



University
of Exeter



Evening language programme 2024/25

Course title: German through current affairs C1_C2

Course descriptor/objectives

The aim of the course is to help the learner to further develop German listening, oral and reading skills, as well as to gain a deeper understanding of the latest news in German-speaking countries. By the end of the course participants should be able to express themselves more fluently and spontaneously and contribute effectively to discussions. Through the study of current affairs participants will build their range of vocabulary, immerse themselves more easily in texts of native standard, recognise finer shades of meaning and generally be more aware of topical issues.

Participants will mainly develop advanced listening, speaking and reading skills through a series of task-oriented sessions and will be provided with informal formative feedback during contact hours. Writing will be optional.

In seminars, participants will have to engage in practical exercises and group interaction in order to develop relevant language-specific learning strategies. The role of the instructor is to facilitate this process, provide useful tools and encourage participants to become proficient users of the language, too.

Language-specific information:

German is one of the key languages of Europe and is spoken by 134 million people in Austria,

Germany, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Switzerland and in parts of Belgium, Northern Italy and Eastern France. It falls into the same West Germanic language family as English, and bears close resemblance to some features of Afrikaans and Dutch, as well as sharing vocabulary links with the North Germanic languages, such as Danish and Norwegian.

Artistically and scientifically, German has been a language of great significance throughout history, as employed by famous figures such as Goethe, Freud, Kafka, Brecht and Einstein. German is a pluricentric language, with three standardised variants: German, Austrian, and Swiss Standard High German.

Prerequisite:

This non-credit bearing weekly course is intended for German language learners, who have previously completed an “upper-intermediate” course or equivalent (e.g. a very good A’level in German).

Technical requirements:

-PC, laptop or tablet with camera and microphone

-Stable internet connection

Delivery will be via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/download>

Once the course is confirmed, your teacher will send you an invitation for the first online session. You can expect to receive this invitation one day before the first session.

Coursebook and/or learning resources:

Authentic materials and resources are provided by the teacher.