester 1)**  |   |
| Start of teaching – 1st years  | Monday 15th September  |
| End of teaching all years  | Friday 28th November  |
| Study Week  | Monday 1st December – Friday 5th December  |
| Semester 1 Exams  | Monday 8th December – Friday 19th December  |
| Christmas Holidays  | Start Saturday 20th December  |
| **2026 (Semester 2)**  |   |
| Start of Teaching  | Monday 12th January  |
| End of Teaching  | Thursday 2nd April  |
| **Easter**  | **Good Friday 3rd April to Easter Monday 6th April**  |
| Field Trips | Tuesday 7th April to Friday 10th April |
| Study Week | Monday 13th April to Friday 17th April |
| Semester 2 Exams  | Tuesday 21st April – Friday 8th May  |
| Autumn Repeat Exams  | Tuesday 4th August to Friday 14th August  |
|  **Holidays** | **Easter: Good Friday 3rd April to Easter Monday 6th April**  |
|   | **Bank Holidays: Monday 27th October 2025/Monday 2nd February 2026/ Tuesday 17th March 2026/ Monday 4th May 2026/ Monday 1st June 2026 / Monday 3rd August 2026** |

|  |
| --- |
| **Students must register for GR1100 and for GR1102.**  |
| **GR1100****German Language and Culture****15 ECTS** | Semester 1 and Semester 2  |
| **GR1102****Skills for Studying German****5 ECTS**  | Semester 1 and Semester 2 |

**Important notice for visiting students**:

Visiting students wishing to take the module GR1100 German Language and Culture should register for GR142.

**Important information about in-house assessments**:

Both GR1100 and GR1102 contain graded in-class tests. **A medical certificate or the approval of an extenuating circumstance is required for a student to be able to sit the in-class test at a later date**. More information regarding the Extenuating Circumstances Policy can be found here: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/colleges-and-schools/arts-social-sciences-and-celtic-studies/student-information/studentformsandlinks/>

**GR1100 German Language and Culture (5 hours per week)**

Lecturers: Nura Alwani, Maybritt Bonifer

Languages of instruction: German and English

Course description:

This course aims to expand your knowledge of the German language and of German culture and traditions. Classes focus on improving your confidence in the use of German in everyday situations. A communicative approach and a variety of oral and written exercises are employed, in conjunction with listening comprehension exercises. You will read and discuss a broad variety of texts which will expand your vocabulary. Grammatical ability will also be strengthened.

Course content and grammatical progression comply with the requirements of level A2 (Semester 1) and B1 (Semester 2)of the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.*

Teaching and learning methods: A variety of stimulating oral, written and listening exercises is employed. The course programme includes a systematic revision of German grammar. All students have access to the Virtual Learning Environment *Canvas* where they can find announcements, assignments, lecture notes, websites, videos and audio material.

Core texts:

*Menschen A2.2: Kursbuch* and *Menschen A2.2: Arbeitsbuch* for Semester 1

*Menschen B1.1: Kursbuch* and *Menschen B1.1: Arbeitsbuch* for Semester 2

These texts are available for purchase in the campus bookshop.

Assessment (Semester 1):

Written examination (GR1100-1) at the end of Semester 1: 50%

Oral assignment: 15%

Continuous assessment: 35%

Assessment (Semester 2):

Written examination (GR1100-2) at the end of Semester 2: 50%

Oral examination: 20%

Continuous assessment: 30%

**GR1102 Skills for Studying German (1 hour per week)**

Lecturer: Tina-Karen Pusse

Language of instruction: English

Course description:

The course explores the basis for effective ways of studying in general and studying a foreign language and culture specifically.

In Semester 1, the focus is on individual learning techniques and self-motivational skills, group learning, efficient exam preparation, memory and retention, tools for reading, speaking, writing and listening comprehension, and the basics of German grammar terminology and phonetics.

In Semester 2, the focus is on enabling and encouraging students to interpret literature or other cultural products. It introduces relevant literary terms, reading strategies, narratology and genre theory. The final course segment introduces students to film analysis and aims to convey awareness regarding approach and terminology while discussing examples from German film history.

In both semesters, continuous engagement with course materials through an online learning journal is essential and will help to prepare for the in-class exam at the end of term.

Assessment (Semester 1):

Learning journal: 40%

In-class exam: 60%

Assessment (Semester 2):

Learning journal: 40%

In-class exam: 60%

Learning materials: handouts, videos, online articles

Learning outcomes:

If you engage continuously with this class, you will find out which learning strategies come easier to you and the areas where you will have to put in more work. You will develop professional study methods as well as strategies to approach literary texts and films.

**Essay Guidelines:** All essays which form part of the assessment of any module within the BA German programme must adhere to the format and the referencing system laid out in the discipline’s essay guidelines, available on the Discipline of German website (Section: Undergraduate Programmes).