Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Term 2 2021-2022

Course Code & Title:	**GERM3020 German Conversation**	
Language of Instruction:	German / English	Units: 3

Course Description

This course aims to enhance students' oral communication skills in German, and to a minor extend written communication. Through selected student-oriented stimuli and topics related to social issues and contemporary affairs, students will practice the expression and exchange of personal views and ideas. Classroom activities may include in-class activities such as dialogue, role-play, narration, speech, group discussion, debate and multimedia activities. Emphasis will be placed on oral practice and an interactive learning environment with a view to helping students build confidence and develop fluency in using the language, to speak spontaneously in social interaction and acquire conversational techniques commonly used in a German-speaking environment.

→ The prerequisite for this course is GERM3000 (2002), 3001, 3002, 3050 (2010) or 3051 (3010).

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to
- express his/her opinion in discussions and use appropriate techniques of verbal expression;
- write and/or perform short dialogues suitable for everyday situations;
- assess the quality of oral statements and make suggestions for improvement;
- introduce topics of personal interest to third parties by applying digital media.

Course Content (subject to change)

Unit	In-class Topics	Grammatical/cultural phenomena
Introduction	- Getting acquainted - Exchanging personal information and reporting to others	- Conjunctions - Formal/informal "you"
General oral skills	- Presentational skills - Assessing the quality of presentations - Conducting phone calls formally/informally - Basic enquiries (appointments, questions, etc.) - Everyday situations (e.g. planning a trip, in the supermarket, etc.)	- Conducting presentations in German - Subjunctive - Stereotypes - Pronunciation - Intonation/Phonetics
Discussion skills	- Expressing views orally - Expressing views in written form - Differentiating between personal opinions and arguments	- Structures expressing believes - Text structuring conjunctions - Logical connectors (i.e. *denn, da, obwohl,…*)

Learning Activities			
Interactive classwork[1] (hr/wk) in / out class	Extra-curricular activities (hr/course) in / out class	Web-based teaching (hr/wk) in / out class	Homework / Self-study (hr/wk) in / out class
3	0	0	3
M	O	M	M

 M = Mandatory / O = Optional

[1] Interactive classwork focuses on student-centered activities as pair work, group work, role-playing and student-teacher interaction.

Assessment Scheme		
Task nature	Description	Weight
Participation and oral expression	Oral expression covers in-class participation, which may be in the form of Q & A, dialogue and role-playing exercises.	10%
Homework / short video	Apart from a minor amount of homework, students submit a short video in which they introduce themselves.	10%
Final Video Project	In groups, students produce a video on any topic related to Hong Kong that they would like to share with their classmates.	30%
Presentation	There is one assessed presentation to be held in class on a topic chosen by the student(s).	25%
Oral exam	Test in pairs/groups for 10 minutes: dialogue and discussion.	25%

Notes: You are required to arrive on time.

   You are required to attend at least 75% of the class. Treat 75% attendance as the minimum, not the maximum.

   The success of your own learning will highly depend on your attendance.

   Should you miss more than 25% of the class, you will automatically fail the course.

   Unauthorised absence from any assessment will result in grade F for that assessment.

   If you are unable to attend, get informed about what content and homework you missed and make it up yourself.

Grade Descriptors					
	A	**B**	**C**	**D**	**F**
General	Outstanding performance in all learning outcomes and meeting all specified assessment requirements. Can fully understand and appropriately use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases aimed at the fulfillment of needs of a concrete type. Can ask and answer questions about personal details in a competent way. Can interact in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics appropriately.	Good performance in all learning outcomes. Can understand and mostly appropriately use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases aimed at the fulfillment of needs of a concrete type. Can ask and answer questions about personal details in a suitable way. Can interact in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics mostly appropriately.	Satisfactory performance in the majority of learning outcomes. Can partially understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases aimed at the fulfillment of needs of a concrete type. Can ask and answer questions about personal details in a basic way. Can interact in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics partially appropriately.	Barely satisfactory performance in a number of learning outcomes. Can rarely understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases aimed at the fulfillment of needs of a concrete type. Can hardly ask and answer questions about personal details. Can poorly interact in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics.	Unsatisfactory performance in a number of learning outcomes and/or failure to meet specified assessment requirements. Cannot understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases aimed at the fulfillment of needs of a concrete type. Cannot ask and answer questions about personal details. Cannot interact in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics.

Learning Resources
Course Materials
• Reader with texts and worksheets will be handed out in class
Course website: Moodle@Keep
• https://moodle.cuhk.keep.edu.hk/

IT Resources
• Beolingus online dictionary (English-German: http://dict.tu-chemnitz.de/)
• Leo online dictionary (English-Chinese, English German www.leo.org)

Readings & Library Resources
• Reimann, Monika (2001) Essential grammar of German with exercises. Ismaning: Hueber
• Dodd, Bill et al. (1996) Modern German grammar: a practical guide. London: Routledge

Schedule (Subject to change):

Week	Session Date	Remarks	Assignments	Content
1	Jan 10 (Mon)			Getting acquainted, exchanging personal info & General oral skills
2	Jan 17 (Mon)	Online add-drop (until Sun 23 Jan)		
3	Jan 24 (Mon)	Department add-drop (until Fri 28 Jan) **(only in exceptional cases)**	Choosing presentation topic & Mock presentations	Presentation skills & General oral skills
4	Jan 31 (Mon)	Lunar New Year: Mon 31 Jan~ Fri 5 Feb		no class
5	Feb 7 (Mon)		Choosing presentation topic & Mock presentations	Presentation skills & General oral skills
6	Feb 14 (Mon)		Student Presentations	
7	Feb 21 (Mon)			
8	Feb 28 (Mon)			
9	Mar 7 (Mon)		Student Presentations	General discussion skills & Video projects production
10	Mar 14 (Mon)		Student Presentations	
11	Mar 21 (Mon)		Final video project: choosing group members and topic	
12	Mar 28 (Mon)		Final video project: work on its production	
13	Apr 4 (Mon)	Fri 1 Apr - Wed 6 Apr: Reading week		no class
14	Apr 11 (Mon)			General discussion skills / Video projects production and presentation
15	Apr 18 (Mon)	Fri 15 Apr - Mon 18 Apr – Easter Holidays	Final video project: submission (in Moodle)	no class
16	Apr 25 (Mon)			**Oral Exams**

Class and teachers' contact details:

Class	Time	Classroom	Weeks	Teacher	Email
GERM3020	Mon 2:30-5:15	CYT 215	12	Dr Irene B. Littig	irenelittig2001@yahoo.com

For further information and inquiries you are welcome to contact the General Office:

Contact	Telephone	Email	Office
General Office	3943 9836	lin@cuhk.edu.hk	Rm G17,Leung Kau Kui Building **Office Hours:** Monday to Thursday: 8:45am to 1:00pm and 2:00pm to 5:30pm Friday: 8:45am to 1:00pm and 2:00pm to 5:45pm

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism
Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/ . With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration. For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.
Feedback for Evaluation
Our language programme highly values students' feedback and comments and is happy to use them for reflection on our teaching and improvement. Students are very welcome to provide comments and feedback on the course any time to their course teacher or the course level coordinator through email or in personal conversation. In addition, students' feedbacks will be collected in the middle of the term through an open-end questionnaire and the teacher will discuss the feedbacks in class and make improvements if necessary. The course will also follow the university's course evaluation exercise at the end of the term, and students' feedbacks will be used for future course planning and teaching.