# History and Culture of German-Speaking Countries

## Prof. Gloria Colombo

# German Speaking Classes 2 (all curricula)

Alessandra Alghisi, Hans Pfeiffer, Giovanna Vitali

**Specialised Translation Workshop (Curriculum: Languages for Specialist Translation and Publishing)**

## Giulia Missale

# History and Culture of German-Speaking Countries

## Prof. Gloria Colombo

***Text under revision. Not yet approved by academic staff***

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

*Course aims*

The course aims to provide an overview of the historical and cultural evolution of the German-speaking countries (focusing in particular on Germany) in order to identify the elements that contributed – and still contribute – to the definition of a cultural ‘identity’.

In particular, it aims to explore not only the historical evolution of these countries, but also their art, music, cinema, institutions, economy, and politics, with a focus on their latest events and phenomena.

Intended learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course, students will have basic knowledge of the history, culture and current affairs of German-speaking countries, which they will be able to present orally in German.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding and Autonomy of judgment

Students will be able to apply the knowledge acquired by expressing opinions, making comparisons and carrying out in-depth studies based on their interests, thus demonstrating that they have understood the underlying links between the phenomena examined.

***COURSE CONTENT***

After a short introduction of the concepts of ‘culture’ and ‘cultural identity’, the first part of the course will explore the history of German-speaking countries from their origins to the present, with a focus on the most important events, such as the rise of the Carolingian Empire, the Protestant Reformation, the Thirty Years’ War, the industrialisation, the *Wiener Moderne*, the Weimar Republic, the struggle against National Socialism, and the German reunification.

The historical overview will be completed with the analysis of some aspects of the artistic dimension of the countries considered; in particular, also with the help of audio and video materials, the course will consider the most representative works within the fields of literary production and the figurative arts from the different eras. The course will also touch on the history of philosophy and the history of film and music production in the German language.

A part of the course will analyse the institutional, socio-political, and economic dimension of German-speaking countries, and the latest events occurred in this region. The lecturer will take into account also students’ interests and requests.

***READING LIST***

A. Emmerich et al., *Deutsche Geschichte. Menschen, Ereignisse, Epochen*, Dudenverlag, Berlin 2016.

W. Gössmann, *Deutsche Kulturgeschichte im Grundriß*, Grupello, Düsseldorf 2006.

*Tatsachen über Deutschland*, FAZIT Communication GmbH, Frankfurt am Main,

in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Auswärtigen Amt, Berlin, aktualisierte Ausgabe 2018 (downloadable here: https://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/de/pdf-downloads-e-paper).

Note: The students of other universities are invited to study also the following textbook:

H. Pfeiffer: *Landeskunde der deutschsprachigen Länder*, Educatt 2018.

Further teaching material will be made available in class and on Blackboard.

An integral reading chosen from among the fiction, non-fiction and philosophy texts analysed in class.

Recommended reading for further study (optional):

D. Borchmeyer, *Was ist Deutsch? Die Suche einer Nation nach sich selbst*, Rowohlt, Berlin 2017.

M. Castellari, C.M. Buglioni, A.Goggio, M. Paleari, *Letteratura tedesca. Epoche, generi, intersezioni*, Le Monnier Università, Firenze 2019.

A. Destro (edited by), *I paesi di lingua tedesca. Storia, cultura, società*, Il Mulino, Bologna 2004.

L. Renzi, U.Villani-Lubelli (a cura di), *La nuova Germania. La repubblica federale 30 anni dopo la riunificazione*, Edizioni ETS, Pisa 2020.

K. Vocelka, *Österreichische Geschichte*, Beck, München 2014.

The textbooks included in the reading list are available at the UCSC library.

Note: Further information on the reading list for the different curricula will be made available during the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures (mostly held in German) supported by the use of audio-visual material.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam, consisting in open-ended questions in German on the topics explained during the course, in the reading list, and on Blackboard. Assessment criteria: 1) knowledge of the subject; 2) accuracy of answers and ability to use argumentation; 3) ability to identify connections and make comparisons between the topics explained during the course; 4) use of appropriate terminology. The final assessment will take into account also active participation in class. The reading list will be the same for all students, regardless of class attendance.

The final mark will reflect the assessments made by the lecturers leading the languages practical classes and, for students following the *Languages for Specialist Translation and Publishing* curriculum, by the lecturer (Giulia Missale) running *the specialised translation workshop* (see NOTES) as follows:

For all curricula except *Languages for Specialist Translation and Publishing*: the final assessment will take into account the German language practical activities (50%) and the History and Culture of German-Speaking Countries exam (50%); in order to pass the final exam, students will have to obtain a mark of at least 18/30 in each part.

For the curriculum *Foreign languages for translation and publishing*: the final assessment will take into account the German language practical activities (1/3 of the final mark), the Specialised translation workshop (1/3 of the final mark), and the History and Culture of German-Speaking Countries exam (1/3 of the final mark); in order to pass the final exam, students will have to obtain a mark of at least 18/30 in each part.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

***Notes***The *German Language Culture and History* exam can only be taken after the conclusion of the *German Language Communication Strategies exam* of the first year.

All curricula:

All students will have to attend the practical activities of the German Language (year 2) course. These activities aim to help them develop their knowledge of the German language through concrete projects based on the thematic areas of their curriculum. Thanks to these projects, students will have the opportunity to acquire useful communication skills that can be used in different working environments. Active participation in the practical activities – that will cover the whole academic year – will contribute to the definition of the final mark, which will be registered by the lecturer of the *History and Culture of German-Speaking Countries* course. In order to complete the final exam, non-attending students will also have to take an interim language test. Further information will be made available in the course content of the practical activities of the German language (year 2) course.

1. For the curriculum: *Foreign languages for translation and publishing*:

Students will have to attend also the Specialised translation workshop held by Dr Giulia Missale (please see the programme below).

1. All students are invited to check Blackboard on a regular basis, in order to receive important communications and further teaching material.

***Prerequisites***

Students should show a certain curiosity towards the subject, and have a good knowledge of the German language (in terms of listening, speaking, reading, and writing), corresponding to the C1/C2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

In addition, they should have a basic knowledge of German history, culture and civilisation, which is usually acquired during the German literature 3-year course. Students who did not attend this course are invited to contact the lecturer to receive a list of recommended readings.

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 2**

Alessandra Alghisi, Hans Pfeiffer, Giovanna Vitali

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

The course (60 hours, covering semester 1 and 2) aims to help students acquire an advanced knowledge of the German language, corresponding to the C2-level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

In particular, it aims to promote the development of the language skills acquired, especially in terms of oral interaction, in the thematic areas of their curriculum.

The course will be composed of three different modules of 20 hours each:

1. *Interaktionsfertigkeiten im Unternehmen* (Dc. Alessandra Alghisi)
2. *Interaktionsfertigkeiten im Bereich des Tourismus und der Kulturvermittlung* (Dc. Giovanna Vitali)
3. *Dialogische Übersetzungsfertigkeiten im beruflichen Umfeld* (Dc. Hans Pfeiffer).

Students who attend the three modules productively and actively will:

* develop their active listening skills;
* develop their speaking skills, through the creation of oral texts based on specialised terminology;
* use the communication skills they need to create a direct or mediated interaction with other German-speaking people in different working environments;
* develop their knowledge of vocabulary, and therefore explain – using appropriate terminology – cultural, historical, artistic, economic, and business contents;
* use the German language to plan and organise activities and events in collaboration with other co-workers, present and share different contents, and assess the communicative interventions carried out individually or in team.
* Learn *oral translation* techniques for managing all professional situations that require linguistic and cultural mediation to facilitate interaction and mutual understanding between German and Italian speakers who are not competent in the two languages.

***COURSE CONTENT AND TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be based on different types of practical activities (in pairs or in small groups) designed to train students in the language skills they need to carry out specific communication tasks in their future working environments. In particular, it will focus on verbal and non-verbal communication techniques and on the most appropriate rhetorical strategies for the different linguistic contexts. In addition, students will have the opportunity to experience some of the typical communicative situations of the working environments under analysis, and acquire the linguistic tools they need to express themselves with self-confidence and self-awareness in front of a German-speaking audience.

Here are some examples of the practical activities proposed in class:

*Interaktionsfertigkeiten im Unternehmen:*

- presentation of: a company / products or services / a marketing plan;

- negotiations on: price and/or delivery of a product or a service / refund in case of complaint or damage / remuneration of a collaborator;

- face-to-face / phone / online interactions about organisational or personal topics;

- phone call simulations: organisation of a trip / booking / cancellation / amendment of agreements / personal invitations to an event;

- video recordings/tutorials: how to illustrate a technical procedure / manual on using a computer platform / guide to the use of a product or of a service

*Interaktionsfertigkeiten im Bereich des Tourismus und der Kulturvermittlung:*

- participation in mini-oral projects based on the use of different communication tools (e.g. videos, podcasts, face-to-face interactions, etc.) to tranfer tourist and cultural information to a German-speaking audience;

*-* creation of tours (e.g. guided tours / itineraries) aimed to promote the discovery of the peculiarities of the Italian territory – from the point of view of landscape, art, history, and culture – to different kinds of German-speaking tourists;

*-*discussion and critical analysis of the mini-projects and simulations made in class;

*-* if possible, simulations (on site) of the tours created during the course.

*Dialogische Übersetzungsfertigkeiten im beruflichen Umfeld*

Training on *oral translation* techniques for linguistic and cultural mediation in work contexts such as:

* a videocall with a German to organise a company visit
* in-person commercial negotiating
* co-planning an event
* meeting with the media
* briefing between foreign partners and technical experts

***READING LIST***

The teaching material will be based on the operational instructions and the most useful expression tools for the management of an oral interaction (in different fields). It will be made available by the lecturers in class and on Blackboard*.*

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will get a mark, expressed in thirtieths, for each module of the practical activities. The average between these modules will contribute to the definition of 50% of the final mark for the *History and Culture of German-Speaking Countries* course, held by Prof. Gloria Colombo. The final assessment will take into account the students’ individual performance, and the elaboration and presentation of a group mini-project based on one of the activities included in each module.

Other assessment criteria will include: use of appropriate terminology, accuracy of answers, ability to make a clear and fluid presentation, and capacity to manage, in an effective way, the complexity of the oral interaction selected for the exam. This will be possible thanks to the use of the verbal and non-verbal techniques analysed in class (which are fundamental for an efficient communication with a German-speaking audience).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students who cannot attend the practical classes (e.g. because they work or study abroad) are invited to contact Dr. Hans Pfeiffer at the beginning of the course in order to receive further information on the *interim language test for non-attending students* mentioned above.

Only students who pass this test will be allowed to take the History and Culture of German-Speaking Countries exam (Prof. Gloria Colombo).

The interim language test for non-attending students will consist in an oral exam aimed to assess advanced knowledge of the German language (corresponding to the C2-level of the CEFR) and the ability to manage a spontaneous interaction in German based on the audiovisual material proposed by the lecturer during the exam. In particular, students will be asked to do specific exercises, such as: imitation and phonetic and prosodic reproduction of a sequence (*Nachsprechen)*; summary, comment, or translation of a text; real-time subtitling, etc.

In order to prepare for the exam, students will have to download the teaching material available on Blackboard: a selection of videos (corresponding to a C1/C2 advanced level) on different topics and supported by a list of instructions to carry out activities (like the ones mentioned above) for the development of listening and speaking skills in German.

During the oral exam, students may be asked to analyse not only one of the videos included in the course content, but also ‘new’ ones (corresponding to the same level). All the oral activities mentioned above must be carried out with a high degree of autonomy.

In order to get the most out of this course, students should have a very good knowledge of the German language (corresponding to the C1-level of the CEFR), which is usually acquired during year 1. In addition, they should be familiar with the methodological tools explained during the practical activities of year 1.

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.

**Specialised Translation Workshop (Curriculum: Languages for Specialist Translation and Publishing)**

## Giulia Missale-Frey

***Text under revision. Not yet approved by academic staff***

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

**Course aims**

The course aims to introduce the translation of different text types (e.g. informative, argumentative, appellative, descriptive and normative texts). In addition, the purpose of the course is to practise the technologies applied to translation, using the main automatic and assisted translation software.

**Intended learning outcomes**

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- analyse and understand the structure and objectives of the source text;

- select and use the most appropriate translation strategy;

- translate the source text with a focus on the peculiarities (in terms of syntax and terminology) of the target text.

Students will know the main online research and support tools and will know how to use them correctly and selectively. They will be able to choose between the different automatic and assisted translation software, depending on the text type, and evaluate their usability.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will introduce the peculiarities of different text types, in order to identify the best translation strategies.

In particular, it will focus on the translation of different fields (e.g. technology, science, economy, law, medicine, politics and administration, etc.) and texts, such as political speeches (e.g. discourses and interviews), advertising texts (e.g. brochures and ads), the normative texts of the EU (e.g. the translations for the European Union), online portals (e.g. presentation of civic initiatives, the homepages of specific associations), university textbooks and technical manuals, instructions (e.g. electrical appliances, party games, etc.), and business economics texts (e.g. job offers, contracts, documents, etc.). For each text type, the course will analyse the social, cultural, and/or political peculiarities of the source language, in order to identify the best translation approach for the target language.

In addition, the course will explore the difference between the concepts of common and specialised language from a contrastive perspective, and define the lexical, syntactic, and textual peculiarities of specialised languages.

Furthermore, it will outline the best online research strategies, and explain how to manage the support material for the translation activity. In order to do so, it will present the most useful digital tools, such as translation memories and the tools for the management of corpora. Another course aim is to practise using *Cat tools* for assisted translation and machine translation with post-editing.

***READING LIST***

We recommend consulting the following texts, which are available in the library. The sitography will be provided during the course and uploaded onto Blackboard. Other material will be distributed during lectures.

Albrecht, J. (2013). *Übersetzung und Linguistik* (2. Aufl., Bd. 2). Tübingen: Narr.

Arduini, S./ Stecconi, U. (2007). *Manuale di traduzione: teorie e figure professionali* (1.Aufl., Bd. 740). Rome: Carocci.

Bertazzoli, R. (2015). *La traduzione: teorie e metodi. Nuova edizione* (3rd reprint, 2018).

Rome: Carocci.

Canepari, M. (2018). *Teoria e pratica della traduzione: proposta di un metodo sistematico,*

*interdisciplinare e sequenziale.* Libreriauniversitaria.it edizioni.

Koller, W. (2011). *Einführung in die Übersetzungswissenschaft* (8. Aufl., Bd. 3520:

Sprachwissenschaft, Translationswissenschaft). Tübingen; Basel: Francke.

Osimo, B. (2004). *Manuale del traduttore: guida pratica con glossario*(2. Aufl.). Milan:

Hoepli.

Scarpa, F. (2008). *La traduzione specializzata: un approccio didattico professionale*. Milan:

Hoepli.

Stolze, R. (2013). *Fachübersetzen - ein Lehrbuch für Theorie und Praxis* (3. Aufl., Bd. 89).

Berlin: Frank Timme.

The webliography will be made available during the course and on Blackboard. Further teaching material will be provided in class.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Each text type presented in class will be preceded by a short theoretical introduction and a list of suggestions on the best translation strategies to adopt. Then, students will translate the text individually, and the translation will be corrected in class. This will allow them to develop their translation skills, as well as their knowledge of translation strategies.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Written exam, consisting in the translation of a text similar to the ones translated in class, and preceded by a short theoretical description of the text type, its function, the addressee, and the best translation strategy to adopt. Assessment criteria: ability to distinguish between the two languages under analysis from a syntactic perspective, use of appropriate terminology, ability to create a coherent text in the target language (with the same style and message), capacity to handle and transfer the social and cultural references of the source text to the target language and ability to produce a text, in which the work of the translator remains invisible.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

It is assumed that students have attended the first-year specialist translation practical classes in conjunction with the *Translation Resources and Tools* course.

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.