

Faculty of Arts and Letters



GERM2204 Modern German linguistics

[30h] 4 credits

This course is taught in the 1st semester

Teacher(s): Joachim Sabel
Language: German
Level: Second cycle

Aims

The aims are that the students:

- develop a knowledge of German linguistics, especially a knowledge of the specific problems of linguistic pragmatics,
- develop a knowledge in theoretical and applied linguistics,
- acquire the competence in linguistic argumentation,
- become able to present competently one of the topics of this course.

Main themes

Study of the use and meaning of utterances in communication and conversation. The role of pragmatic knowledge and (word and sentence) semantic knowledge in understanding language.

Content and teaching methods

We will study speech act theory, especially the theories of Austin, Searle and Grice. The topics are: the classification of speech acts, the difference between performative and constative utterances, indirect speech acts. Then we discuss the theory of conversational implicatures (P. Grice), i.e. the cooperation principle and the conversational maxims and Grice's further developed model of conversation in Sperber and Wilson's book "Relevance." Finally, we look at the role of word and sentence semantics, in contrast to pragmatics, for a theory of meaning in language. All topics will pay special attention to spoken German.

The course is a lecture that requires the student's active participation in discussions, in dealing with exercises, and in reading scientific texts. Furthermore, every student has to give a short presentation on one of the discussed topics at the end of the course.

Other information (prerequisite, evaluation (assessment methods), course materials recommended readings, ...)

Pré-requis Good knowledge of German (baccalauréat).

Evaluation Presentation of one of the topics of the course and a written exam.

Support 1. Syllabus, 2. scientific articles/chapters in books, 3. a written guideline for "how to present a linguistic work", 4. to aid the students with the workout of their presentations (content, structuring, #) during office hours.

Other credits in programs

GERM21	Première licence en langues et littératures germaniques	(4 credits)
GERM21/BD	Première licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Anglais et Allemand)	(4 credits)
GERM21/DB	Première licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Allemand et Anglais)	(4 credits)
GERM21/DN	Première licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Allemand et Néerlandais)	(4 credits)
GERM21/ND	Première licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Néerlandais et Allemand)	(4 credits)
GERM22	Deuxième licence en langues et littératures germaniques	(4 credits)
GERM22/BD	Deuxième licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Anglais et Allemand)	(4 credits)
GERM22/DB	Deuxième licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Allemand et Anglais)	(4 credits)
GERM22/DN	Deuxième licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Allemand et Néerlandais)	(4 credits)
GERM22/ND	Deuxième licence en langues et littératures germaniques (Néerlandais et Allemand)	(4 credits)