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

Term 1 2020-2021

Course Code & Title:	SOUNDS OF GERMAN	
Language of Instruction: German / English		**Units: 3**

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the phonetic system of the German language. It is primarily designed to help students who are learning German to improve their understanding, speaking and reading skills. Although theoretical content on the subject of German phonetics will be provided, students must conceive this course as a workshop rather than a lecture. Constant practice through pair work, games, interactive activities, recordings will be included and active participation from the students is therefore expected.
Prerequisite GERM 1000 equivalent competence.

Learning Outcomes

After taking this course, students are expected to:
(1) generally improve their reading, listening and speaking skills in German;
(2) understand and produce the rhythmic groups, intonation patterns and stress of German.
(3) understand and describe some basic articulatory features of German speech sounds;
(4) be able to use the German IPA symbols provided in dictionaries;
(5) understand the relationship between the German pronunciation and writing system.

CONTENT

ALPHABET	Spelling (revisions) & syllables
GERMAN SPEECH SOUNDS	*German IPA symbols & basic articulatory features of German vowels and consonants.*
RHYTHM, STRESS & MELODY	*- word stress* *- sentence stress & rhythm* *- pause & melody*

EXAMPLES OF TOPICS COVERED

Greetings & introductions; place of living; food; shopping; family; numbers etc.
Games, poems and songs will also be used.

Learning Activities

Interactive classwork (hr) in / out class	Extra-curricular activities (hr) in / out class	Web-based teaching (hr) in / out class	Homework / Self-study (hr) in / out class
3		0,5	3

M = Mandatory / O = Optional
Interactive classwork focuses on student-centered activities as pair work, group work, role-playing and student-teacher interaction.

Assessment Scheme		
Task nature	**Description**	**Weight**
Participation and homework	Active participation in class activities and homework.	20%
Quizzes	Quiz 1: Perception and Production of Vowels and Diphthongs. Quiz 2: Perception and Production of Consonants. Transcription.	20% 15%
Recording	Self-recording about a given topic.	20%
Performance	Reading and performance in groups.	25%

Notes:
 You are required to arrive on time.
  You are required to attend at least 75% of the class. Treat 75% attendance as the minimum, not the maximum.
  The success of your own learning will highly depend on your attendance.
  Should you miss more than 25% of the class, you will automatically fail the course.
  Unauthorised absence from any assessment will result in grade F for that assessment.

  If you are unable to attend, get informed about what content and homework you missed and make it up yourself.

Grade Descriptors	
A	Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.
A-	Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.
B	Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, or high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.
C	Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.
D	Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes.
F	Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, or failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

Learning Resources
Course Materials
Handouts will be provided by the teacher.
IT Resources
• Sounds of German and Interactive International Phonetic Alphabet Chart: http://www.coli.uni-saarland.de/elaut/Languages_Sites/sampaDeutsch.htm • Sounds of German with formation information: http://soundsofspeech.uiowa.edu/german/german.html • **Moodle course webpage**
Reading & Library Resources
Recommended materials: • A bilingual German/English dictionary with information on pronunciation provided in IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet: https://en.langenscheidt.com/german-english/ • Prof. Dr. Kerstin Reinke (2012): *Phonetiktrainer A1–B1*, Ernst Klett Sprachen, Stuttgart • Ursula Hirschfeld, Kerstin Reinke, Eberhard Stock (2007): *Phonetik intensiv: Aussprachetraining*, Langenscheidt, Berlin und München

Schedule (Subject to change):

Week	Date	Remarks	Assessments	Content
1	Sep 7 – 13			Introduction & alphabet
2	Sep 14 - 20	Online add drop		German vowels
3	Sep 21 - 27	Department add drop (until Fri 25 Sept) **(only in exceptional cases)**		
4	Sep 28 – Oct 4	Public holiday: Oct 1 (Thu) National Day, Oct 2 (Fri) The day following the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival		
5	Oct 5 –11			
6	Oct 12 – 18			
7	Oct 19 – 25		*Quiz 1*	Stress, rhythm & melody
8	Oct 26 – Nov 1	Public holiday: Oct 26 (Mon) The day following Chung Yeung Festival	*Recording*	
9	Nov 2 – 8			German consonants
10	Nov 9 – 15			
11	Nov 16 – 22	Nov 19 (Thu) 88th Congregation for the Conferment of Degrees		
12	Nov 23 – 29			
13	Nov 30 – Dec 6		*Performance & Quiz 2*	

Class sections and teacher contact details:

Class	Time	Classroom	No. of weeks	Teacher	Email
GERM2020	Tue 10:30-12:15 Thu 01:30-02:15	online	13 11	Mr. Bernd ESCH	berndesch@cuhk.edu.hk

For further information and enquiries, you are welcome to contact:

Contact	Telephone	Email	Office
Mr. Bernd Esch	3943 1546	berndesch@cuhk.edu.hk	Rm G24, Leung Kau Kui Building
General Office	3943 7110	lin@cuhk.edu.hk	Rm G17, Leung Kau Kui Building **Office Hours:** <u>Monday to Thursday:</u> 8:45am–1pm and 2pm-5:30pm <u>Friday:</u> 8:45am-1pm and 2pm-5:45pm

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 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-end 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.