



School of English, Journalism  
& European Languages

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## Unit Outline

**HEG407**  
**Special Topic in German Language and Linguistics**  
**Semester 2, 2008**  
**[www.utas.edu.au/german/](http://www.utas.edu.au/german/)**

<b>Convenor:</b>	<b>Dr Eva Meidl</b> Room: HUM 571 Phone: 6226 2019 Email: <a href="mailto:E.Meidl@utas.edu.au">E.Meidl@utas.edu.au</a>
<b>Consultation Hours:</b>	Mon 10 – 11 am and Thurs 10 am – 11 am
<b>Unit Description:</b>	Offers a diachronic approach to the study of the German language.
<b>Unit Aims and Objectives:</b>	The aims of this unit are to enable students to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. enhance their skills of diachronic assessment of the German language;</li><li>2. deepen their familiarity with a variety of historically diverse linguistic manifestations of German language and literature, and</li><li>3. apply knowledge of specific historical issues and their cultural meanings within the context of medieval Germany.</li></ol>
<b>Learning Outcomes:</b>	Students taking this unit will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. build <i>knowledge</i> in the areas described in the Units Aims and Objectives (above);</li><li>2. enhance skills in<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) written <i>communication</i>, with special emphasis on writing practice in the form of short essays, and</li><li>b) oral <i>communication</i>, through participation in tutorial activities;</li></ol></li><li>3. enhance skills in <i>problem solving</i> through assessment tasks and tutorial activities, which develop research</li></ol>

	<p>techniques;</p> <p>4. develop their <i>global perspective</i> through the study of German medieval texts from a range of cultural contexts.</p>
<b>Required Texts:</b>	N/A
<b>Recommended Texts: available in the reserve section of the library:</b>	<p>Bekker, Hugo: <i>The Nibelungen: a literary analysis</i>, Toronto : University of Toronto Press, 1971</p> <p>Eggers, Hans: <i>Deutsche Sprachgeschichte</i>, Hamburg: Rowohlt, 1986</p> <p>Gottfried von Straßburg: <i>The "Tristan and Isolde" of Gottfried von Straßburg</i>, Princeton : Princeton University Press, 1948</p> <p>Moser, Hugo: <i>Deutsche Sprachgeschichte</i>, Tübingen : Niemayer, 1965</p> <p>Tonnelat, Ernest: <i>A history of the German Language</i>, London : Harap, 1937.</p> <p>Walther von der Vogelweide: <i>Gedichte : Mittelhochdeutscher Text und Übertragung</i>, Frankfurt am Main : Fisher, 1970</p> <p>Waterman, John: <i>A History of the German language</i>, Washington: University of Washington Press, 1966.</p>
<b>When Taught:</b>	<p>Tuesday 1.10 – 2:00 pm SocSci581</p> <p>Thursday 1:10 – 2:00 pm SocSci581</p>
<b>Assessment:</b>	Continuous assessment (50%), 2-hr exam (50%)

## LECTURE/SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Lecturer
Week 14	a. Introduction to the unit, Proto-Indo-European 6000BC - 500BC b. The culture of the Germanic Tribes 500BC - 500AD	Dr Eva Meidl
Week 15	a. The First Sound Shift: Germanic (Grimm's Law, Verner's Law) b. From the Merowingers, Karolingers to the Saxons 500AD - 1024AD	
Week 16	a. The Second Sound Shift: Althochdeutsch (Old High German, OHG) b. Merseburger Zaubersprüche, Straßburger Eide, Hildebrandlied	
Week 17	a. Video: <i>Romanik in Österreich</i> b. The Medieval Period : 1050 - 1350	
Week 18	a. Mittelhochdeutsch (Middle High German, MHG) b. Background to Middle High German Literature	
Week 19	a. Video: Romanik in Österreich b. <b>1. Test</b>	
Week 20	a. Pre-courtly didactic literature (1170), Pfaffe Konrad : <i>Rolandslied</i> b. Freidank: <i>Bescheidenheit</i>	
	<b>Mon 1 Sep – Fri 5 Sep Mid-Semester Break</b>	
Week 21	a. <i>Nibelungenlied</i> (1200) b. <i>Nibelungenlied</i>	
Week 22	a. Gottfried von Strassburg : <i>Tristan und Isolde</i> (1220) b. <i>Tristan und Isolde</i>	
Week 23	a. Minnesang, Walther von der Vogelweide (1170 - 1230) b. Walther von der Vogelweide	
Week 24	a. Früh-Neuhochdeutsch 1350-1600 (Early New High German, ENHG) b. Johannes von Tepl (1350 - 1414) : <i>Der Ackermann aus Böhmen</i>	
Week 25	a. Video: <i>Tränen des Vaterlandes : Das literarische Barock/</i> <b>Class presentation</b> b. Neu-Hochdeutsch (NHG), New High German	
Week 26	a. Rechtschreibreform, Revision b. <b>2. Test</b>	

	<b>Study Period: 20-24 October</b>	
	<b>Examination Period: 25 October – 11 November</b>	

## ASSESSMENT

Assessment in this unit takes the form of two in-class tests during the semester and one formal examination in the examination period.

The first test takes place in week 19 of semester II and the second test in week 26. The tests will require students to write short answers to questions on diachronic linguistics and literary analysis of medieval texts.

**This assignment will assess learning outcomes 1, 2a, 3, 4, and by implication 2b.**

The class presentation forms part of the continuous assessment. It is scheduled in week 25.

**This assignment will assess learning outcomes 2b.**

The 2-hr examination (60%) will be scheduled in the official examination period. The timetable is published on the UTAS website.

**The examination will assess learning outcomes 1, 2a, 3, 4, and by implication 2b.**

### Attendance and performance requirements

- Eligibility to sit the examination depends upon the completion and submission of the essay and **regular attendance at lectures and tutorials.**
- The school will notify students of the final date that any work will be accepted.
- **If written work is not completed you will not be eligible to sit the end-of-semester examination.**

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Submission of Assignments

Students are required to submit all assignments in this unit directly to their unit coordinator unless otherwise directed.

All assignments must be submitted in hard-copy (not by email, unless otherwise directed). Students are required to keep copies of all submitted assignments.

### Difficulties with your Studies

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, have personal or life planning issues, disability or illness which may affect your course of study, you should raise these with your lecturer and/or one of the following Student Services staff as soon as possible:

- Learning Skills Adviser
- Disability Adviser
- Careers Adviser
- Student Counsellor

### University Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

"**Plagiarism** is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own; for example, using an author's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source, using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation, copying another student's work.

If you have any doubts about how to refer to the work of others in your assignments, please consult your lecturer or tutor for relevant referencing guidelines, and the academic integrity resources on the web at <http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/supporting/academicintegrity/index.html>.

The intentional copying of someone else's work as one's own is a serious offence punishable by penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, to exclusion from a unit, a course or the University. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline – Part 3 Academic Misconduct, see <http://www.utas.edu.au/universitycouncil/legislation/>."

**The University and any persons authorised by the University may submit your assessable works to a plagiarism checking service, to obtain a report on possible instances of plagiarism. Assessable works may also be included in a reference database. It is a condition of this arrangement that the original author's permission is required before a work within the database can be viewed.**

### Assignment Presentation

The German discipline uses MLA Style, which is characterized by in-text referencing and a list of works cited. See the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th ed. Ed. Joseph Gibaldi (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2003). For a brief introduction, refer to [http://www.utas.edu.au/english/english1/mla\\_citation\\_syst.doc](http://www.utas.edu.au/english/english1/mla_citation_syst.doc), MLA Citations System: A Brief Guide.

### Honours Marking Scale

The following distribution of marks and grades is applied in assessing your work:

- First Class (HF)—80-100%
- Second Class upper division (HU)—70-79%
- Second Class lower division (HL)—60-69%
- Third Class (HT)—50-59%
- Fail (HN)—0-49%

All marks are subject to moderation.

### Assessment Criteria

The following criteria apply to assessment of the essay:

- Grammatical correctness
- Syntax
- Choice of vocabulary
- Attention to expression, spelling, proof-reading.

### IT Support

Learning online—for online learning and Vista support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/>

Information Technology Services—for general IT Support (includes link to UTAS download website)

<http://www.utas.edu.au/servicedesk/student/index.html>

Library Services—for information literacy support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/library/>

Help Desk (email [HelpDesk@utas.edu.au](mailto:HelpDesk@utas.edu.au) or 6226 1818, within University 1818)