

GERMAN

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FIRST YEAR (2026/27)

1. The course

The first year course will consolidate your language skills, introduce you to forms of literary analysis and cultural study, and prepare you for the Preliminary Examination which is taken at the end of the first year. There are four papers in German:

- A. Language papers:
 - I. "Deutsche Gesellschaft und Kultur seit 1890" (reading comprehension and essay in German)
 - II. Translation from and into German
- B. Literature papers:
 - III. Commentary (on selected poems from the anthology given below, and on two of the set texts for paper IV)
 - IV. German prose and drama 1890-1933

2. The set texts:

Drama (paper III):

- Frank Wedekind, *Frühlings Erwachen* (1891)
Reclam XL, ISBN 978-3-15-007951-9
- Bertolt Brecht, *Der gute Mensch von Sezuan* (1943)**
Suhrkamp BasisBibliothek Bd. 25, ISBN: 978-3-518-18825-5
(set for commentary)
- Thomas Bernhard, *Heldenplatz* (1988)
Suhrkamp, ISBN 978-3-518-38974-2
- Dea Loher, *Unschuld* (2003)
Reclam Theater der Gegenwart, ISBN 978-3-15-014205-9

Prose and Film (paper IV):

- Theodor Fontane, *Irrungen Wirrungen* (1888)
Reclam UB 6961, ISBN 978-3-15-106121-5
- Franz Kafka, *Die Verwandlung* (1912/1915)
Reclam XL Text und Kontext, ISBN 978-3-15-016109-6
- Elfriede Jelinek, *Die Liebhaberinnen* (1978)
Rowohlt Taschenbuch, ISBN 978-3-499-12467-9
- Fatih Akin (dir.), *Aus dem Nichts* (2017)
Warner Home Videos 2018

Poetry:

Deutsche Gedichte: 1500 Gedichte von den Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart, ed. Hans-Joachim Simm (Insel, 2009; most recent edition 2016, but it doesn't matter which), ISBN 978-3-458-17440-0

3. Preparation and work in the first term

In your first term, you will begin work for the two language papers through a mixture of small group language classes in college (mostly taught in German), language and grammar classes at the Language Centre, lectures on 'Deutsche Gesellschaft und Kultur' in German, and self study.

Tutorial work in the first term will start **with the plays** listed under 2, and you should aim to read them before the start of term. Work in tutorials will be accompanied by lectures on the set texts and on the period, where you will receive more detailed reading lists on background and context.

To improve your language skills, there are certain tools which you will need throughout the entire course; most important of these are a large scale dictionary and a reference grammar. Suggested are the latest edition of either the Oxford Duden German Dictionary or the Collins German Dictionary, and the latest edition of Hammer's German Grammar and Use, revised by Martin Durrell (7th edition, Routledge). As part of the course, you will also use Practising German Grammar. A Workbook, ed. Martin Durrell, Katrin Kohl, Gudrun Loftus (4th edition, Routledge). For independent work on expanding your active vocabulary, you will need *Using German Vocabulary*, by Sarah M. B. Fagan (CUP, 2004).

Almut Suerbaum
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