




Term 1 2023-2024

Course Code & Title:	SOUNDS OF GERMAN		
Language of Instruction: German / English	Units: 3		

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the phonetic system of the German language. It is primarily designed to help students who are learning German to improve their understanding, speaking and reading skills. Although theoretical content on the subject of German phonetics will be provided, students must conceive this course as a workshop rather than a lecture. Constant practice through pair work, games, interactive activities, recordings will be included and active participation from the students is therefore expected.

Prerequisite GERM 2000 equivalent competence.

Learning Outcomes

After taking this course, students are expected to:

- (1) generally improve their reading, listening and speaking skills in German;
- (2) understand and produce the rhythmic groups, intonation patterns and stress of German.
- (3) understand and describe some basic articulatory features of German speech sounds;
- (4) be able to use the German IPA symbols provided in dictionaries;
- (5) understand the relationship between the German pronunciation and writing system.

CONTENT

ALPHABET	Spelling (revisions) & syllables
GERMAN SPEECH SOUNDS	<i>German IPA symbols & basic articulatory features of German vowels and consonants.</i>
RHYTHM, STRESS & MELODY	- <i>word stress</i> - <i>sentence stress & rhythm</i> - <i>pause & melody</i>

EXAMPLES OF TOPICS COVERED

*Greetings & introductions; place of living; food; shopping; family; numbers etc.
Games, poems and songs will also be used.*

Learning Activities

Interactive classwork	Extra-curricular activities	Web-based teaching	Homework / Self-study
(hr)	(hr)	(hr)	(hr)
in / out class	in / out class	in / out class	in / out class
3 / -	- / -	- / 0,5	- / 3

M = Mandatory / O = Optional

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 homework	Active participation in class activities and homework.	20%
Quizzes	Quiz 1: Perception and Production of Vowels and Diphthongs. Quiz 2: Perception and Production of Consonants. Transcription.	20% 15%
Recording	Self-recording about a given topic	20%
Performance	Reading and performance in groups	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	Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.
A-	Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.
B	Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, or high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.
C	Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.
D	Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes.
F	Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, or failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

Learning Resources

Course Materials

Handouts will be provided by the teacher.

IT Resources

- Sounds of German and Interactive International Phonetic Alphabet Chart: http://www.coli.uni-saarland.de/elaut/Languages_Sites/sampaDeutsch.htm
- Sounds of German with formation information: <https://soundsofspeech.uiowa.edu/german>
- **Moodle course webpage**

Reading & Library Resources

Recommended materials:

- A bilingual German/English dictionary with information on pronunciation provided in IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet): <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/german-english/>
- Prof. Dr. Kerstin Reinke (2012): *Phonetiktrainer A1-B1*, Ernst Klett Sprachen, Stuttgart
- Ursula Hirschfeld, Kerstin Reinke, Eberhard Stock (2007): *Phonetik intensiv: Aussprachetraining*, Langenscheidt, Berlin und München

Schedule (Subject to change):

Week	Date	Remarks	Assessment	Content
1	Sep 4-10	Sep 4 (Mon) Inauguration Ceremony for Undergraduates (classes suspended until 1:30pm)		Introduction & alphabet
2	Sep 11-17	Online add drop 11-17 Sept (Mon-Sun)		German vowels
3	Sep 18-24	Department add drop 18-22 Sept (Mon-Fri) (exceptional cases only)		
4	Sep 25-Oct 1	Public Holiday: Sep 30 (Sat). The day following the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival		
5	Oct 2-8	Oct 2 (Mon) Public holiday – The day following National Day		
6	Oct 9-15			
7	Oct 16-22	Oct 21 (Sat) Information Day for Undergraduate Admissions (all classes suspended)	Quiz 1	
8	Oct 23-29	Oct 23 (Mon) Public holiday – Chung Yeung Festival	Recording	
9	Oct 30-Nov 5			German consonants
10	Nov 6-12	Nov 9 (Thu) 92nd Congregation (all classes suspended)		
11	Nov 13-19			
12	Nov 20-26			
13	Nov 27-Dec 2		Quiz 2	
	Dec 4-15	Schedule for Performance as agreed with course Lecturer	Performance	

Class sections and teacher contact details:

Class	Time	Classroom	No. of weeks	Teacher	Email
GERM2020	Thu 9:30-12:15	LSK206	13	Mr. Bernd ESCH	berndesch@cuhk.edu.hk

For further information and enquiries, you are welcome to contact:

Contact	Telephone	Email	Office
Mr. Bernd Esch	3943 1546	berndesch@cuhk.edu.hk	Rm G24, Leung Kau Kui Building (KKL)
General Office	3943 7110	lin@cuhk.edu.hk	Rm G17, Leung Kau Kui Building Office Hours: <u>Monday to Thursday:</u> 8:45am-1pm and 2pm-5:30pm <u>Friday:</u> 8:45am-1pm and 2pm-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.