

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	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	Language of instruction	No. of Credits	Number of hours per week			
			course	seminar	laboratory	project
Literary Circles in the German Literature 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	Language of instruction	No. of Credits	Number of hours per week			
			course	seminar	laboratory	project
Interculturalism in the Literary Translation	German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): Approaches to the act of translation, the role of the translator and analysis of translations from a scientific point of view; Translation as a profession; Theoretical models of translation; Linguistic models; Hermeneutic models; Functional models; Communication models; Translation of literary texts.

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

Course description (Syllabus): Culture and symbolic structure; Transfer and interferences - interference phenomena as a cause of errors in pronunciation, vocabulary and sentence structure; Interferences in the phonetic field; Interlingual and intralingual interferences; False friends: misunderstanding and error in inter-ethnic / intercultural communication situations.

Course title	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
			course	seminar	laboratory	project
Initiation into Research. Propaedeutics of Scientific Research	German	5	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): Scientific research – institutions and traditions; Types of Scientific communication; Techniques of structuring ideas for writing scientific texts: such as active reading, notes, linking paragraphs and ordering ideas; Research ethics. International academic principles and practices, especially from the German area; Philological research methods focusing on the phenomenon of interculturalism; The research stages; Choosing the research topic, elaborating a research plan; Bibliographic documentation: establishing and recording the bibliography, reference works and working tools; Online databases. Needs analysis: writing the purpose, objectives; justification of the project; Stylistic and formal aspects in the writing of scientific papers.

Course title	Language of instruction	No. of Credits	Number of hours per week			
			course	seminar	laboratory	project
Interculturality and Intertextuality in Literature (Contemporary German Literature)	German	5	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	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
			course	seminar	laboratory	project
Literary Publishing (German publications after 1945)	German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): The focus is set on journalism and different types of journalistic texts, such as news, coverage, interview, comment and review. A special attention is paid to papers belonging to the German minority in Romania, the role of these papers within the local communities is to be analysed.

Course title	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 offer students a presentation of the history of comics. It will also present relevant methods of comic analysis, stages in the history of comics and interesting works in the genre. Other objectives of the course are to study and practise the basics of comics (be it newspaper strips, web comics or graphic novels) and also ask about the current research perspectives in the field.

Course title	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
			course	seminar	laboratory	project
Models of Intercultural Learning	German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): Learning styles; Strategies and techniques; Theories of learning; Cross-, inter- and multiculturalism in learning; Learning as a modular cognitive process; Hermeneutics and learning theories; Domestic and foreign elements in reception, perception and interpretation of linguistic phenomena.

Course title	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
			course	seminar	laboratory	project
Culture and Language	German	5	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	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	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
			course	seminar	laboratory	project
Phenomenology of Interculturalism in Migrant Literature	German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): The course is designed to enhance students' cognitive, professional, and cross-disciplinary skills by acquainting them with migration and interculturalism dynamics in German-speaking regions post-1945. It delves into topics like diversity, dynamism, and interactions within and among various cultures, languages, and religions. Through this exploration, the course aids students in cultivating interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary proficiencies. Consequently, students will be well-equipped to participate in educational or cultural pursuits that take into account the complexities of a multiethnic and multicultural society. We will discuss authors like: Terezia Mora, Ilija Trojanow, Zoran Drvenkar, Herta Müller.

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

Course description (Syllabus): Sentence as the basic element of the text; Text - textuality, criteria of textuality; Grammatical elements, conditions for text coherence; Connection elements in the text; Descriptive, explanatory and argumentative elements in the text; Intentionality, acceptability and intertextuality; Elements / models of understanding the text as a whole.

Course title	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
			course	seminar	laboratory	project
Written Communication: Textuality and Text Generation	German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): The relationship between the lexical structure and the logic-semantic structure of the text; Similarities and differences between written and spoken texts; Stages of the text formulation: from idea to text; Free, formal, punctual and coded formulation; Cognitive structures in text; Basic elements in interpreting the text; Levels of text analysis.

Course title	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	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
			course	seminar	laboratory	project
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	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	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
			course	seminar	laboratory	project
Memories and Cultural Traditions in Transylvania (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	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	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	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 century)	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	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	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	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
			course	seminar	laboratory	project
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	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.

Course title	Language of instruction	No. of credits	Number of hours per week			
			course	seminar	laboratory	project
Image and Text - Semiotics of Advertising	German	4	1	1	-	-

Course description (Syllabus): 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	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.