

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

GERMAN PROGRAMME GERM 401 ADVANCED LANGUAGE STUDY

TRIMESTER 1 & 2 2010
1 March to 13 November 2010

Trimester dates

Trimester 1:	Teaching dates:	1 March – 4 June 2010
	Mid-trimester break:	5 April – 18 April 2010
Trimester 2:	Teaching dates:	12 July – 15 October 2010
	Mid-trimester break:	23 August – 5 September 2010
	Study week:	18 October – 22 October
	Exam period:	22 October – 13 November

All students enrolled in this course are expected to be available during the examination period.

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

Names and contact details

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Disability Liaison Person:	Richard Millington	Office: VZ 613
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Students Liaison:		

Class times and locations

Wed & Thurs	2.10 – 3.00pm	VZ 609
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Course delivery

GERM 401 is a full-year course of two hours per week. It will be taught by Dr Millington in Trimester 1 and by Dr Sutherland in Trimester 2.

In Trimester 1 classes will take place at 2.10 – 3pm on Wednesday and Thursday in the SLC meeting room (vZ 609). The class times for Trimester 2 will be agreed with students at the beginning of July. Students will be informed of any room changes in advance.

Students are expected to participate actively through discussion and the presentation of class papers.

The teachers are happy to provide additional information about the course at any time, or to discuss students' concerns with them. German staff have no specially designated office hours, but students may make an appointment with the German Administrator at any time, if the staff member they wish to see is unavailable for consultation.

Communication of additional information

Additional information will be provided in class and/or posted on Blackboard.

Course content

Classes will be structured as tutorials in which all students are expected to participate actively, whether via seminar presentations or spontaneous discussion in response to reading and listening material. In addition, students are expected to complete regular assignments. At least 8 assignments must be completed before the end of the course. Most of these will be written assignments, but some will also have an oral component based on a seminar presentation. Seminar presentations will also serve as practice for the final oral test, which will have a similar format.

Materials will be taken from books, journals, newspapers and videos.

Learning objectives

The course has a twofold focus.

On the one hand, it involves a detailed examination of issues with bearing on the use, development and status of the German language today, including such topics as register, variations in usage and standards, the roles and characteristics of dialects and sociolects, the linguistic consequences of political and demographic change, and German's interaction with other languages (especially English). From the point of view of language competence, the course is pitched at level C1 to C2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, and students are given ample opportunities to continue to consolidate and refine their proficiency in the four skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening.

On the other hand, the course offers an introduction to professional German-English translation and translation studies as an academic discipline. This strand of the course includes firstly readings and presentations (all in German) of seminal texts of translation theory, secondly consideration of key concepts for professional translation such as client brief, target readership, sociocultural difference, text type variation, as well as domestication versus foreignisation, and thirdly extensive translation practice and reflection on the students' own work in which the importance of these concepts is illustrated and emphasised.

Expected workload

The University considers that students doing a 4-paper BA (Hons) programme should expect to work for 12 hours weekly for each full-year paper. This includes class contact hours.

Set texts

There are no set texts for this course. While students are expected to contribute some suitable material, the lecturer will provide most of the texts for discussion, analysis and translation practice.

Advice will be given on useful dictionaries and reference grammars.

Assessment requirements

Students are expected to complete eight compulsory assignments, to be handed in according to a schedule to be negotiated with the teachers. As a rule, students are expected to complete four assignments per trimester. Assignments submitted after the agreed due date will incur a 5% penalty for each day of lateness.

In addition to the eight obligatory assignments, students are invited to submit optional assignments. The type, number, frequency and length of the optional assignments is to be determined by the students themselves, according to the areas in which they wish to increase their proficiency. After assignments are returned to the student, the student may choose to make corrections or amendments to the assignment and submit it for remarking, in which case the better mark will apply for the final grade. Students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning; however, the teacher will provide guidance and information as requested.

No dates will be set for completion of optional assignments, or penalties imposed for non-completion. The best eight marks awarded for completed assignments, obligatory and optional, will count equally towards final assessment (5% each).

All assignments must include a cover sheet available from SLC Reception or Blackboard. Assignments are to be handed in to the German assignment box located to the left of the SLC Reception area on Level 6 of von Zedlitz.

GERM 401 is assessed by:

8 assignments 40%

Final 3-hour written examination**, to be held on a date to be announced between 22 October and 13 November, in which students are required to answer three of four questions:

1. Reading comprehension
2. Essay-type question on general topic
3. Translation German-English
4. Essay-type question on translation topic 40%

** Dictionaries are permitted in the examination room.

Final oral test of 30 minutes

(to be held in the last week of Trimester 2: 11 – 15 October) 20%

The final examination is subject to External Assessment by the German Department of another New Zealand university. Note also that at Honours level the arithmetical computation of marks is less important than the overall view of the teachers and examiners as to the student's abilities and performance.

Learning opportunities

We want to do our best to make your study of German both profitable and enjoyable. However, we can only to a limited extent teach you German; more important is your ability and willingness to learn. Do take advantage of whatever opportunities occur outside class hours to practise your German: e.g. reading, German films, lectures at the Goethe Society or Goethe Institute, Kaffeestunde, the German choir, the student play production, conversations with Germans, and so on. Students are also strongly encouraged to use self-access materials provided by the Language Learning Centre (situated on Level 0 of the von Zedlitz Building), including several computer programmes, which deal with all aspects of German grammar.

Remember too that the staff are here to help you. Do not feel shy about asking questions in class if you have not understood something. Feel free to tell us what you find most (or least) interesting or useful in the course.

Mandatory course requirements

The minimum course requirements which must be satisfied in order to complete the course are: regular attendance (a minimum of 80% of classes) and satisfactory completion of the assignments and the examination. Unless notified to the contrary, students may assume they have met the mandatory course requirements.

Class representative

The Course Coordinator will facilitate the election of a class representative during the first week of classes. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with teaching staff on behalf of students; his/her name and contact details will be made available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and students in the class.

Academic integrity and plagiarism

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

Turnitin

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <<http://www.turnitin.com>>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material including the Internet, books, journals, periodicals or the work of other students. Turnitin is used to assist academic staff in detecting misreferencing, misquotation, and the inclusion of unattributed material, which may be forms of cheating or plagiarism. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party. You are strongly advised to check with your lecturer if you are uncertain about how to use and cite material from other sources.

General university policies and statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/Publications.aspx>