History of German Language

## Prof. Federica Missaglia

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

The course aims to explore the main phonetic, phonological, orthoepical, orthographic, morphological, lexical, and syntactic issues of the German language from a synchronic perspective. Furthermore, it aims to analyse the different approaches towards the study of German grammar, and illustrate the main grammar textbooks. Finally, it aims to examine issues related to language contact and plurilingualism, as well as language variation referred to contemporary German.

At the end of the course, students will be able to know the phonetic, phonological, orthoepical, orthographic, morphological, lexical, and syntactic rules and regularities of contemporary German. In addition, they will be able to identify and analyse the linguistic structures and phenomena of contemporary German (also from an Italian-German contrastive perspective), and illustrate the organisational principles of the German language. Finally, they will be able to know the different approaches adopted by German grammar textbooks and the perspectives for the analysis and description of the varieties of contemporary German.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Semester 1

*Contemporary German phonetics and phonology*

* articulatory, acoustic, and perceptual phonetics;
* orthoepy and orthography;
* vocalism and consonantism;
* the syllable;
* prosody and suprasegmental features, stress, and intonation.

*Contemporary German morphosyntax and vocabulary*

* the foundations of lexicology: from the word to phraseology
* word formation processes, simple and complex words, lexical stress;
* noun phrase and verb phrase;
* inflection: declension, comparison, conjugation.

Semester 2

*Contemporary German syntax*

* syntax and syntactic stress, die *Informationsstruktur;*
* syntax and intonation, *der Satzmodus.*

*German grammar and grammar textbooks*

*The German language: use, variation, and diffusion in the world*

* language contact and plurilingualism;
* German as a diasystem: language variation;
* *geschriebenes und gesprochenes Deutsch;*
* German in the world.

***READING LIST***

H. Bußmann, *Lexikon der Sprachwissenschaft*. Stuttgart: Kröner (1990 u. ff.)

W. König, *Dtv-Atlas zur deutschen Sprache*. München: Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag (1992 u. ff.)

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

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A German grammar textbook of their choice, such as:

Duden, *Die Grammatik*, 8. Auflage, Bibliographisches Institut, Mannheim, 2009.

P. Eisenberg, *Grundriss der deutschen Sprache. Band 1: Das Wort.* Metzler, Stuttgart/ Weimar, 2013.

P. Eisenberg, *Grundriss der deutschen Sprache. Band 2: Der Satz.* Metzler, Stuttgart/Weimar, 2013.

H. Weinrich, *Textgrammatik der deutschen Sprache.* Mannheim/Leipzig/Wien/Zürich: Dudenverlag (1993)

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P. Koch/ W. Oesterreicher, *Sprache der Nähe – Sprache der Distanz. Mündlichkeit und Schriftlichkeit im Spannungsfeld von Sprachtheorie und Sprachgeschichte.* In:Romanistisches Jahrbuch 36, 1985, p. 15-43

F. Missaglia, *Il tedesco nell’era della globalizzazione.* In:G. Del Zanna (ed.) *Geopolitica delle lingue,* Maggioli, Santarcangelo di Romagna, 2018, p. 133-142

F. Missaglia, *Le varietà standard del tedesco nella cronaca dei quotidiani.* In: G. Gobber/C. Milani, *Tipologie dei testi e tecniche espressive*, Milan: Vita e Pensiero, 2002, p. 249-257

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures (in German) in class and/or videolectures/recorded lectures *online* on *Blackboard*. Students are invited to check on a regular basis the communications and the teaching material that will be made available on *Blackboard*.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam in German. Students are expected to have a good knowledge of the German grammar and vocabulary. Any mistakes showing the lack of a basic knowledge of the language will not be accepted. Students will have to demonstrate their knowledge of the phonetic, phonological, orthoepical, orthographic, morphological, lexical, and syntactic rules and regularities of contemporary German, and apply them in their production. Furthermore, they should be able to illustrate in a relevant way, and using an appropriate terminology, the German grammar and grammar textbooks, and the perspectives for the analysis of German intended as a diasystem.

The assessment will take into account the relevance and precision of the answers, the clarity and accuracy of the exposition, as well as the mastery of the language, with a focus on the use of specialised terms of the German language. During the exam, students will be assessed also on their phonetic and grammar skills.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As this is an introductory course, there are no prerequisites in terms of content. However, students should be able to attend classes in German and have good receptive and productive skills in this language.

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.