

Transilvania University of Braşov, Romania

Study program: Studies of German Language and Literature from Intercultural Perspective

Syllabus for ERASMUS + students

Faculty of Letters

Study period: 2 years (master)

1st Year

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Interculturalism and Literature (German Literature in the 20th and 21st Centuries)		German	5	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): Crossculturalism as historic phenomenon in South-East Europe – the Transylvanian model; German literature in Transylvania as result of crosscultural influences; German literature of the 20th and 21st centuries in Transylvania; Education and Theatre in Transylvania (20th-21st centuries); literary genres and crosscultural paradigms in Transylvania (up to the 21st century).

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of Credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Literary Circles in the German cultural space in Romania		German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): The course aims to offer students an overview of literary circles in different historical periods starting with the Stalinist period to the 1990s and offer them a chance to understand the particularities of them in different contexts. Other objectives of the course are to develop the ability to analyse and interpret literary phenomena and to problematize and comment on them and also to understand the phenomenon of literary circles in a contemporary context.

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of Credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Intercultural Communication and the Language of Advertising		German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): Intercultural communication by means of advertising; culture as topic of advertisement; cultural stereotypes; critical analysis of types of discourse in advertisements; practical project: „Ware Kultur”: research, creation and evaluation. In this course we will analyze the hidden messages embedded in the visuals and written content within advertisements. The secrets behind successful advertising campaigns will be dealt with as well. There will be discussed how symbols, signs and language come together to create powerful messages that resonate with consumers. Further, there will be discussed the psychology of perception and strategic manipulation through semiotic elements to influence audience perceptions and attitudes.

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of Credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Linguistic Interferences		German	5	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): This course presents several elements of both inter- and intra-linguistic and cultural interferences in the background of the German language. Thus, phonetic, morpho-syntactic and pragmatic similarities and differences are highlighted, as a comparative analysis between the German, English and Romanian languages.

During the course, special attention is paid to linguistic and cultural interference in the Transylvanian space, which facilitates not only a theoretical approach to linguistic problems but also stands for an exemplification of them starting from everyday communication, based on literary texts and/or German-language publications in Romania.

Main topics: Transfer and interference; Interference phenomena, cause of errors in pronunciation, vocabulary and sentence structure; Phonetic interferences – contrastive phonology; False friends – errors in the use of the article/ locative and directional adverbs/ topic errors; Semantic relations between lexical units regarded as a whole of form and meaning; Paradigmatic/syntagmatic relations (compatibility, incompatibility); Research areas of intercultural communication.

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of Credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Ethics and Academic Integrity: Advanced Concepts and Research Practices		German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): This course aims to develop a critical and applied perspective on the ethical norms that govern research activities in the humanities, with a particular focus on the field of philology. It provides a theoretical framework for understanding the principles of academic ethics – from intellectual honesty and the avoidance of plagiarism to the proper management of sources and adherence to publication standards. Through interactive methods and case studies, students are encouraged to explore concrete ethical dilemmas, understand the moral implications of their academic decisions, and adopt responsible behaviour in scientific research.

Topics covered: Foundations of academic ethics: principles, norms, and values; Integrity in research: author responsibility and the role of the scientific community; Forms and types of plagiarism; avoiding plagiarism: paraphrasing, citation, proper referencing; Codes of ethics in universities and in the international academic environment; Ethics in writing and publishing scientific papers; Unethical research practices: data manipulation, fictitious co-authorship, self-plagiarism; Ethics of using digital sources and academic databases.

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of Credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Writing and Composition		German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): This course aims to develop written and oral communication skills through an in-depth understanding of the relationship between language, communication, and the writing process. Students are guided through all stages of writing—from generating ideas and planning to drafting, revising, and rewriting—in order to produce clear, coherent texts adapted to various academic and digital contexts. The course focuses on the functions of language, text interpretation and analysis, as well as the application of modern writing techniques necessary in contemporary communication, including online.

Topics covered: Building an argumentative text; Practical exercise in structured writing; Identifying the functions of language; Analysis of a literary or non-literary fragment; Oral interpretation of a written text; Text as a form of aesthetic communication; Analysis of examples of texts from the digital environment; Ethics of using digital sources and academic databases.

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of Credits	Number of hours per week			
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Project-based learning workshop		German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): This is a teaching course that aims to train learning and teaching skills through projects. Project-based learning is a socially integrative form of learning in which equal partners, albeit with different skills, work together on a common project. Master's students will learn how to organize such lessons in which students are responsible for planning, carrying out, and presenting their work, thus actively shaping the lesson. They will also learn to make the final assessment and provide the necessary reflection on the activity carried out. Similarly, they will learn to choose places outside the school that are suitable for such forms of learning.

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Migration and Interculturality (German Space after 1945)		German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): The course aims to develop cognitive, professional, and transversal skills by familiarizing students with migration and interculturality phenomena in the German speaking countries after 1945. Addressing themes such as plurality, dynamism, and interaction within and between cultures, languages, and religions, the course supports students in developing interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary competencies. Consequently, students will be able to engage in educational or cultural activities that consider the conditions of a multiethnic and multicultural society.

The course will apply concepts of *strangeness, border, difference* to the texts of authors such as Rafik Schami, Feridun Zaimoglu, Wladimir Kaminer, and Vladimir Vertlib.

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Introduction to the Literary Cartography		German	5	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): The course aims to develop cognitive, professional, and transversal competences by familiarizing students with methods of spatial representation in literary texts and the evolution of the concept of space in German literature after 1949. By addressing themes such as geocriticism, imaginary topography, and the relationship between text and map, the course supports the formation of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary skills, facilitating a dialogue between literary studies, geography, and the visual arts.

Topics cover: Geocriticism: Analyzing the way real spaces are transfigured through fiction; Narrative Maps: Identifying the spatial structures that support the plot and character development; The Spatial Turn: Understanding the shift from a historical-linear approach to a spatial-simultaneous one within the humanities.

Analysis of selected texts by: Rafik Schami; Feridun Zaimoglu; Wladimir Kaminer; Ilija Trojanow .

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Cultural and literary interferences in the Southeastern European space		German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): This course presents several elements of both inter- and intra-linguistic and cultural interferences in the background of the German language. Thus, phonetic, morpho-syntactic and pragmatic similarities and differences are highlighted, as a comparative analysis between the German, English and Romanian languages. During the course, special attention is paid to linguistic and cultural interference in the Transylvanian space, which facilitates not only a theoretical approach to linguistic problems but also stands for an exemplification of them starting from everyday communication, based on literary texts and/or German-language publications in Romania.

Main topics: Transfer and interference; Interference phenomena, cause of errors in pronunciation, vocabulary and sentence structure; Phonetic interferences – contrastive phonology; False friends – errors in the use of the article/ locative and directional adverbs/ topic errors; Semantic relations between lexical units regarded as a whole of form and meaning; Paradigmatic/syntagmatic relations (compatibility, incompatibility); Research areas of intercultural communication.

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of Credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Philo-Germanism and anti-Germanism in Romanian culture and literature		German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): The course offers students a comparative perspective on modern and contemporary European literature, with a focus on German-language literature from Romania and on cultural relations within Central and South-Eastern Europe. The discipline aims to develop skills in critical analysis and textual interpretation, as well as an understanding of the historical, identity-related, and intercultural contexts that have influenced the literary production of ethnic German communities in Romania. Students consolidate their ability to correctly apply linguistic norms in German and Romanian, to interpret literary texts within complex cultural contexts, and to relate literary phenomena to regional social and historical developments.

Course and seminar activities address themes such as cultural identity, representations of alterity, cultural memory, and literary and cultural interferences through the analysis of representative authors and texts belonging to German-language literature from Romania. Interactive teaching and discussion methods foster intellectual autonomy, critical argumentation skills, and sensitivity toward cultural diversity, thereby developing competences useful in education, literary and cultural research, and intercultural mediation.

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of Credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Interculturality and Intertextuality in Literature (Contemporary German Literature)		German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): Crossculturalism in the 20th century – paradigmatic changes; German literature in Romania at the beginning of the 20th century; Paradigmatic changes after 1918 and 1945; crossculturalism and totalitarianism in Romania and Eastern Europe reflected in German literature; corssculturalism after 1989 and its reflection in present-day German literature written in Romania.

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Literary Journalism (German publications after 1945)		German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): The course aims to familiarize students with the specific features of journalistic genres and the characteristics of German-language publicistic discourse in the Romanian context, with a particular emphasis on intercultural dimensions. Through theoretical approaches and practical applications, students are encouraged to explore forms of communication in the written press, to analyse journalistic content, and to produce their own journalistic texts according to the conventions of each genre. The course also seeks to foster an understanding of the role of the German-language press in Romania in shaping cultural identities and promoting intercultural dialogue.

Topics covered: Introduction to journalistic genres: definitions, functions, styles; News, reports, reportage and interviews – characteristics, structure, and writing practices; German-language press in Transylvania and the Banat: evolution and cultural functions; The relationship between journalism, opinion, and defamation: distinctions and ethical implications; Analysis of the content and role of publications: *Neuer Weg*, *Allgemeine Deutsche Zeitung für Rumänien*, *Neue Banater Zeitung*, *Karpatenrundschau*, *Hermannstädter Zeitung*.

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Contemporary German Literature for Children		German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): The course aims to provide an overview of the history and evolution of comic books, from their cultural origins to contemporary forms. Through the analysis of representative texts and the integration of essential concepts in the field, participants will understand both the educational and formative role of comics and their literary and artistic value. The course focuses on developing interpretative skills, learning specific techniques for understanding this type of text, and stimulating creativity through the development of independent projects. It also addresses the major transformations that have shaped comics in different social, cultural, and global contexts.

Topics covered: The history and specific cultural developments of comics; The theory and research of comics from the 19th to the 21st century; The emergence and affirmation of the graphic novel; The graphic novel as a publication format and marketing strategy; Literary comics in the history of comics; The cultural dominance of the canonical superhero story; Comics in the context of globalization.

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Culture and Language		German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): This seminar is dedicated to the study of language and communication by integrating cognitive, social and cultural perspectives. Some of the topics that will be covered include: intercultural communication in multicultural settings; language, culture and emotion; language, identity and ageing minds; language contact and literacies in the global digital universe.

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Linguistic Variation and Language Contact		German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): This seminar focuses on current research in contact linguistics in a global perspective, including but not limited to the impact of languages of wider communication (e.g. English) in contact with other languages. Topics to be covered include the following: language/dialect contact, convergence and language shift resulting in attrition and language endangerment and loss. Other contact-induced linguistic changes and processes to be considered include borrowing, code-switching, code-shifting, diglossia, loss of linguistic restrictions and grammatical permeability, and the impact of language contact in the emergence and/or historical development of languages.

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
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Empirical Linguistics		German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): The aim of this seminar is to broaden the students' knowledge of research design and research methods in various fields of empirical linguistics and to enable them to choose the appropriate methodology in their own research. Some of the topics that will be covered are: finding and formulating research questions, essential characteristics of scientific studies and good practices in linguistic research, methods and data collection, quantitative and qualitative research, questionnaires and interviews, experimental studies, analyzing text and talk.

2nd Year

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Phenomenology of Interculturalism in the Myths and Customs of South-East Europe		German	5	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): Myths paradigms as fundamental category in cultural studies; myths complexity in an interdisciplinary approach; the intercultural phenomenon with reference to myths; the importance of myths and customs for the cultural identity; the transformation and adaptation of myths in contemporary society; myths and mythical figures in the Romanian, German Literature as well as in the literature of the German ethnics in Romania – a comparative approach.

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Memories and Cultural Traditions in Transilvania (20th and 21st Centuries)		German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): The lecture aims to provide a comprehensive exploration of diverse facets within Romania's culture of remembrance, particularly within the framework of the communist era spanning from 1945 to 1989. Through an analysis of the discussed novels, students are anticipated to acquire a nuanced comprehension of the cultural and literary engagements with Romania's communist history. The selected texts will center on the literary portrayal of memories associated with the Gulag, as well as the encounters with interrogations, surveillance, and censorship during the period of communist rule. The novels authored by Herta Müller, Richard Wagner, Cătălin Dorian Florescu, and Carmen Francesca Banciu will be critically examined.

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Multilingualism: Myths and Evidence		German	5	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): Multilingualism - the ability to speak, understand, and function in more than one language - is an increasingly common phenomenon in our modern, globalized world. However, there are still many myths surrounding multilingualism, which often lead to misunderstandings and misconceptions. The aim of this seminar is to debunk some of these myths by reading and discussing recurrent issues in language acquisition and multilingualism. We will focus on the following issues: language and communication impairments, syntax and discourse properties in narrative, cross-linguistic influence and theoretical implications, cross-linguistics differences in L1 acquisition, acquisition of the marking of narrative cohesion.

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
(Inter) Cultural Spaces. Topoi of the German Literature in Romania		German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): Perception of space and time. Topos in relation to space; Paradigms of space; Symbolism and perception of the "city", respectively of the location as "topos"; The semiotics of the city. Metropolis as text; Rural topographies. Myths of an idyllic space; Landscapes and social space; Topographies of the amusement; The cemetery as a real and literary topography.

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Urban and Rural Spaces in the German Literature in Romania (20th and 21st Centuries)		German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): The textuality of space – Space in literature; classic and modern theorist on the concept of space; different approaches to the analysis of space in narrative fiction and film; imagined space, lived space, main heterotopias such as the church, the cemetery, the tavern, the inn, the brothel as reality and fiction.

Course title	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
			course	seminar	laboratory	project
Interculturalism in the German Literature and Film in the 21st Century	German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): The course German literature and film in the 21st century proposes an in depth analysis of the relation between German poetry, prose, drama and cinematography in the 21st century. During the course we will discuss movie adaptations of famous works of literature but also explore how the medium literature still has an important influence on cinematographic expression.

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Film and Text, Paradigms of the 21st century		German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): The course Film and Text, Paradigms of the 21st century explores how text and cinematography evolved in this century and how paradigms of innovation and experimentation influenced and connected these two forms of artistic expression. During the course we will focus mainly on analysing German movies and texts but will also explore the larger European context of artistic paradigms.

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Minority Languages in Europe		German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): No other European country has as many legally recognized minority languages as Romania. What is the status of minority languages in Romania and Europe? In this seminar, the main minority languages in Europe will be briefly introduced. Following this introduction, we are particularly interested in three topics: (i) the development of the language itself (e.g., the influence of the surrounding language on the grammar of the minority language), (ii) the multilingualism of the speakers (e.g., the influence of multiple languages on the minority language), and (iii) the connection between language and society (i.e., who speaks which languages and when).

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Linguistic Influences in Language Acquisition		German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): This course focuses on the process by which native speakers of a language acquire the ability to speak and understand that language. It covers some of the major results in the study of first-language acquisition, concentrating on morpho-syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. The findings primarily come from English, but cross-linguistic differences in the phenomena of interest and corresponding differences in acquisition patterns are considered where appropriate. Of interest throughout is how these developmental data inform linguistic theory and/or learnability theory.

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Interculturality in Literary Translation		German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): The course treats culture as a translation issue, given that literary texts are strongly culturally determined. They contain references to history, values, social norms, humor, expressions, realities, and implicit knowledge that are often not immediately perceived by readers from other cultures. Thus, the translator becomes a cultural mediator who must decide which literary translation strategies with ethical and aesthetic consequences to apply (adaptation to the target culture or preservation of foreign elements to make otherness visible). This highlights the need to develop translators' intercultural competence, i.e., a deep understanding of both cultures, empathy, intertextual knowledge, and sensitivity in order to convey not only meaning, but also style and cultural significance. The course aims to develop this intercultural competence and critical reflection, because literary translation can build bridges—but it can also reinforce stereotypes if cultural nuances are misunderstood or oversimplified.

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Cultural interactions		German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): The course aims to develop linguistic and intercultural competences required for translation and interpretation activities, while also strengthening students' ability to analyze and synthesize European cultural phenomena. Students consolidate their knowledge of linguistic norms, documentation methods, and the application of grammatical and stylistic rules in translation processes, while also developing sensitivity toward intercultural communication and cultural diversity. The course supports the formation of ethical professional conduct and the ability to critically and responsibly interpret diverse cultural texts and contexts.

Course and seminar activities address topics such as culture and intercultural communication, European cultural history, identity and alterity, cultural transfer, and cultural memory. Interactive teaching and discussion methods help students develop teamwork skills, information management abilities, and the capacity to formulate coherent interpretations of texts and cultural phenomena. The course also contributes to preparing students for careers in education, cultural management, and intercultural communication.

Course title	Code	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
				course	seminar	laboratory	project
Advanced Research. Projects and Implementation.		German	20	-	-	-	6

Course description (Syllabus): This practical project aims to familiarize students with different information in an intercultural context. It helps them to understand the meaning of texts from different languages and their cultural specificity, to extract information from cultural media and to decode intercultural elements. Students learn to interpret information in a social, cultural and historical context.

Stages of writing a cultural or a research project. Types of projects; Practice at the German Cultural Center Brasov; Discussing your own ideas respecting the themes for the final projects.