



## COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Course unit title	Code
<b>Society and Culture of German-Speaking Countries (for Beginners)</b>	

Lecturer(s)	Department, Faculty
<b>Coordinating:</b> Assoc. Prof. Dr Virginija Masiulionytė <b>Other:</b>	Vilnius University Faculty of Philology Institute for the Languages and Cultures of the Baltic Universiteto 5, LT-01513 Vilnius

study cycle	Type of the course unit
BA	compulsory

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
Classroom	1st semester	English and German

Props	
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	<b>Co-requisites (if relevant):</b>

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	130	64	66

Purpose of the course unit: programme competences to be developed
It aims to develop an understanding of the main features of the society and culture (history, geography, etc.) of the German-speaking countries (Germany, Austria, Switzerland); intercultural competence and the ability to work in a multicultural environment. Students should also be able to collect, analyse and organise information from different sources, to be open to innovation and free from stereotypes.

Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Upon completion of this course unit, the students:		
- will acquire knowledge of German-speaking countries, and will be able to understand the distinctive cultures and customs of the Germans, Austrians, and Swiss; - will be able to compare German, Austrian, Swiss and Lithuanian customs and traditions, identify the essential features of German, Austrian and Swiss mentality and self-understanding in comparison to their own culture, and justify their opinions;	Traditional and engaging lectures with elements of problem-based learning, active learning methods (brainstorming, group discussion, group/pair work), video review, interactive online exercises, exploratory methods (information retrieval, reading, analysis and discussion of the literature, preparation and presentation of reports).	Active participation in the seminars, progress tests during the semester, presentation
- will be able to apply their knowledge of German-speaking countries and their culture in (non-)official situations, when giving a presentation on a selected German/Austrian/Swiss cultural figure or place of interest; critically evaluate information about		

the socio-cultural context of German-speaking countries;		
- be prepared to independently acquire knowledge about German-speaking countries and deepen their cultural understanding: find, evaluate and organise information about a selected cultural figure/place of interest, prepare and deliver a presentation;	Information search, reading and analysis of literature, group discussion.	Active participation in the seminars
- will be able to plan time effectively and meet given deadlines.	homework assignment	Only tasks submitted on time will be assessed; if given deadlines are not met, the tasks will not be assessed

Course content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours						Individual work: time and assignments		
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship/work	Contact hours,	Individual work	Assignments
German-speaking countries and their symbols. German language in Europe. Common German and dialects. Germany in Europe: neighboring countries. Administrative division into federal states. National and cultural stereotypes: Germans, Austrians, Lithuanians, etc. The role of stereotypes in the production of humour (e.g., memes). National character vs. individual character.			14				14	14	Reading and discussing literature, working with vocabulary and maps, listening to recordings, watching videos, interactive online exercises, searching, selecting and analysing material, preparing for discussion, short presentations in seminars.
National symbols of Germany and the history of their creation. German anthem, national flag, coat of arms, German Unity Day. National holidays. Historical legacy and present. Berlin. The Golden Twenties.			22				22	14	Reading and discussing literature, working with vocabulary and maps, listening to recordings, watching videos, interactive online exercises, searching, selecting and analysing material, preparing for discussion, short presentations in seminars.
German literature, art and science. The most prominent cultural and scientific figures. Nobel Prize winners. Studying in Germany. University of Heidelberg. Faust in German and European culture.			10				10	10	Reading and discussing literature, working with vocabulary and maps, listening to recordings, watching videos, interactive online exercises, searching, selecting and analysing material, preparing for discussion, short presentations in seminars.
Austria in Europe. Neighboring countries. Austrian regions. Vienna: sights and museums. Famous Austrians.			4				4	4	Reading and discussing literature, working with vocabulary and maps, listening to recordings, watching videos, interactive online exercises, searching,

									selecting and analysing material, preparing for discussion, short presentations in seminars.
Switzerland: regions, cities, famous places.			6				6	4	Reading and discussing literature, working with vocabulary and maps, listening to recordings, watching videos, interactive online exercises, searching, selecting and analysing material, preparing for discussion, short presentations in seminars.
Progress tests during the semester			4				4	12	Repetition and systematisation of material
Presentation			4				4	8	presentation
<b>Total</b>			<b>64</b>				<b>64</b>	<b>66</b>	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria		
Average grade for tests	50 %	during the semester	<p>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 not 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.</p>		
Active participation in seminars	30%	during the semester	<p>2 points – student has completed at least 80 % of the given tasks;            1 point – student has completed at least 60 % of the given tasks;            0 points – student has completed less than 60 % of the given tasks.            Participation in discussions, asking meaningful questions and answering them, and other active forms of participation in lectures and seminars are included in the count.</p>		
Presentation	20 %	during the semester	Duration: 10-15 min.		
				Score	Discussions
			Structure	2	The structure is clear and logical, with all the necessary parts: <u>introduction</u> , objectives, methods and sources used; <u>main part</u> , <u>conclusions</u>
				1	Structure is generally clear but lacks an introduction or conclusions
				0	Structure unclear, no introduction and no conclusions
			Content	4	The content and analysis are very detailed and systematic, and the conclusions are sound.
				3	The content is comprehensive, the analysis is systematic, the conclusions are well-founded, with only a few minor errors or unsubstantiated claims.
2	The analysis is complete, but not exhaustive, with factual errors and unsubstantiated claims, and conclusions are not always justified.				
1	The analysis is incomplete, there are many errors and/or unsubstantiated claims, and the conclusions are unsupported.				
0	The content and analysis are superficial, and the conclusions are lacking.				

			Language	3	The ideas are presented in a completely free, clear and logical manner; the speech is audience-oriented, and questions are answered confidently.
				2	The ideas are presented quite freely, clearly and logically; the speech is audience-oriented and answers all questions.
				1	Lack of contact with the audience, not all questions are answered, sometimes reading from the written text.
				0	Most of the message is scanned from the text.
			Use of visual aids	1	The use of the tools (PowerPoint slides or similar) is targeted: the first slide indicates the topic of the presentation and the speaker, the slides are captioned and not overloaded with text: only the main supporting phrases (words, phrases) are written down.
				0.5	Some slides have too much text or no captions
				0	Slides have too much text, no headings, no topic and no presenter, or no presentation at all.

Author	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication; pages	Publishing house or internet site
<b>Required reading</b>				
Teacher's materials in Moodle				
Gaidosch, Ulrike / Müller, Christine	2010	Zur Orientierung. Basiswissen Deutschland		Hueber
Pilaski, Anna/ Fröhlich, Brigitta/ Bolte-Costabiei, Christiane/ Behal-Thomsen, Heinke	2011	Entdeckungsreise D-A-CH. Kursbuch zur Landeskunde		Langenscheidt
ZDF		Die Deutschen		<a href="http://www.diedeutschen.zdf.de">http://www.diedeutschen.zdf.de</a>
<b>Recommended reading</b>				
Lapinskas, Saulius	2002	Geschichte und Geographie Deutschlands.		Vilnius: VU leidykla
Matecki, Uta	2011	Dreimal Deutsch: In Deutschland / in Österreich / in der Schweiz	Lese-, Arbeitsbuch mit CD	Klett

Date: 21.08.2023