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

Course Code & Title:	GERM1001 First Steps in German	
Language of Instruction:	German / English	**Units**: 1

Course Description

This online self-learning course invites students without prior knowledge of German to explore some basic features of the German language and culture through a virtual journey. Based on texts, audio and video input, and interactive tasks, students will be able to practice both spoken and written German. This course serves as a taster course for students who might consider taking German courses at CUHK in the future.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to
- understand basic features of the German language;
- understand selected information related to German culture;
- identify "international" loanwords (e.g. "kindergarten") as a helpful means to understand vocabulary;
- recognise the relationship between English and German in terms of vocabulary;
- apply basic structures to simple everyday situations, e.g. greetings, introducing oneself and others, expressing food preferences and dislikes, and talking about hobbies;
- implement independent learning as part of their learning experience.

Course Content

Sections	Speech acts/Topics	Grammar	Culture
Unit 1 Introducing yourself	• Greeting people • Introducing oneself • Giving and asking basic personal information • The German alphabet • Pronouncing and spelling simple words	• Formal and informal form of address; personal pronouns • selected verbs and their conjugation: *sein*, *kommen*, *heißen* • interrogative pronouns, and questions	• Greetings and their regional differences: Guten Tag, Auf Wiedersehen, Hallo, Tschüs, Grüezi, Ade.... • German names and surnames • Formal and informal use of language • German-speaking countries: die Schweiz, Österreich, Deutschland
Unit 2 Languages and Countries	• Talking about countries and languages • Talking about other people • Saying "Yes" and "No"	• The 3rd person singular of the present tense • The verb "to speak" • Yes ("*ja*") and No ("*nein*") in the sentence • numbers 0-9	• Geographical names/languages: Deutschland, Deutsch, etc. • International words: Taxi, Information, Polizei, Restaurant, Bar, Telefon etc.
Unit 3 Food!	• Talking about food • Expressing likes/dislikes • Understanding prices • Ordering at restaurants	• The verbs "*mögen*", "*trinken*", "*essen*" in singular • negation with "*nicht*" • The verb "*nehmen*" in singular	• Typical dishes of German-speaking countries • Information about and names of selected dishes, and their regional prevalence • German restaurant etiquette and ordering

		• The usage of "*bitte*", "*danke*"	
Unit 4 Spare-time activities	• Discussing hobbies • Expressing preference for various spare time activities	• Verb conjugations in the plural • Sentences with "*gerne*" • The verb "*finden*"	• Sports in Germany • German football: Culture, clubs, players etc. • Hobbies in Germany

Assessment Scheme		
No grades will be given. Upon successful completion of all tasks, the course will be considered passed and 1 credit awarded.		
Unit	**Description**	**Weight**
Unit 1	Online assessed tasks covering grammar, vocabulary, reading comprehension, listening and writing. Continuous assessment.	25%
Unit 2	Online assessed tasks covering grammar, vocabulary, reading comprehension, listening and writing. Continuous assessment.	25%
Unit 3	Online assessed tasks covering grammar, vocabulary, reading comprehension, listening and writing. Continuous assessment.	25%
Unit 4	Online assessed tasks covering grammar, vocabulary, reading comprehension, listening and writing. Continuous assessment.	25%

Grade Descriptors:

Pass	Fail
Student demonstrates ability to: ● understand basic features of the German language; ● understand selected information related to German culture; ● identify "international" as a helpful means to understand vocabulary; ● recognise the relationship between English and German in terms of vocabulary; ● apply basic structures to simple everyday situations, e.g. greetings, introducing oneself and others, expressing food preferences and dislikes, and talking about hobbies; ● implement independent learning as part of their learning experience.	Student fails to demonstrate minimally adequate ability to: ● understand basic features of the German language; ● understand selected information related to German culture; ● identify "international" loanwords as a helpful means to understand vocabulary; ● recognise the relationship between English and German in terms of vocabulary; ● apply basic structures to simple everyday situations, e.g. greetings, introducing oneself and others, expressing food preferences and dislikes, and talking about hobbies; ● implement independent learning as part of their learning experience.

Suggested Schedule
This course is self-paced, however it is recommended to complete one unit per week.

Learning Resources
Course website: Moodle@Keep
https://moodle.cuhk.keep.edu.hk/course/view.php?id=32

Online resources:

• Leo online dictionary (English-Chinese, English German www.leo.org/)
• German as a foreign language on Youtube
  https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbxb2fqe9oNgglAoYqsYOtQ
• German Music channel on Youtube (suggestions welcome):
  https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2e0DtFeEEi1qOlAnzixOIgOb-elJQqfg

Readings & Library Resources
• Reimann, Monika (2001) Essential grammar of German with exercises. Ismaning: Hueber • Dodd, Bill et al. (1996) Modern German grammar: a practical guide. London: Routledge

Feedback for Evaluation
An online course evaluation exercise will be conducted at the end of the course, and students' feedbacks will be used for future course planning and teaching.