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

Term 2 2026-2027

Course Code & Title:	**GERM1000 G/H/I/J/K/L German I**
Language of Instruction: German / English	**Units**: 3

Course Description

As the first in a series of six language courses, this course invites students without prior knowledge of German to explore the basic features of the German language. Supported by audiovisual aids, students will receive intensive practice in spoken and written German through interactive class work, homework and online exercises. They will become familiar with the basic concepts of German grammar and learn how to interact in some simple everyday situations.

→ This course is designed for complete beginners only; no prior knowledge of German is required. If you have studied German before, please contact your teacher for placement in appropriate level.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to deal with some simple daily situations in German such as

- greeting somebody and exchanging basic personal information;
- talking about nationality and language abilities;
- ordering and paying in a café, talking about food, saying what you like and don't like

Course Syllabus

Lesson	Speech Acts / Topics	Grammar	Culture
Start, Unit 1	• Greetings and Introductions • Comparing German and other languages • Classroom language • Spelling names • Talking about what languages are spoken • Saying where you come from	• Open questions and sentence questions • Verbs in present tense • W- questions and Yes/No questions	• The German alphabet • Neighboring countries of Germany • Languages in Switzerland
Unit 2	• Talking about addresses • Sharing phone numbers • Numbers and counting	• Numbers from 0-1000 • Articles and nouns in singular and plural •	• Family names • Postcodes • German Football
Unit 3	• Ordering and paying in a coffee shop • Understanding and writing messages • Talking about food • Making appointments	• Definite and indefinite article • The verb “sein” (to be)	• Working in a coffee shop • Invoices

Unit 4	• Talking about food • Speaking about likes and dislikes • Speaking about how something tastes	• Definite and indefinite article in the accusative case • Negation: *nicht* and *kein*	• Workplace Café • Food and beverages in German speaking countries

Course Components							
Teaching Mode							
On-site face-to-face interactive classwork: 100%							
Learning Activities							
Interactive classwork [1] (hr/day)		Extra-curricular activities (hr/course)		Web-based teaching (hr/day)		Homework / Self-study (hr/day)	
in class	out class	in class	out class	in class	out class	in class	out class
3			3		0.5		3
M			O		M		M

M = Mandatory / O = Optional

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

Assessment Type		
Task nature	**Description**	**Percentage**
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 exercises in the workbook, completing all mandatory tasks on the Blackboard 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	Details are given by the course teacher.	30%
Important Points to Note for Assessments: All in-class assessments (written and oral) are conducted under **closed-book conditions** unless otherwise announced by the course teachers explicitly. Students are not permitted to consult textbooks, workbooks, notes, dictionaries, handouts, or any other reference materials during the assessment. Mobile phones, smart watches, tablets, laptops, AI tools, and all other electronic devices must be switched off and put away before the assessment begins.		

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.**

Learning Resources
Required Readings and Course Materials:
Hermann Funk, Christina Kuhn, **Das Leben A1.1, Kursbuch und Übungsbuch (course and workbook)**, 2020 Cornelsen Verlag GmbH, Berlin (Textbooks are available at The Commercial Press bookstore on CUHK campus or as an e-book)
Course website: CUHK Blackboard
Online resources:
• Leo online dictionary (English-Chinese, English/German www.leo.org/) • German as a foreign language on Youtube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UComfd9z6KFVP3nggiME6-7w • German Music channel on Youtube (suggestions welcome): https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2e0DtFeEEi1qOlAnzixOIgOb-eUQqfg
Recommended 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 • Various online offers from the Goethe-Institute: https://www.goethe.de/en/spr/ueb.html

Assessment Rubrics					
General 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.

Course Schedule (Subject to change):

Week	Date	Remarks	Assignments	Content
1	Jan 11-17			Start, Unit 1
2	Jan 18-24	Online add drop (until Jan 24 (Sun))		
3	Jan 25-31	Department add drop (until Jan 29 (Fri)) **(only exceptional cases)**		
4	Feb 1-7	5 Feb (Fri) - 11 Feb (Thu): Lunar New Year Vacation		Unit 2
5	Feb 8-14	5 Feb (Fri) - 11 Feb (Thu): Lunar New Year Vacation		
6	Feb 15-21	18 Feb (Thu) Introduction of Summer Courses + 18 Feb (Thu) German Movie Night		
7	Feb 22-28			
8	Mar 1-7		**Test 1**	Unit 3
9	Mar 8-14	8 Mar (Mon) - 13 Mar (Sat): Reading week		
10	Mar 15-21	18 Mar (Thursday) German Night		
11	Mar 22-28	26 Mar (Fri): Good Friday		
12	Mar 29 – Apr 4	29 Mar (Mo) Easter Monday		
13	Apr 5-11			Unit 4
14	Apr 12-18			
15	Apr 19-25		**Test 2**	
	Apr 26 – May 2		**Oral Exam**	

Class sections and teachers' contact details:

Class	Time	Classroom	Weeks	Teacher	Email
GERM1000G	Tu 10:30-1:15	WMY 404	13	Mr. Bernd Esch	berndesch@cuhk.edu.hk
GERM1000H	Tu 02:30-05:15	YIA 201	13	Mr. Bernd Esch	berndesch@cuhk.edu.hk
GERM1000I	Wed 10:30-1:15	CYT 201	13	Mr. Alexander Kling	alexander.kling@cuhk.edu.hk
GERM1000J	Thu 10:30-1:15	LHC 106	13	Mr. Alexander Kling	alexander.kling@cuhk.edu.hk
GERM1000K	Thu 02:30- 05:15	WMY 506	13	Mr. Alexander Kling	alexander.kling@cuhk.edu.hk
GERM1000L	Fr 08:30-11:15	LHC G01	13 (12)*	Mr. Bernd Esch	berndesch@cuhk.edu.hk

* The number shown in the brackets indicates the number of class meetings scheduled according to the number of weeks in the semester. All course sections comprise **13 teaching weeks (39 contact hours)**. Make-up classes will be arranged whenever necessary to compensate for the shortfall due to public holidays, class suspensions for university events, or other approved situations.

Adverse Weather Arrangements

In the event that a face-to-face class is suspended due to adverse weather conditions, the teacher may, where appropriate, conduct the class online at the scheduled class time. Students will be informed through Blackboard and/or email of any such arrangement. If a student is unable to participate in the online session due to technical difficulties or other unforeseen circumstances, alternative arrangements (e.g. access to lecture recordings, supplementary materials, or make-up arrangements, where applicable) will be provided.

General Contacts:

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 **Office Hours:** Monday to Thursday: 8:45am to 1:00pm and 2:00pm to 5:30pm Friday: 8:45am to 1:00pm, 2:00 to 5:45pm

Details of Course Website
CUHK Blackboard

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 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!

@CUHK_GERMAN