University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	German Studies I, PG_00141624		
Field of study	German Studies		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2027/2028
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Humanistic-social subject group Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study
Mode of study	part-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	2	Language of instruction	German German 60 %
Semester of study	3	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Division of German Literature and Culture -> Institute of German Philology -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	prof. dr hab. Sławomir Leśniak	
	Teachers		

Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10
	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	10	1.0	39.0	50

Subject objectives	The aim of the course is to train the ability to discuss and understand and present (presentation) the topics taken up in class and concerning German-speaking culture(the focus of the 20th century). The second goal is to train the ability to compare German and Polish culture.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[FGL3_K01] They are ready to critically evaluate the knowledge they have acquired during their studies in Germanic Philology and to what extent the content they have received corresponds to this knowledge	He is open to dialogue and willing put the knowledge he has acquired during lessons to the test relating to education, social issues in intercultural and comparativ context.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
[FGL3_W03] They have advanced knowledge and understanding of methodologies, theories and terminology constituting fundamental general knowledge in the field of cultural and religious studies in research on the culture of the German-speaking area	He has an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the methodologies, theories and terminology relating to German-speaking culture in the field of education, social issues in intercultural and comparativ context. .	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[FGL3_W06] They have advanced and detailed knowledge of selected issues in the field of cultural and religious studies, in particular concerning research on the culture of the German-speaking area.	He has an in-depth knowledge relating to the German-speaking culture in the field of education, social issues in intercultural and comparativ context.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[FGL3_K06] They are ready to participate in cultural life and to care for the achievements and traditions of the profession of a German philologist	He is ready to get involved in events relating to German-speaking culture and, as a Germanist, to make his own contibution to them.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
[FGL3_W09] They know and understand the fundamental dilemmas of the contemporary civilisation in the context of issues related to intercultural linguistic and literary communication and the role of modern information technologies in the work of a German philologist	He is familiar with and understands the key issues relating to contemporary German-speaking culture and is aware of their linguistic and media context.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion

Subject contents

The course focuses on ‘thematic areas’ such as: issues relating to East-West tensions in Germany (Dirk Oschmann and Steffen Mau, also in the Polish context), the German education system (both the mainstream and alternative systems, using the Waldorf School as an example), and social issues (Hartz IV and Bürgergeld).

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Knowledge of the German language at a level to achieve the stated learning outcomes.

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
Oral expression	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature	Maja Dobiasz-Krysiak: The School of Transformation. On the Waldorf School in the Era of Democratic Transition, Kraków 2021. Greenhouses of the Future. How Schools Succeed in Germany (documentary by Reinhard Kahl), Nadja Klinger, Jens König: Simply Left Behind. A True Account of the New Poverty in Germany, Hamburg 2008. Karl Lauterbach: The Two-Class State, Berlin 2007. Dirk Oschman, How the West Invented its East, Wydawnictwo Poznańskie 2025, Steffen Mau: Unequally United. Why the East Remains Different, Berlin 2024.
Supplementary literature	Peter J. Brenner: School in Germany. Ein Zwischenzeugnis, Stuttgart 2006, Ulrich Beck: Risikogesellschaft. Auf dem Weg in eine andere Moderne, Frankfurt am Main 1986, Johannes Kiersch: Die Waldorfpädagogik. An introduction to Rudolf Steiner's pedagogy, Stuttgart 2007.Sabine Michel, Dörrte Grimm: Es ist einmal. Ostdeutsche Großeltern und ihre Enkel im Gespräch, Berlin 2024.
eResources addresses	

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed

What determines in Germany (differences and similarities in relation to Poland) the perception of Hartz IV and Bürgergeld by the public and politicians? Differences between the Polish and German school systems. What is and could be the place of the Waldorf School in Polish alternative education?

Work placement

Not applicable

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