



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Contrastive Grammar: English and German I/III / Gretinamoji gramatika: anglų ir vokiečių kalbos I/III d.	DSTCG1

Academic staff	Core academic unit(s)
Coordinating: Assoc. Prof. Dr Virginija Masiulionytė Other: Assoc. Prof. Dr Audronė Šolienė, lect. Jekaterina Šukalova	Vilnius University Faculty of Philology, Universiteto g. 5, LT-01131, Vilnius, tel. +370 5 268 7207, e-mail studijos@flf.vu.lt

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
1 st (bachelor)	Compulsory

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
Face to face	1 st semester	English and German German, as the language of instruction, will be introduced gradually, as students' skills in German progress throughout the course.

Requisites	
Prerequisites: ≥ B2 level of English	Co-requisites (if relevant): none

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	135	64	71

Purpose of the course unit		
The course "Contrastive Grammar: English and German" consists of three parts in total. Core concepts are revisited with increasing sophistication across all three parts. The purpose of the course is to enable students to analyze, compare, and apply grammatical structures of English and German in a contrastive perspective, using advanced English as a metalanguage to support German language acquisition and to develop metalinguistic awareness and theoretical understanding of both languages.		
Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
After completing the course, students will be able to:		
DK.1.1 identify fundamental grammatical categories in both English and German, recognizing basic structural differences, and apply English B2+ analytical skills to decode German A1 grammatical patterns through systematic comparison	Flipped classroom lectures, contrastive grammar workshops, interactive digital exercises, tasks and assignments, guided discovery, and visual aids	Grammar quizzes, assignments and tasks, a midterm, and a written exam
DK.3.2 develop grammatical terminology in English to describe both language	Flipped classroom lectures, contrastive grammar workshops, class discussions, terminology-building	Grammar quizzes, assignments and tasks, a midterm, and a written exam

systems, and create systematic comparisons between English and German basic structures using B2+ English analytical discourse	activities, tasks and assignments, guided discovery, and visual aids	
BK 4.5 reflect on language learning processes through grammatical pattern recognition and explicit rule formulation	Contrastive grammar workshops, class discussions, tasks and assignments, guided discovery, and visual aids	Grammar quizzes, assignments and tasks, a midterm, and a written exam
DK.3.1 produce accurate German A1 sentences using basic grammatical structures with conscious application of contrastive knowledge, facilitate peer learning by clarifying basic German grammatical concepts for fellow learners, employing precise linguistic terminology and communicating in B2+ level English, and transfer grammatical strategies from English to support German A1 production and comprehension	Flipped classroom lectures, contrastive grammar workshops, class discussions, contrastive grammar production exercises, role-plays requiring both languages with grammatical accuracy focus, teaching simulations (peer-teaching activities), practical group mini-projects (e.g., creating bilingual guides and tutorials), self-directed practice sessions	Grammar quizzes, assignments and tasks, a midterm, and a written exam

Content	Contact hours							Individual work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship	Contact hours, total	Individual work	Tasks for individual work
Word classes in English and German. Basics of German grammar: Verbs and personal pronouns. Basic forms of the verb. Regular and irregular verbs. Conjugation of verbs in Präsens. The verbs <i>haben</i> and <i>sein</i> . The English noun and its grammatical categories. The category of definiteness. Nouns in German: capitalization rule, grammatical gender (Maskulinum, Femininum, Neutrum).	2		4				6	7	Reading of the assigned texts, microlecture videos, discussion of theoretical issues, exercises, assignments, and tasks focusing on developing grammar skills in both languages, focusing on identifying similarities and differences. Learning prompting techniques to customize a GenAI tool as a study coach.
Word order in English and German: German V2 rule in main clauses. Question types and their formation in English and German.	2		4				6	6	
Verb classes and valency . Lexical vs. auxiliary verbs. Different sub-categories of verbs: copular, intransitive, transitive, ditransitive, and complex-transitive verbs. German case system. Cases and their functions. Possessive phrases with <i>haben</i> and <i>gehören</i> vs. noun phrases with Genitiv. German Genitiv vs. English 's/of.	2		4				6	6	
Phrasal verbs and prepositional verbs in English. Partikelverben and Präfixverben in German.	2		6				8	8	

Modal verbs in English and German. Basic meanings of <i>können, wollen, müssen, sollen, dürfen, mögen, möchten</i> .	2		4				6	6	
Midterm	0		2				2	6	Repetition, midterm-style practical and theoretical tasks, mock midterm
Coordination and subordination in English and German. Coordination with <i>und, oder, aber</i> .	1		3				4	4	Reading of the assigned texts, microlecture videos, discussion of theoretical issues, exercises, assignments, and tasks focusing on developing grammar skills in both languages, focusing on identifying similarities and differences
German tense system vs. English tense system. Similarities and differences in tense formation and functions in both languages. Präteritum. Perfekt. Auxiliaries <i>haben</i> and <i>sein</i> in German. Ersatzinfinitiv.	2		10				12	14	
Determining the gender of the nouns in German. Forming plurals.	1		3				4	4	
Reflexive verbs in German.	1		3				4	4	
Determiners and pronouns in English and German: Personal, possessive, demonstrative, interrogative, determinative, indefinite and reflexive pronouns. Their declension in German. Negation: <i>nicht</i> vs. <i>kein</i> . Pronominaladverbien (Präpositionaladverbien).	1		5				6	6	
Total	16		48				64	71	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Continuous assessment of semester performance: average grade	40%	During the semester	All specific details regarding the grading of quizzes, written and oral assignments, and tasks will be provided to students by the instructors before the beginning of the course. The average grade of the continuous assessment must be at least 5 to gain admission to the examination.
Midterm: Test 1	30%	In the middle of the semester	Single integrated multilingual test, based on the quizzes, assignments, and tasks completed in class throughout the semester. The theoretical part (English only) will check students' ability to define, compare, contrast, describe, analyze, and illustrate relevant concepts. The practical parts (English and German) require students to apply theory and rules in practice, producing correct grammatical structures. Ten-point assessment scale: 10 (excellent). Excellent, exceptional knowledge and abilities. 95-100% of questions answered correctly. 9 (very good). Very good knowledge and abilities. 85-94 % of questions answered correctly. 8 (good). Knowledge and abilities are above average. 75-84 % of questions answered correctly. 7 (average). Average knowledge and abilities; there are a few non-essential mistakes. 65-74 % of questions answered correctly. 6 (satisfactory). Knowledge and abilities are below average; there are mistakes. 55-64 % of questions answered correctly. 5 (weak). Knowledge and abilities meet the minimum requirements. 51-54 % of questions answered correctly. 4, 3, 2, 1. Minimum requirements are not met to varying extents.
Written exam: Test 2	30%	During the exam period	

Author (-s)	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing house or web link
Required reading				
VU	2025	Interactive learning units on Moodle		https://emokymai.vu.lt/
Biber, Douglas, Susan Conrad, and Geoffrey N Leech	2006	<i>Longman Student Grammar of Spoken and Written English</i>	(excerpts)	Harlow: Longman
Carter, Ronald, and Michael McCarthy	2007	<i>Cambridge Grammar of English: A Comprehensive Guide: Spoken and Written English Grammar and Usage</i>	(excerpts)	Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
Conrad, Susan, Douglas Biber, and Geoffrey N Leech	2013	<i>Longman Student Grammar of Spoken and Written English: Workbook</i>	(excerpts)	Harlow: Longman
Foley, Mark, and Diane Hall	2008	<i>Longman Advanced Learner's Grammar: A Self-Study Reference & Practice Book with Answers</i>	(excerpts)	Harlow: Longman
Gelderen, Elly van	2010	<i>Introduction to the Grammar of English</i>	Revised edition	John Benjamins Publishing Company https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/viluniv-ebooks/detail.action?docID=623365
Hewings, Martin	2015	<i>Advanced Grammar in Use: A Self-Study Reference and Practice Book for Advanced Learners of English : With Answers and eBook.</i>	Third edition (or any other edition) (excerpts)	Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
Huddleston, Rodney D, Geoffrey K Pullum, and Brett Reynolds	2023	<i>A Student's Introduction to English Grammar</i>	Second edition (excerpts)	Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
König, Ekkehard, Gast, Volker	2012	<i>Understanding English-German Contrasts</i>	3., neu bearbeitete und erweiterte Auflage (excerpts)	Erich Schmidt Verlag
Vince, Michael	2012	<i>Advanced Language Practice: English Grammar and Vocabulary</i>	3rd ed.	Oxford: Macmillan
Recommended reading				
Kunkel Melanie, and Uwe Durst	2023	<i>Lern- und Übungsgrammatik Deutsch als Fremdsprache</i>	2. Auflage	Duden
Rug, Wolfgang, Tomaszewski, Andreas	2012	<i>Grammatik mit Sinn und Verstand. Übungsgrammatik Mittel- und Oberstufe.</i>		Klett

Swan, Michael	2016	<i>Practical English Usage. International Edition</i>	4 th ed.	Oxford University Press
Copilot (free version)			Study and learn mode	https://copilot.microsoft.com/
ChatGPT (free version)			Study and learn mode	https://chatgpt.com/
Claude (free version)			Learning or explanatory style	https://claude.ai/
Meta (free version)				https://www.meta.ai
Perplexity (free version)			Academic mode	https://www.perplexity.ai

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