

German as part of BA Modern Languages

German at Birmingham – What We Offer

We take pride in offering our students individual attention within small class sizes. A particular strength is the range and coverage that we can offer. In addition to language work, you can study literature, history, linguistics, politics, business German, and cinema with us, and range from the study of the very earliest forms of German to contemporary culture, politics and history.

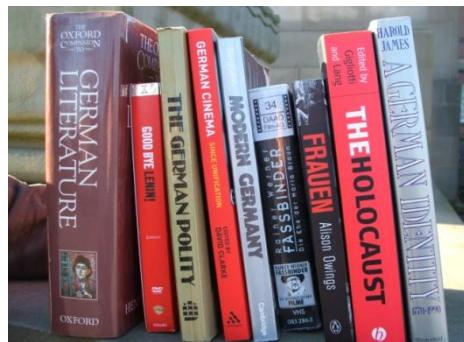
Advanced or Beginner?

We offer an advanced course for students entering with A-level or equivalent in German, and a beginners' course for those who have not studied German to advanced level. Beginners follow a separate Intensive Ab Initio language course in Years 1 and 2, but the programme is the same in Years 3 and 4.

Language Combinations

Within BA Modern Languages, German can be combined with:

- Catalan
- French
- Italian
- Japanese
- Mandarin Chinese
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish
- Business Management
- Film Studies



Student Satisfaction

“Support from staff in the department is exceptional.”
— National Student Survey
Respondent, 2012

Students on the German programme at Birmingham are very content with 93% reporting that they are satisfied with the quality of the course. Graduates from the German programme at Birmingham benefit from a high rate of employability with 90% going into work or study within six months of graduation.

Students take 120 credits per year. Within BA Modern Languages, those entering with A-level or equivalent can take 40, 60 or 80 credits per year in German. Those entering without A-level can take 40 or 60 credits in German in Years 1 and 2.

Key Strands of the German Programme at Birmingham

The German programme at Birmingham offers you the opportunity to study a wide range of modules across several broad areas:

Language Study

In each year of your degree, you will have a core German language course, which develops aspects of your reading, writing, speaking and listening in German. In Years 1 and 2 we focus on preparing you for your Year Abroad. In Year 1 you will have a weekly grammar class, replaced in Years 2 and 4 by a weekly translation class, which will give you advanced training in grammar and usage in German. In addition, there are a number of specialist classes that focus on the use of German for business and on politics, culture and society in contemporary Germany and Austria. The final-year courses build on your cultural and academic experience in Germany/Austria/Switzerland and enhance your employability by training you in presentation skills, debating, independent critical research as well as teamwork. You will be taught in small groups. Pair as well as group work is encouraged throughout, teaching materials are regularly updated.

History and Memory

Studying German at the University of Birmingham gives you a unique opportunity to investigate many different historical contexts, from the twelfth century to the present day. Courses on film, literature, linguistics and politics enable you to think about 'Germany' and 'Germans' across the ages. In addition, there are several courses which focus specifically on history and memory in the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The significance of student revolutions, secret police, soldiers and solidarity are just some of the things you will discover and debate on these modules. For more information see: 'Modern Germany: History and Its Images'; 'The Politics of Remembering: Germany and the Nazi Past' and 'From the Stasi to the Sandmännchen: Remembering the GDR in the United Germany'.

Linguistics and History of the Language

A number of optional modules allow you to study in depth the historical development of the German language from its earliest times to the present. Courses trace the emergence of the Germanic family of languages and the language and literature of the Old High German period (750 to 1100AD). You can also study contemporary sociolinguistics in the context of modern German, and examine the ways in which the German language has been shaped by the political and cultural developments of the last 500 years. For more information, see 'Linguistics Past and Present', 'Old High German Language and Literature', 'Comparative Germanic Philology' and 'The German Language and National Identity'.

German Literature

Birmingham offers an usually wide historical coverage of German literature. In Years One and Two, we offer survey courses that give you an overview of German literature since the medieval period. From the second half of Year Two onwards, we offer a number of optional courses on key authors (Thomas Mann, Franz Kafka) and some of the key periods of German literature (the Middle Ages, the 'Age of Goethe', the nineteenth century, the First World War and its aftermath, and the rebuilding of German culture in the post-war period). You will have the opportunity to study texts rarely covered in other German Studies degrees (including Das Nibelungenlied, Das Hildebrandslied, and Das Ludwigslied). Some of the many authors you may encounter include: Hartmann von Aub, Gottfried von Strassburg, Martin Luther, Wolfram von Eschenbach, Heinrich von Kleist, Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach, Theodor Fontane, Bertha von Suttner, Friedrich Nietzsche, Erich Maria Remarque, Ernst Jünger, Dolf Sternberger, Anna Seghers, Heinrich Böll, Elisabeth Langgässer, Victor Klemperer, Inge Scholl, Günter Grass, Ingeborg Bachmann, Bernhard Schlink, Thomas Brussig, Jana Hensel, and Ruth Klüger.

German Cinema

German cinema has been deeply affected by the history of Germany. The German filmmakers of the Weimar Republic were some of the most influential in the world and known for their highly ambitious projects and innovative techniques. In the years after 1933 many actors and directors left Germany, as the National Socialist authorities quickly took control of the film industry and began to use it as a political tool. The post-war period saw filmmakers responding to the very different circumstances in the two parts of the divided Germany. Contemporary German directors continue to challenge viewers with films that are engaging, surprising and sometimes shocking. Our film modules place particular focus on developing your skills in analysing sound and image. For more information, see particularly 'History and its Images', 'Introduction to German Cinema' and 'German-Language Cinema since 1960'.

Politics

Several modules approach politics from different angles: from the cultural politics of literature, plays and films, to the power dynamics of gender relations and the politics of remembering, to the ways in which political systems, parties and governments operate in Germany and Austria. You will have the opportunity to consider what 'politics' means to you and how such politics influences past, present and future understandings of what it means to be German.

The First Year German Course

80 credits of German Post-A-level

Compulsory courses

Practical Language I (20 credits)
Outlines of German Literature: Texts in Context (20 credits)

Options

German Linguistics Past and Present (20 credits)
Modern Germany: History and its Images (20 credits)
Politik und Wirtschaft (20 credits)

60 credits of German Post-A-level

Compulsory courses

Practical Language I (20 credits)
Outlines of German Literature: Texts in Context (20 credits)

Options

German Linguistics Past and Present (20 credits)
Modern Germany: History and its Images (20 credits)

40 credits of German Post-A-level

Compulsory course

Practical Language I (20 credits)

Options

Outlines of German Literature: Texts in Context (20 credits)
German Linguistics Past and Present (20 credits)
Modern Germany: History and its Images (20 credits)

60 credits of Beginners' German

Intensive ab initio German I
Intensive ab initio German II
Modern Germany: History and its Images (20 credits)

40 credits of Beginners' German

Intensive ab initio German I
Intensive ab initio German II

Module Descriptions

Year 1 Post-A-level

German Practical Language I**20 credits – core module****Various tutors**

The Year 1 advanced German language module aims to help you to make progress on four important areas of language competence:

- German grammar deals systematically with areas of German grammar and usage with which advanced learners have difficulty;
- ‘Sprachpraxis’ provides training in vocabulary building, textual analysis, oral and written comprehension, and pronunciation;
- ‘Textarbeit’ offers a systematic introduction to reading, analysing and producing texts in German;
- ‘Introduction to Language Studies’ provides an introduction to modern linguistic concepts, focusing on the structures of German and English.

The module is taught over three contact hours per week. Grammar, ‘Sprachpraxis’ and ‘Textarbeit’ are all taught in small groups of 10-15 students, giving you plenty of opportunities to practise your spoken German and to ask questions.

Assessment: combination of coursework and end-of-year written and oral exams.

Outlines of German Literature: Texts in Context**Professor Bill Dodd and others**

This weekly lecture and tutorial introduces you to a wide range of writers and texts, mainly from the twentieth century. The first semester covers shorter texts from the ‘Stunde Null’ in 1945 to the present day. In the second semester, you read fewer and longer texts from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The weekly small-group tutorials help you to develop your skills of analysis and discussion, and your essay-writing skills.

Assessment: combination of coursework and an end-of-year exam.

Modern Germany: History and its Images**Dr Joanne Sayner, Dr Malcolm Spencer and others**

Do you know why gymnastics clubs were hotbeds of revolutionary ferment in Germany in the nineteenth century? Did you realise that Germans needed wheelbarrows full of money to buy a loaf of bread during the Weimar Republic? Have you ever wondered why no one stopped the building of the Berlin Wall? Taught as a combination of lectures and small-group seminars, this course provides an introduction to modern German history from 1815 to 1990. It uses images and films to bring history to life and to think about the way German history has been written. Want to know more already and to see images and sounds from the recent (and not so recent) past? Take a look at:

<http://www.dhm.de/lemo/home.html>

Assessment: combination of coursework and an end-of-year exam.



Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtniskirche, Berlin

German Linguistics Past and Present**Mr Robert Evans, Professor Bill Dodd**

German Linguistics Past provides an introduction to the early history of the German language, starting around 5000BC when the parent language of most of the modern languages of Europe and India, namely Proto-Indo-European, was a living language. The course then traces the development from Indo-European of the Germanic family of languages during the last two thousand years BC, a period when, believe it or not, English and German were indistinguishable from each other, until the emergence in the eighth and ninth centuries AD of a clearly identifiable High German language, the earliest ancestor of today's New High German. **German Linguistics Present** introduces key concepts of modern linguistics, including corpus linguistics, and the main areas of sociolinguistics, applied to the contemporary German language.

Assessment: two coursework essays.

Politik und Wirtschaft**Ms Dorothee Sachse**

Are you interested in German economics and businesses? How does politics and the economy affect the work of single businesses? How do German businesses work? How well known are German products and companies worldwide? What is important to know when working with German businesses? Whilst working in German as a team we will find the answers to these and all the other questions you might have and give your spoken and written German a massive boost.

Assessment: four assessed pieces of coursework.

Module Descriptions

Year 1 Beginners' German

Intensive ab initio German I**20 credits****Mr Dietmar Wozniak**

This integrated language course is aimed at absolute beginners or near beginners in German. We use a very varied and lively approach involving both traditional and modern methods. The course will introduce you to the main grammatical structures and functions of the language through classroom exercises reinforced by private study. You will become sufficiently proficient in dealing with a wide range of common (predictable) situations and functions in all skills. Practical language classes will focus on productive and receptive skills helping you to achieve effective communicative competence up to 'survival' level. Aspects of modern Germany will be introduced in the target language and in English at appropriate points. The course will also help you to develop strategies for coping with German in real-life situations, using a variety of materials: semi authentic texts, dialogues and simulated radio & TV programmes. You will be given the opportunity to work in a group as well as individually.

Assessment: three class tests (speaking, listening and reading).

Intensive ab initio German II**20 credits****Mr Dietmar Wozniak**

This module is a continuation from Intensive Ab Initio German I offering deeper and wider insights into key aspects of German language by adopting a very lively approach to teaching the language. We will examine further key grammatical structures and functions of the language. You will become proficient in a wide range of common (predictable) situations and functions. Practical language classes will enhance your production and understanding of spoken and written German. You will also further develop your knowledge of modern Germany. The course will also help you to develop further strategies for coping with German in real-life situations, using a variety of materials: authentic texts, dialogues, short presentations, interviews and simulated radio & TV programmes. The course is supported by extensive WebCT material for self study.

Assessment: three class tests (reading, writing and grammar).

Modern Germany: History and its Images**20 credits – optional module****Dr Joanne Sayner, Dr Malcolm Spencer and others**

Do you know why gymnastics clubs were hotbeds of revolutionary ferment in Germany in the nineteenth century? Did you realise that Germans needed wheelbarrows full of money to buy a loaf of bread during the Weimar Republic? Have you ever wondered why no one stopped the building of the Berlin Wall? Taught as a combination of lectures and small-group seminars, this course provides an introduction to modern German history from 1815 to 1990. It uses images and films to bring history to life and to think about the way German history has been written. Want to know more already and to see images and sounds from the recent (and not so recent) past? Why not take a look at: <http://www.dhm.de/lemo/home.html>

Assessment: combination of coursework and an end-of-year exam.

The Second Year German Course

80 credits – for those who entered with German A-level

Compulsory courses

Practical Language II (20 credits)

Texts in Context: From the Middle Ages to the 'Age of Goethe' (10 credits)

EITHER Bühne und gesellschaftlicher Alltag nach 1945 (20 credits) OR Wirtschaftsdeutsch (20 credits)

Plus 40 credits of options from the list below

60 credits – for those who entered with German A-level

Compulsory course

Practical Language II (20 credits)

Plus 40 credits of options from the list below

40 credits – for those who entered with German A-level

Compulsory course

Practical Language II (20 credits)

Plus 20 credits of options from the list below

Options available to those who entered with German A-level

Texts in Context: From the Middle Ages to the 'Age of Goethe' (10 credits)

Bühne und gesellschaftlicher Alltag nach 1945 (20 credits)

Wirtschaftsdeutsch (20 credits)

Old High German Language & Literature (10 credits)

Introduction to German Cinema (10 credits)

The German Political Parties & Party Government (10 credits)

Thomas Mann (10 credits)

Franz Kafka (10 credits)

Cultures of Protest and Terror in West Germany, 1967-1977 (10 credits)

Knights, Maidens and Priests (10 credits)

Women in 19th-Century German Literature (10 credits)

Post-War German Literature (10 credits)

60 credits – for those who entered without German A-level

Intensive ab initio German III (20 credits)

Intensive ab initio German IV (20 credits)

Introduction to German Cinema (10 credits)

The German Political Parties & Party Government (10 credits)

40 credits – for those who entered without German A-level

Intensive ab initio German III (20 credits)

Intensive ab initio German IV (20 credits)

Module Descriptions

Year 2 Post-A-level

German Practical Language II**Various tutors.****20 credits – core module**

The Year 2 advanced course helps you to develop your German language through three weekly class (one hour each):

- **Grammar and Translation**, a weekly class, taught in small groups, which addresses certain specific grammar problems and offers training in translation both into and out of German;
- **'Sprachpraxis'**, a weekly class taught in small groups, focuses on improving your written and oral German and your comprehension skills, helping you to develop your vocabulary and your awareness of how German is used;
- **Landeskunde-Vorlesung**: A weekly hour-long lecture in German, dealing in Semester 1 primarily with German and Austrian politics and society since 1945, and in Semester 2 with various aspects of German and Austrian culture.

Assessment: combination of coursework and end-of-year written and oral exams.

Bühne und gesellschaftlicher Alltag nach 1945**Ms Dorothee Sachse, Ms Claudia Merz**

Burgtheater, Vienna

Theatre is often an unjustly neglected form of art. In this seminar we will discover the stage that is the world. As well as discovering the answers to questions like 'How does German theatre compare with British theatre?', 'Who are its makers and stars?' and 'What are the gems in German theatre?', you will deepen your understanding of social contexts and cultural life in post-1945 Germany, Austria and Switzerland. In the second part in the course you will work largely independently on a topic of your own choice in the area of culture, politics and/or society in the

German-speaking world, which also serves as a means of helping you to prepare for your Year Abroad.

Assessment: coursework and oral presentation.

Wirtschaftsdeutsch**Dr Ruth Whittle**

This course builds on the first year module 'Politik und Wirtschaft' and extends your practice of getting business done 'auf deutsch'. Whether you want to learn about preparing for a trade fair, complain about a bad supplier or provide oral translations (called 'interpreting') in settings where one or other speaker is monolingual - 'Wirtschaftsdeutsch' has it covered! You will be taught in small groups, with more than half the class time devoted to practising with a partner or with the lecturer.

Assessment: one essay, one class test and two oral tests.

Texts in Context: From the Middle Ages to the 'Age of Goethe'

Dr Nigel Harris, Dr Elystan Griffiths

This module continues the focus of the first-year Texts in Contexts course. We will study a selection of short texts written between the medieval period and the early nineteenth century, including writings by Konrad von Würzburg, Goethe and Kleist. We will discuss the texts in detail in class, looking at how the selected texts reflect or challenge the views of the era. Key running themes are knighthood and heroism, and we will chart the ways in which these themes changed over time. We will not only be looking at the texts themselves, but also aspects of the history and thought of the periods in which they were written.

Assessment: one coursework essay.



Goethe's house, Weimar

Old High German Language & Literature

Mr Robert Evans

This module follows on from German Linguistics (Past) and explores in greater depth the language and literature of the Old High German period (750 to 1100AD), the oldest period in which we have written records in German. The course will cover, amongst other things, the 'Hildebrandslied', the most famous literary text of the period (indeed some would say the most famous text in the whole of German literature) and Old High German dialectology, namely how to establish the dialect and approximate date of an Old High German text using only the linguistic evidence provided by the text itself.

Assessment: EITHER a translation/commentary exercise (see above) OR one coursework essay.

Introduction to German Cinema

Dr Elystan Griffiths

Why was German cinema considered so innovative during the years of the Weimar Republic (1918-33)? Why did Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels disapprove of some of Hitler's pet film projects? What role did film play in establishing a democratic Germany after 1945? How did film production function in the communist German Democratic Republic? And how has German film developed since reunification in 1990? This module aims to answer all of these questions and more. Each week, we will spend time discussing a major period in German film history and analysing one key film from each period. Sessions are mainly student-led and discussion-based. A key focus of the course will be the analysis of cinematic techniques, and you can expect to develop your skills in visual and textual analysis.

Assessment: one coursework essay.

Thomas Mann

Dr Malcolm Spencer

Thomas Mann (1875–1955) is one of the finest and most fascinating German writers of the modern era. He is also one of the more controversial German cultural figures of the twentieth century. The module (two hours per week) provides an introduction to his methods and changing concerns as a writer and covers a broad range of textual, interpretative, literary and political questions. The module traces Thomas Mann's development as an author and explores in detail a representative selection of his shorter fiction. Texts prescribed will normally include *Tristan* (1903), *Tonio Kröger* (1903), *Der Tod in Venedig* (1912), *Mario und der Zauberer* (1929), and *Bruder Hitler* (1939).

Assessment: one coursework essay.

Franz Kafka

Professor Bill Dodd

Franz Kafka (1883-1924) lived most of his life in Prague. He wrote in German, but has become a celebrated figure of 'world literature'. This module introduces you to Kafka's life and approaches to understanding his work, including the vast secondary literature that has grown up around him. The seminars will offer you the opportunity to practise and further develop your skills in close reading and critical discussion of complex literary works: You will learn to read closely and with attention to the nuances of tone and perspective which make Kafka such a remarkable writer.

Assessment: one coursework essay.

The German Political Parties & Party Government

Mr Dietmar Wozniak

Although the German constitution explicitly states that the political parties are only one of many players in the political arena, the practice looks quite different. Indeed, political parties have become the dominant force in German politics and society. Although heavily criticised, political life without them seems inconceivable. The political party scene is undergoing some dramatic and rapid changes. We have only recently experienced the transition from a stable system of three parties to a highly volatile and dynamic multiparty system with



The *Reichstag*

multiple options. What are the underlying causes for this rapid transformation? This course will help you understand how German politics 'ticks' and enable you to assess developments and events more easily. The course assumes no prior knowledge of politics and is suitable for those who wish to gain an insight into current affairs in Germany.

Assessment: one coursework essay.

Cultures of Protest and Terror in West Germany, 1967-1977

Dr Nicholas Martin

The module will explore the history, politics and cultural memory of the West German student movement and its violent offshoot, the Red Army Faction, during the period 1967–77. Materials studied will include contemporary media reports and terrorist manifestos as well as a range of cultural phenomena associated with protest and terrorism in West Germany in this period, such as documentary and feature films and (semi-)fictional writings by Heinrich Böll, Bernhard Schlink and others.

Assessment: one coursework essay.

Knights, Maidens and Priests

Dr Nigel Harris

The module will study some short works from the medieval and early modern periods of German literature: Hartmann von Aue's *Der arme Heinrich*, Der Stricker's *Der Pfaffe Amis*, and poems or short pieces by Mechthild von Magdeburg, Oswald von Wolkenstein, and Martin Luther. These will be analysed as literary texts, but also as sources of information about and criticism of medieval culture and society. Particular emphasis will be placed on themes relating to the three social groupings named in the title. The problematic but fruitful relationship between religious and secular perspectives and stereotypes will be an especially important recurring theme.

Assessment: one coursework essay.

Women in Nineteenth-Century German Literature

Dr Ruth Whittle

Using a range of primary texts, you will study a selection of female writers and female figures in German and Austrian literature in the late 19th century. Although it self-evidently cannot attempt to cover the totality of ideas about women in this era, it will seek to enable you to develop an understanding of and sensitivity towards the topic. The course will also develop your critical understanding of the question of gender and gender theory and thus examine concepts about the space of woman (in the family, in the state, in creation) and body image. The course attempts to raise your awareness of gendered concepts which in various guises still inform women's (as well as men's) self-image and actions today.

Assessment: one coursework essay.

Post-War German Literature

Professor John Klapper

Want to know more about how Germany developed and divided after the Second World War and how this was reflected in and influenced the literature of the time? Feel you ought to know more about two of the leading names in twentieth-century German writing, Heinrich Böll and Günter Grass? Then this is the course for you. The module considers (West) German literature from 1945 to the early 1960s and examines key literary developments against the background of wider political and social developments, including the establishment of the Federal Republic, the Economic Miracle, the building of the Berlin Wall and Germany's troubled relationship with its Nazi past. All students read a range of short texts, including one play, two short story collections and one short novel.

Assessment: one coursework essay.

Module Descriptions

Year 2 – for those who entered without A-level in German

Intensive Ab Initio German III**Mr Dietmar Wozniak****20 credits – core module**

This module consolidates and further extends skills acquired in Intensive Ab Initio German I & II. Most main (remaining) grammatical structures and functions of the language will be dealt with through classroom exercises reinforced by private study. You will become proficient in a wide range of less predictable and complex situations and functions. Practical language classes will focus on productive and receptive skills, helping students to achieve effective communicative competence in even unpredictable situations. More emphasis will be put on speaking skills. Simple texts for translation from German into English and vice versa will be introduced. Wide-ranging aspects of modern Germany will be integrated at appropriate points by using a variety of materials: complex authentic texts, dialogues, short presentations, interviews and semi-authentic radio & TV programmes. Discussion and debating skills in German will also be developed and enhanced. Where feasible students will be encouraged and supported to pair up with a native German speaker in a Tandem partnership to experience authentic language outside the classroom.

Assessment: four class tests (reading and translation; listening; presentation/debating; writing and translation).



TV Tower, Berlin

Intensive Ab Initio German IV**Mr Dietmar Wozniak****20 credits – core module**

This module consolidates and extends skills acquired in Intensive Ab Initio German III and forms the basis for residence in Year 3 in a German-speaking country. Remaining grammatical structures and functions of the language will be dealt with through classroom exercises reinforced by private study. You will become proficient in using German in a wide range of unpredictable and complex contexts. Several sessions will be dedicated to developing your translation skills (English - German / German - English) as well as to reading skills, to enable you to access highly complex texts. Aspects of modern Germany will be discussed by using a variety of materials: complex authentic texts, dialogues, short presentations, interviews and semi-authentic radio & TV programmes. Where feasible you will continue to work with a native German speaker in a Tandem partnership to experience authentic language outside the classroom.

Assessment: oral and written exams.

Introduction to German Cinema**Dr Elystan Griffiths**

Why was German cinema considered so innovative during the years of the Weimar Republic (1918-33)? Why did Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels disapprove of some of Hitler's pet film projects? What role did film play in establishing a democratic Germany after 1945? How did film production function in the communist German Democratic Republic? And how has German film developed since reunification in 1990?

This module aims to answer all of these questions and more. Each week, we will spend time discussing a major period in German film history and analysing one key film from each period. Sessions are mainly student-led and discussion-based. A key focus of the course will be the analysis of cinematic techniques, and you can expect to develop your skills in visual and textual analysis.

Assessment: one coursework essay.

The German Political Parties & Party Government**Mr Dietmar Wozniak**

Although the German constitution explicitly states that the political parties are only one of many players in the political arena, the practice looks quite different. Indeed, political parties have become the dominant force in German politics and society. Although heavily criticised, political life without them seems inconceivable. The political party scene is undergoing some dramatic and rapid changes. We have only recently experienced the transition from a stable system of three parties to a highly volatile and dynamic multiparty system with multiple options. What are the underlying causes for this rapid transformation? This course will help you understand how German politics 'ticks' and enable you to assess developments and events more easily. The course assumes no prior knowledge of politics and is suitable for those who wish to gain an insight into current affairs in Germany.

Assessment: one coursework essay.

The Year Abroad

NB: From Year 3 onwards, you follow the same course, regardless of whether you entered with A-level German or not.

One of the most exciting aspects of any degree in Modern Languages is the opportunity to spend time abroad, perfecting your language skills through immersion and acquiring all manner of transferable skills.

Students of German have three options:

- 1) study at a University in Germany or Austria
- 2) do a teaching placement in a secondary school in Germany or Austria, organized by the British Council
- 3) or do a work placement organized independently.



Vienna

University placements available in Germany and Austria:

- Augsburg
- Berlin (Humboldt University)
- Erlangen
- Frankfurt am Main
- Freiburg im Breisgau
- Heidelberg
- Koblenz
- Cologne
- Mainz
- München
- Tübingen
- Vienna

An ERASMUS place provides you with a bursary (usually about £2000 for the year), and tutorial support of various kinds which you would not otherwise get. Our partner institutions provide us with between two and six places each.



Tübingen

The Fourth Year German Course

80 credits

Compulsory courses

German Translation and Oral (20 credits)

PLUS German Essay (20 credits) OR Oral Presentation and Debating (20 credits) OR Translation Theory and Practice (20 credits)

Plus 40 credits in Optional Modules as listed below

60 credits

Compulsory course

German Translation and Oral (20 credits)

Plus 40 credits in Optional Modules as listed below

40 credits

Compulsory course

German Translation and Oral (20 credits)

Plus 20 credits in Optional Modules as listed below

Options Available in Final Year

Translation Theory and Practice (20 credits)

German-Language Cinema since 1960: Images of a Nation? (20 credits)

From the *Stasi* to the *Sandmännchen*: Remembering the GDR in the United Germany (20 credits)

Comparative Germanic Philology (20 credits)

Governance and Political Culture in Germany (20 credits)

The German Language and National Identity (20 credits)

The Politics of Remembering: Germany & the Nazi Past (20 credits)

Medieval German Epic and Romance (20 credits)

German First World War Writing (20 credits)

German Literature and Society, 1770-1815: Order, Social Change and Revolution (20 credits)

Oppositional Writing in Nazi Germany (20 credits)

Nietzsche (20 credits)

Emancipating Women in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century (20 credits)

Module Descriptions

Year 4

Final-year courses are studied across both semesters, in order to enable you to study the topics that interest you in depth. Note that we can typically offer seven of the options listed at any one time.

German Translation & Oral

Various tutors

20 credits – core module

This module offers practice and training in translation both into and from German coupled with the revision of German grammar. It will also offer extensive practice in a wide variety of oral skills. By the end of the module you should be able to translate both into and from German and to converse fluently and accurately in German.

Assessment: oral and written examination.

German Essay

Dr Nigel Harris

20 credits – optional module (80 credits only)

This module offers advanced practice and training in the planning and writing of an essay in German. Essay topics will be based on the main socio-political and cultural debates which have preoccupied post-war Germany.

Assessment: coursework essays and examination.

Oral Presentation and Debating

Dr Ruth Whittle, Professor Bill Dodd

20 credits – optional module (80 credits only)

This module builds on and your skills in spoken German, gained during the year abroad, by developing two important practical language skills: In the first semester you prepare a presentation on your work during the year abroad work; and in Semester 2 you practise debating skills before engaging in a group debate (chaired by a member of staff with a second member of staff present) on an issue of contemporary relevance to Germany. Each of these tasks is supported by discussing video examples, and by feedback on informal rehearsals.

Assessment: oral presentation in class plus participation in a debate.

Translation in Theory and Practice in Europe A and B

Dr Hilary Brown

20 credits – optional module

The course focuses on approaches to the theory and practice of translation in Europe. It addresses the main areas of debate in Translation Theory and Translation Studies, with a historical survey of key theoretical texts and comparative and contrastive analysis of translations into English. It also covers key approaches, skills and resources available to the translator. It gives students the opportunity to apply their knowledge to their own translation practice via the production of a translation from their language of study into English (or from English into their mother tongue in the case of Erasmus students) accompanied by a critical and theoretically-informed reflection on the translation.

Assessment: coursework essay and translation project.

German-Language Cinema since 1960: Images of a Nation?

Dr Elystan Griffiths

20 credits – optional module

The first semester is spent analysing the cinema of the divided Germany from 1960-1990. Topics studied will include the legacy of the National Socialist era, the division of Germany, terrorism and the feminist movement in Germany. In West German cinema, we look at issues such as the development of the New German Cinema, a movement associated with younger directors concerned to criticise - amongst other things - the conservatism and oppression of West German society. We'll also look at some key films from the East German cinema, and examine how the communist authorities shaped the filmmaking landscape in the German Democratic Republic.

The second semester focuses on post-1990 cinema in Germany and Austria. We will look at the question of whether contemporary directors retain the same focus on political concerns. We will consider how the national past has represented in more recent productions such as *Der Untergang*. Films will include examples from the vibrant Turkish-German filmmaking scene and from the critically acclaimed Austrian auteur cinema of recent years.

Assessment: coursework essay and end-of-year exam.

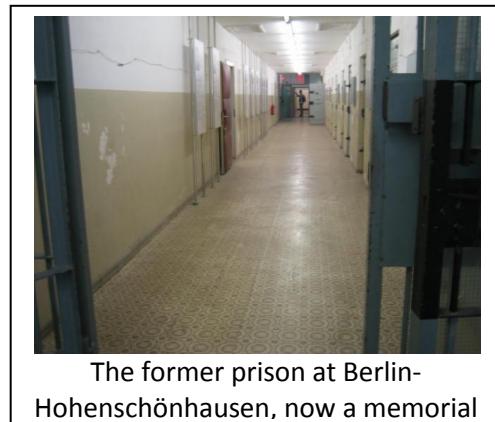
From the Stasi to the Sandmännchen: Remembering the GDR in the United Germany

Dr Sara Jones

20 credits – optional module

In this module students will learn about the social, political and cultural processes of remembering the German Democratic Republic (GDR) in contemporary Germany. We will study socio-political debates surrounding the history and memory of East Germany (e.g., concepts of totalitarianism and nostalgia, or the opening of the Stasi files), and the production of works of culture in this context (e.g., the Stasi prison memorial in Berlin-Hohenschoenhausen, Henckel von Donnersmarck's *Das Leben der Anderen*, or Hensel's *Zonenkinder*). We will consider the relationship between individual memory, memories of different social groups and the creation of 'official' narratives about the past. Our discussions will be grounded in memory and media studies theory, as well as political approaches to the legacy of state socialism.

Assessment: coursework essay and end-of-year exam.



The former prison at Berlin-Hohenschönhausen, now a memorial

Governance and Political Culture in Germany

Mr Dietmar Wozniak

20 credits – optional module

Germany defines itself as a parliamentary democracy based on the rule of law, social justice and federalism. What does that actually mean in the theory and practice of the Federal Republic? How is Germany governed and, furthermore, have the underlying cultural conditions for a successful democracy been met? The course aims to provide an overview and an analysis of Germany's system of government taking the main aspects of German governance and political culture into account. Students are welcome and encouraged to pursue their particular interests and share their (gained) expertise with all course participants.

Assessment: coursework essay and end-of-year exam.

The German Language and National Identity

Dr Hilary Brown and Professor Bill Dodd

20 credits – optional module

Language plays a key role in the identity formation of individuals, groups and nations. This module allows you to explore the various ways in which language has been a political issue for speakers of German from Luther to the present day. The module explores how the language has been used as a political instrument in different contexts, and the extent to which politics and ideologies have influenced the language itself. The first part of the module focuses on the period from Luther to 1900 (the Reformation, 'Kulturpatriotismus' in the baroque era, the so-called 'flowering' of the national language and national literature in the age of Goethe, and the role of language in relation to the first German unification). The second part of the module focuses on the period since 1900 (the two World Wars and their legacies, the National Socialist period and its legacy, the Cold War, German unification and its legacy, including current debates about linguistic purism).

Assessment: coursework essay and end-of-year exam.

The Politics of Remembering: Germany & the Nazi Past

Dr Joanne Sayner

20 credits – optional module

This course examines the way that the Nazi past has been remembered in Germany since the end of the Second World War. We examine how East, West and unified Germany have confronted the horrors of the Holocaust and debated questions of guilt, resistance and victimhood. We look at the different ways in which the Nazi past has been portrayed in books, television series, films, exhibitions and monuments and we consider the role that high profile court cases have played in raising public awareness of these issues. If you already want to find out more about these topics, why not take a look at Inge Scholl's *Die Weiße Rose*, *Das Tagebuch der Anne Frank*, or investigate some of the controversy in Germany surrounding the film *Valkyrie* (2008).

Assessment: coursework essay and end-of-year exam.



Holocaust Memorial, Berlin

Medieval German Epic and Romance

Dr Nigel Harris

20 credits – optional module

This course explores in detail four of the most important and fascinating works of the High Middle Ages. Aspects of Middle High German language will be considered, but the primary focus of the course will be on a variety of literary aspects of the set texts. These will include social and religious themes, characterization and the construction of identity, symbolism, narrative technique and questions of genre.

Assessment: coursework essay and end-of-year exam.

German First World War Writing

Dr Nicholas Martin

20 credits – optional module

The course (two hours per week) explores the various ways in which German writers attempted to come to terms with the experience and aftermath of the First World War. Areas of discussion include the literary qualities of German war writing, the presentation of life and death at the front, the depiction of broader aspects of the conflict, military and civilian perceptions of the war, as well as the political and cultural significance of German literature on the First World War in the period 1918-1933.

Assessment: coursework essay and end-of-year exam.

Comparative Germanic Philology

Mr Robert Evans

20 credits – optional module

This module expands upon the material covered in German Linguistics (Past) and Old High German Language and Literature. The course covers not only Old High German, but also looks at the linguistics and artifacts of other early Germanic languages, in particular Old English (Anglo-Saxon) and a language called Gothic, which is the oldest Germanic language for which we have written records and dates back to around 360AD. Indeed this course offers a very rare opportunity for Gothic to be studied at undergraduate level.

Assessment: coursework essay and end-of-year exam.

German Literature and Society, 1770-1815: Order, Social Change and Revolution

Dr Elystan Griffiths

20 credits – optional module

This course will give you an overview of the development of German literature in what is often described as one of its most fertile and exciting periods. The age of Enlightenment had led many thinkers to question the current arrangement of society and to wonder about the possibility of achieving progress in human affairs. The same impulses led many to question established social structures, including class and generational boundaries and the roles of men and women. Social structures were challenged most visibly by the outbreak of the French Revolution in 1789 and the ensuing wars that raged across Europe until 1815. In German literature, an age of instability and rebellion left its mark in the extraordinary drama of the *Sturm und Drang* and the drama and prose of Kleist. The course will be based on the close study of poetry, dramas and prose texts by writers including Lessing, Lenz, Goethe, Hölderlin and Kleist. We will use them to examine how German writers reflected on the conflict between social norms and individual authenticity, which will allow us to change how ideas of social class, gender and national identity changed over this period.

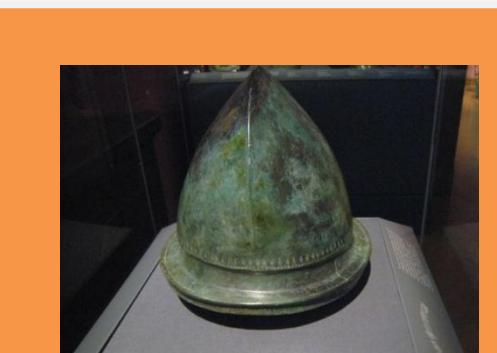
Assessment: coursework essay and end-of-year exam.

Oppositional Writing in Nazi Germany

Professor Bill Dodd, Professor John Klapper, Dr Joanne Sayner, Dr Nicholas Martin

20 credits – optional module

Was public opposition and dissent possible in the so-called totalitarian Nazi state? Somewhat surprisingly, there is quite a large body of texts suggesting that it was. This module explores oppositional discourses in private writings and “between the lines” in published texts in the Nazi era. You are given introductory lectures on the political and social background of the period, cultural policy between 1933 and 1945, and the problems faced by oppositional writers during this period, and on the problematic concept of “inner emigration” in the critical literature since 1945. After a guided session reading “between the lines”, you are introduced to a range of individual authors, their biographies and their works, and relevant secondary literature, to explore the methods by which dissent was placed in the public sphere.



As part of our final-year Comparative Germanic Philology module you will have the opportunity to study some of the earliest linguistic artefacts in German and the Germanic languages as a whole. One of the most important of these is the Negau Helmet, a bronze battle helmet unearthed in eastern Europe in the early nineteenth century and containing on its rim a controversial inscription which many scholars believe to be our earliest example of an inscription in a Germanic language, possibly dating back to 100BC or even earlier. The helmet now resides in the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna.

Assessment: coursework essay and end-of-year exam

Nietzsche

Dr Nicholas Martin

20 credits – optional module

The core elements of the module (two hours per week) will be, first, a consideration of Friedrich Nietzsche's ideas in their German and European cultural contexts and, second, the study of aspects of the reception of these ideas. Areas of discussion will include Nietzsche's appropriation of antiquity in his campaign against 'decadent' modernity, his theories of art and culture, his modes of expression, and his critique of late nineteenth-century German values. The second part of the module will concentrate on the use and abuse of Nietzsche's thought in intellectual and political life, focusing primarily on Germany in the first half of the twentieth century. Trends in Nietzsche reception since 1945 will also be discussed.

Assessment: coursework essay and end-of-year exam.

Emancipating Women in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century

Dr Ruth Whittle

20 credits – optional module

This seminar explores the terms 'emancipation' and 'radical' in respect of women's writings between the first German unification in 1871/2 and World War I. It examines the relationship between aspirations and biographies as well as the ways in which some of the most significant women of the time expressed themselves. To this end selected texts by women from different genres will be discussed.

The course is intended to help you gain a historical perspective as to what was socially and artistically the most diverse German 'women's movement' including working-class activists and bourgeois participants. Particular attention will be paid to the ways in which these authors negotiated increasing tensions between ideals and reality (industrialisation, nationalism, growing antisemitism; *Körperfeindlichkeit*).

Assessment: coursework essay and end-of-year exam.