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

**Term 1 2026-2027**

| **Course Code & Title:** | **GERM3001** | **German V** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Language of Instruction:** | German / English | **Units**: 3 | |

| **Course Description** |
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| This course builds on the knowledge acquired through previous German language courses. It aims at leading students to a proficiency level comparable to the threshold from A2 to B1 of the Common European Framework for Languages (CEFR), becoming "independent users" of German. To achieve this goal, students will be encouraged to work project-based through independent or collaborative work with their peers. At the end of this course students will have mastered the most important grammar features of German and be able to communicate effectively in a wide range of everyday situations and a number of professional contexts. They will be able to use their oral and written language skills to relate to, reflect on and analyse past and current issues involving the German-speaking societies.<br>The prerequisite for this course is German IV, GERM3000 or GERM3050 or equivalent knowledge of German. Not for students who have taken GERM3001 or GERM3002. |

| **Learning Outcomes** |
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| Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to deal with daily situations in German such as<br>• talking about electronic devices and social media<br>• talking about professional life<br>• talking about books and biographies<br>• talking about pets<br>• talking about local specialties and global travel |

| **Course Syllabus** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Lesson** | **Speech Acts / Topics** | **Grammar** | **Culture** |
| **German V** | | | |
| Das Leben, A2.1 Unit 4 | **Are you connected?** Giving personal opinions about mobile phones and online media, describing and commenting on graphs | Nominalization of verbs, indirect questions, personal pronouns in dative case | Online media and life balance |
| Unit 5 | **How we work today** Describing work and talking about advantages and disadvantages, writing CV and formal mails, phone manners | Prepositions with dative case, adjective endings for (definite article) in nominative and accusative cases | Work culture in Germany, formal and informal language |
| Unit 6 | **What are you reading?** Talking about reading habits, genres, books and authors, describing pictures. | Simple past, auxiliary clauses with 'als' | German Literature and different genres |

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|---|---|---|---|
| | Writing a biographical text | | |
| Unit 7 | **Life with pets**<br>Talking about and describing pets, commenting on videos, understanding and writing advertisements | Superlative, adjective with definite and indefinite articles in dative case | Pet culture in Germany |
| Unit 8 | **Global and regional**<br>Introducing a city, local food, transportation, talking about professions at airports, describing people and things | Relative clauses in nominative and accusative cases | Airport Frankfurt, German local food |
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| **Course Components** |
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| **Teaching Mode** |
| On-site face-to-face interactive classwork: 100% |

| **Learning Activities** | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Interactive classwork[1] (hr)<br>in / out class | | Extra-curricular activities (hr)<br>in / out class | | Web-based teaching (hr)<br>in / out class | | Homework / Self-study (hr)<br>in / out class | |
| 3 | | | 2 | | 0.5 | | 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 Type** | | |
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| Task nature | Description | Weight |
| Participation and oral expression | Participation includes preparing for class, arriving on time, attending lessons and making active contributions during class, which may be in the form of Q & A, dialogues etc. | 15% |
| Homework | Homework includes completing all exercises in the workbook, completing all mandatory tasks on the Moodle platform and worksheets and tasks distributed by the class teacher. | 15% |
| Test 1 | Details are given by the course teacher. | 15% |
| Test 2 | Details are given by the course teacher. | 25% |
| Oral exam | Test in groups: dialogue and questions & answers. | 30% |

Notes:

- Students are required to arrive on time.
- Students are required to attend at least 75% of the class. Treat 75% attendance as the minimum, not the maximum.
- **Should a student miss more than 25% of the class, he/she will automatically fail the course.**
- If a student is unable to attend, he/she should review the content and homework that are missed and make them up him/her-self.
- **For missed tests, make-up tests will not be arranged unless the student can provide an official supporting document, such as a medical certificate.**

| Assessment Rubrics | | | | | |
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| **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 sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance. Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters in a competent way. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need appropriately. | Good performance in all learning outcomes. Can understand and mostly appropriately use sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance. Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters in a suitable way. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need mostly appropriately | Satisfactory performance in the majority of learning outcomes. Can partially understand and partially appropriately use sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance. Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters in a basic way. Can partially appropriately describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need. | Barely satisfactory performance in a number of learning outcomes. Can rarely understand and appropriately use sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance. Can barely communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Can occasionally describe in very simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need. | Unsatisfactory performance in a number of learning outcomes and/or failure to meet specified assessment requirements. Cannot understand and use sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance. Cannot communicate in routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Cannot describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need. |

**Course Schedule (Subject to change):**

| Week | Date | Remarks | Assignments | Content |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Sep 7-13 | Sep 7 (Mon) Inauguration Ceremony for Undergraduates (classes suspended until 1:30pm) | | Unit 4 |
| 2 | Sep 14-20 | E-add/drop on CUSIS 14-20 Sept (Mon-Sun) | | |
| 3 | Sep 21-27 | Special add/drop at department 21-25 Sept (Mon-Fri) | | |
| 4 | Sep 28 - Oct 4 | Oct 1 (Thu) Public holiday – National Day | | Unit 5 |
| 5 | Oct 5-11 | | | |
| 6 | Oct 12-18 | Oct 8 (Thu) German Night 🏰 | | Unit 6 |
| 7 | Oct 19-25 | Oct 19 (Mo) Public holiday - The day following Chung Yeung Festival | ***Test 1*** | |
| 8 | Oct 26 - Nov 1 | | | |
| 9 | Nov 2-9 | | | Unit 7 |
| 10 | Nov 9-15 | Nov 12 (Thu) 97th Congregation (all classes suspended) | | |
| 11 | Nov 16-22 | Nov 16 - Nov 27 Course registration for second term | | Unit 8 |
| 12 | Nov 23-29 | Nov 25 (Wed): German Christmas Night 🎄 | | |
| 13 | Nov 30 – Dec 6 | | ***Test 2*** | |
| | Dec 7-13 | Schedule for oral exam as agreed with course Lecturer | ***Oral Exam*** | |

| Learning Resources |
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| **Required Readings and Course Materials** |
| Hermann Funk, Christina Kuhn, Das Leben A2.1, Kursbuch und Übungsbuch (course and workbook), 2020 Cornelsen Verlag GmbH, Berlin<br>Hermann Funk, Christina Kuhn, Das Leben A2.2, Kursbuch und Übungsbuch (course and workbook), 2020 Cornelsen Verlag GmbH, Berlin<br>(Textbooks are available at The Commercial Press bookstore, on CUHK campus.) |
| **Course website: Moodle@Keep** |
| https://moodle.keep.edu.hk/<br>Announcements over the Blackboard site GERM0000 |
| **Online Resources** |
| • Leo online dictionary (English-Chinese, English German www.leo.org/ )<br>• Video Course: Nicos Weg https://learngerman.dw.com/en/nicos-weg/c-36519789<br>• German as a foreign language on Youtube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UComfd9z6KFVP3nggiME6-7w<br>• German Music channel on Youtube (suggestions welcome): https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2e0DtFeEEi1qOlAnzixOlgOb-elJQqfg |

| Recommended Readings & Library Resources |
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| • Reimann, Monika (2001) Essential Grammar of German with Exercises. Ismaning: Hueber<br>• Dodd, Bill et al. (1996) Modern German Grammar: A Practical Guide. London: Routledge |

**Class sections and teacher's contact details:**

| Class | Time | Classroom | No of weeks | Teacher | Email |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GERM3001A | Fr 08:30-11:15 | YIA 408 | 13 | Mr. Alexander Kling | alexander.kling@cuhk.edu.hk |

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

| Contact | Telephone | Email | Office |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexander Kling | 3943 3219 | alexander.kling@cuhk.edu.hk | G33, Leung Kau Kui Building |
| General Office | 3943 9836 | lin@cuhk.edu.hk | G17, Leung Kau Kui Building<br>**Office Hours:** Monday to Thursday: 8:45am to 1:00pm and 2:00pm to 5:30pm<br>Friday: 8:45am to 1:00pm, 2:00 to 5:45pm |

| Feedback for Evaluation |
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| 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 at 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-ended 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. |

## 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.

- In the case of group projects, all members of the group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible and liable to disciplinary actions, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed, directly or indirectly, to the problematic contents.
- 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.
- Students are fully aware that their work may be investigated by AI content detection software to determine originality.
- Students are fully aware of the AI approach(es) adopted in the course. In the case where some AI tools are allowed, students have made proper acknowledgment and citations as suggested by the course teacher.

Assignments without a properly signed declaration will not be graded by teachers.
Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

The submission of a piece of work, or a part of a piece of work, for more than one purpose (e.g. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration to this effect shall be regarded as having committed undeclared multiple submissions. It is common and acceptable to reuse a turn of phrase or a sentence or two from one's own work; but wholesale reuse is problematic. In any case, agreement from the course teacher(s) concerned should be obtained prior to the submission of the piece of work.

The copyright of the teaching materials, including lecture notes, assignments and examination questions, etc., produced by staff members/ teachers of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) belongs to CUHK. Students may download the teaching materials produced by the staff members/ teachers from the Learning Management Systems, e.g. Blackboard, adopted by CUHK for their own educational use, but shall not distribute/ share/ copy the materials to a third-party without seeking prior permission from the staff members/ teachers concerned.

## Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools in Teaching, Learning and Assessment

**All use of AI tools is prohibited**

In any kind of learning activity or assessment that will be counted towards the final course grades (or used for evaluating attainment of the desired learning outcomes), students are not allowed to submit work which is produced with the collaboration of or supported by the use of any AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT).

Improper/unauthorized use of AI tools in learning activities and assessments will constitute acts of academic dishonesty and will be handled according to the University's Procedures for Handling Cases of Academic Dishonesty.

In case of queries, students should seek advice from the course teacher.

**For more information about our German programme, please join us on Instagram!**

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