

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2018-2019

Topics of the Advanced Study of German Linguistics: Variation Linguistics (A001827)

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits 5.0 Study time 150 h Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

B (semester 1)	German	self-reliant study activities	15.0 h
		seminar	30.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Battefeld, Malte	LW06	staff member
Leuschner, Torsten	LW06	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

	crdts	offering
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - German)	5	B
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - German)	5	B
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - German)	5	B
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German)	5	B
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Greek)	5	B
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Italian)	5	B
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Scandinavian Studies)	5	B
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Spanish)	5	B

Teaching languages

German

Keywords

variation, language change, corpora, popularization

Position of the course

In this course, students acquire a thorough understanding of variation and change in present-day (standard) German and the relevant academic and popular literature, at an advanced level. At the same time, they maintain and expand their academic proficiency in German.

Contents

The course refers to patterns of variation in present-day (standard) German through the lens of their popular perception/critique (Sprachkritik, Politolinguistik) and scientific explanation. Based on lectures and tasks which form the occasion for discussion, relevant topics, theories and debates (both academic en public) concerning issues in synchronic linguistics will be dealt with at an advanced level through patterns of variation in present-day (standard) German. A particular focus will be on lexicology and word-formation, which will be used as an opportunity to discuss Anglicisms, purism etc.

Initial competences

Students have acquired thorough proficiency in German and substantial insight into major topics in synchronic German linguistics in the Bachelor

Final competences

- 1 to have gained a thorough insight into variation in present-day (standard) German, especially with regard to on-going linguistic changes and their reflection in academic and public debates over language
- 2 to be able to support this insight empirically through original research in corpora
- 3 to have gained a thorough insight into the theoretical relevance of and the major explanations for this variation
- 4 to be able to critically evaluate the scientific and popular literature on language variation and the theories and interpretations it contains
- 5 to be thoroughly proficient in written and spoken German, including techniques for collating and referencing information

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, self-reliant study activities

Extra information on the teaching methods

The course consists of weekly interactive seminars (2 x 75 mins); active participation by the students is expected throughout. Students are also expected to prepare weekly tasks (reading, empirical research), which is then discussed in class. Participation and tasks together account for 50% of the final grade.

Learning materials and price

Articles and material through Minerva

References

standard works in German linguistics

Course content-related study coaching

Individual and group tutoring

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Open book examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Open book examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Permanent evaluation: portfolio of weekly tasks

Calculation of the examination mark

50% written exam

50% active participation (weekly tasks)

Facilities for Working Students

1. Students can be excused from attending lectures.
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Alternative time for feedback is possible

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy