# German Language 1 (Language and Phonology) (Year 1, First-level Degree)

# Prof. Maria Paola Tenchini

# German Language Classes (Year 1, First-level Degree)

## Marlene Kuppelwieser, Claudia Menzel

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***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course deals with the principal issues in the phonetics, phonology and orthophonetics of contemporary German at a theoretical and practical level with a focus on the processes relating to the acquisition of German pronunciation by adult Italian native learners.

By the end of the course, students are expected to be able to identify and describe phonetic, phonological, and orthoepical rules and regularities of contemporary German; in particular, they will be able to identify the prosodic features in terms of their mutual interaction. Furthermore, students will be able to correctly reproduce and properly use the rules in oral communication and develop their receptive and productive skills in German.

***COURSE CONTENT***

- articulatory and acoustic aspects of German

- the vowel and consonant systems

- an introduction to phonetic transcription

- the syllable

- phonetics of the word and of the utterance

- prosody and suprasegmental features

- German spelling and phoneme-grapheme relationships.

***READING LIST***

F. Missaglia, *Deutsche Phonetik und Phonologie für Italiener. Eine Einführung*,Vita e Pensiero, Milan 2012.

P. Barberis – A. Sarnow, *Introduzione alla fonetica del tedesco con esercizi mirati per parlanti italiani*,Celid, Torino 2015.

Further teaching material will be made available in class and/or on Blackboard or from the photocopy office.

*Suggested readings*

Details of the *readings* will be provided at the beginning of the course and indicated on the course Blackboard platform and on the UC course webpage.

*In addition, students can consult the following textbooks:*

U. A. Kaunzner, *Aussprachekurs Deutsch,* Lehr- und Übungsbuch, 2. aktualisierte und verbesserte Auflage, 6 Audio-CDsoder 2 MP3-CDs, Groos im Stauffenburg Verlag, Tübingen 2017.

Duden – *Das Aussprachewörterbuch,* Band 6, 7. überarb. u. aktualis. Auflage, mit Audios, Dudenverlag, Mannheim/Wien/Zürich 2015.

Duden – *Die deutsche Rechtschreibung*, Band 1, Dudenverlag, Mannheim/Wien/Zürich 2020.

Details of further reading material will be communicated during the course and uploaded onto Blackboardand the lecturer's webpage. Syllabus and reading list are the same for attending and non-attending students.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Theory-based lectures and practical classes on the topics covered. The theoretical concepts will be supported by examples and targeted exercises to encourage the learning and assimilation of correct German pronunciation.

Students must also attend the language and multimedia lab, particularly for accessing the learning resources available there.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will sit a final German oral exam after passing the language tests (spoken and written). Students will be assessed on their skills, both on a theoretical and applied level. More specifically, students will be assessed on their knowledge of course topics, terminology, and content of the texts on the reading list, as well as their ability to apply their knowledge when communicating orally in German.

The final mark reflects:

- the performance in the oral phonology exam (3/6),

- the average score in the written and oral language tests (prove intermedie) (respectively 1/6 and 2/6 of the final mark).

Further information will be provided during the course and published on Blackboard.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As this is an introductory course, there are no prerequisites in terms of content. As the course is taught in German, students require at least basic comprehension of the spoken language.

NB: Students can only take this exam after having passed the interim written and oral German language tests on the Faculty study plan.

Students should check the notifications on Blackboard and the noticeboard on the lecturer’s webpage regularly, as well as the material uploaded onto Blackboard.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.

# German Language Classes (Year 1, Three-Year Course Students)

## Marlene Kuppelwieser, Claudia Menzel

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The series of practical German language classes in the first year is designed to bring students up to levels B1 and B2 in the European Language Portfolio across all four skills (*Hören, Sprechen, Lesen, Schreiben*).

By the end of the practical classes, students will have learned and consolidated, at an intermediate level, the main morpho-syntactic structures of the German language and developed a basic vocabulary (up to 500 words). They will also be able to apply this knowledge to their own language practice, both written and spoken.

Students will easily be able to understand medium-low difficulty texts on familiar subjects and relating to personal life; in terms of the written language, they will be able to produce and translate short texts from Italian into French on simple topics related to daily life.

In terms of oral expression, students will be able to articulate the sounds of the German language correctly and to interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity on the topics covered in the course text. They will also be able to summarise the key information in familiar texts.

***COURSE CONTENT AND TEACHING METHOD***

* Vocabulary and Conversation: in-depth study of the topics covered in the course text (*DaF kompakt,* see reading list) through activities such as listening, reading, comprehension, role plays, producing short oral and written texts, and describing pictures, with a particular focus on the active use of basic lexicon;
* Dictation: dictation exercises (also aimed to develop knowledge of grammar and vocabulary), systematic study and application of spelling and punctuation rules; lecturer-led correction of texts with critical analysis of the various types of errors; exercises in reading aloud for perfecting pronunciation and prosody;
* Grammar: in-depth study of basic morpho-syntactic topics corresponding to the following chapters in the adopted grammar reference text *Grundstufen-Grammatik für Deutsch als Fremdsprache*: 1.1- 1.7, 2.1 – 2.3, 2.5, 3.1, 4,1 - 4.4
* Translation: active translation (from Italian into German) of texts of medium-low difficulty, with a particular focus on the correct use of morpho-syntactic structures and essential vocabulary; correction of the texts produced and critical analysis of the various types of errors and major translation challenges arising from differences between L1 and L2.
* Reading comprehension: an introduction to the reading comprehension of basic texts through exercises based on cloze tests.
* Phonetics and prosody: as well as the speaking practice in the Lexicon and Conversation practical classes and the training in recognising individual phonemes, the stress in words and phrases and various intonational profiles in the Dictation practical classes, there will be an intensive 20-hour workshop in February (*Singend Deutsch lernen*) for all students in the first year to establish and develop accurate pronunciation skills in German through vocalisation, rhythm and singing exercises.

***READING LIST***

***Adopted text:***

*DaF kompakt neu A1-B1* (Kursbuch + Übungsbuch mit MP3-CD), Klett, Stuttgart 2021

ISBN-Code 9788853622259

***Additional material:*** level B1 texts used on the course will be available during the course from *Blackboard*.

***Grammar reference:***

M. Reimann, *Grundstufengrammatik für Deutsch als Fremdsprache*, Hueber 2019

***Reading texts for the oral exam:***

Claudia Rusch, *Meine freie deutsche Jugend,* Fischer Taschenbuchverlag, Berlin 2017

***(Optional) texts for independent learning:***

C. Lemcke - L. Rohrmann, *Grammatik Intensivtrainer (A1, A2, B1),* Langenscheidt, München 2018.

*Lextra Deutsch als Fremdsprache – Grund- und Aufbauwortschatz nach Themen A1-B2* (recommended for expanding vocabulary skills)

Level B1 dictations (audio recordings with relative transcripts available on *Blackboard* and from the Language Lab).

***Recommended dictionaries***

D. Götz, u.a., *Großwörterbuch Deutsch als Fremdsprache* mit Online-Wörterbuch, Neubearbeitung 2019, Langenscheidt, München

Further materials used in lectures and independent-learning exercises to consolidate knowledge from time to time will be made available on Blackboard throughout the academic year.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The German Language 1 interim written test has two parts:

1. written assessment, divided into three parts:
   1. dictation (approx. 30 minutes)
   2. vocabulary and grammar test and translation test (90 minutes)
   3. Reading comprehension, based on cloze tests (30 minutes)

Dictionaries are not permitted.

1. Oral exam divided into the following consecutive parts:
   1. short series of questions on the topics covered in the course text and in the supplementary materials (see Reading List);
   2. description of one or more images taken from the course text (see above), with a particular focus on verifying lexical knowledge;
   3. reading aloud and translation (from German into Italian) of one or more paragraphs from *Meine freie deutsche Jugend* (see Reading List), summary and commentary on the text.

Students will be assessed on the following factors in particular:

* ability to use a wide range of vocabulary accurately and to interact spontaneously based on the topics in the course text; extensive knowledge of the literary text and ability to reflect independently on its contents;
* formal accuracy (appropriate use of morphosyntactic structures, proper pronunciation and prosody); clarity and fluidity in oral expression.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The syllabus applies to all levels (beginners and intermediate-advanced). Before the beginning of lectures, students will be divided into two groups based on their initial language level.

The practical language classes in the first year (which last one year) include two weeks of early lectures in September (before the official start of the semester).

Students require prior knowledge of grammatical, logical and sentence-level analysis, and must be interested in the language and culture of German speaking countries. Students must achieve the level expected in the first year in order to pass the interim exams of subsequent years.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.