University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Introduction to the History of the German Language, PG_00188851		
Field of study	German Studies		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2028/2029
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	3	Language of instruction	German german 90% polish 10%
Semester of study	6	ECTS credits	1.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Division of German Language and Translation Studies -> Institute of German Philology -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Anna Socka	
	Teachers		

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15

E-learning hours included: 0.0

Learning activity and number of study hours

Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
Number of study hours	15	1.0	9.0	25

Subject objectives

The aim of the course is to provide students with basic knowledge of the history of the German language and the mechanisms of linguistic change (mainly in the grammatical and lexical system). This knowledge should enable them to understand and analyze texts from earlier stages of language development as well as phenomena occurring today in the standard language and its regional varieties.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[FGL3_W07] They have advanced knowledge of the complex nature of the German language as well as awareness of its functioning in various areas of communication and its historical development.	They know the genealogy of the German language and its place among the Indo-European and Germanic languages; they know and understand the basic mechanisms of change that have occurred in German throughout history on the phonetic, inflectional, syntactic, and lexical levels.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[FGL3_W01] They have advanced knowledge and understanding of methodologies, theories and terminology constituting fundemental general knowledge in the field of linguistics applicable to research on the German language	They know the methods, fundamental theories, and terminology of diachronic linguistics.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion

Subject contents	1. Synchronic vs. diachronic view of language. Indo-European language family. The Prae Germanic language and the 1st consonant shift. The 2nd consonant shift and the emergence of High German. The main dialects of Germanic. 2. The main phonetic, morphological, syntactic and lexical features on the example of selected texts in Old High German, Middle High German, Early High German, New High German. 3. Grammaticalization and its examples in German. 4. Linguistic contacts in lexis and linguistic purism in the history of German. From the history of orthography and orthophony. 5. Lower German as the language of the Hanseatic League. Eastern colonization and its dialects. Elements of the linguistic history of Danzig and Pomerania from the 12th to the 19th century. 6. Selected historical typefaces.
Prerequisites and co-requisites	Knowledge of German to follow the course of the lecture; knowledge of basic linguistic terminology and subsystems of modern standard German, basic orientation in the history of the German language area.

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
The aforementioned test or statements during the lecture	51.0%	10.0%
A written test with multiple choice and open-ended questions	51.0%	90.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature	• Ernst, Peter, 2009. *Deutsche Sprachgeschichte: eine Einführung in die historische Sprachwissenschaft des Deutschen.* Wien: WUV. • Morciniec, Norbert, 2021. *Historia języka niemieckiego.* Wrocław: Wydawnictwo Wyższej Szkoły Filologicznej we Wrocławiu.
Supplementary literature	• Janus, Dominika, 2023, *Der Tod in Danzig. Danziger Leichenpredigten (1586-1746) aus textlinguistischer Sicht.* Göttingen: V&R unipress. • Łopuszańska Grażyna, 2013, D*anziger Umgangssprache und ihre Spezifik.* Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang Verlag. • Schuppener, Georg, 2014. *Basiswissen Sprachgeschichte*. Leipzig: Hamouda. • Szczepaniak, Renata, 2009. *Grammatikalisierung im Deutschen. Eine Einführung*. Tübingen: Narr. • Speyer, Augustin, 2010. *Deutsche Sprachgeschichte*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht. • Wegera, Klaus-Peter / Schutz-Balluff, Simone / Bartsch, Nina, 2016. M*ittelhochdeutsch als fremde Sprache. Eine Einführung für das Studium der germanistischen Mediävistik.* Berlin: Erich Schmidt. • Wolff, Gerhard, 1990, *Deutsche Sprachgeschichte.* Tübingen: Franke.
eResources addresses	

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Explain the terms "Lehnbedeutung", "Lehnschöpfung", "Lehnübertragung", "Lehnübersetzung", "Lehnwort" and give examples from the Ahd.
Work placement	Not applicable

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