

Fakultät 13 - General Studies
Courses in English
Summer Semester 2009



HOCHSCHULE
FÜR ANGEWANDTE
WISSENSCHAFTEN · FH
MÜNCHEN

Courses in English

The program Courses in English offers regular course instruction (rather than language instruction) in English. In the coming semester nine departments offering more than forty courses are involved in this university-wide project.

Students who satisfactorily complete a total of ten semester hours of regular course work in English receive the “Zusatzqualifikation” (Supplementary Certification) in Courses in English.

All of the required ten semester hours can be chosen from the English-language offerings of FK 13 – General Studies. Both “AW-Wahlpflicht” courses (mandatory electives) and “Freiwillige-AW” courses (electives) count for the Certification in Courses in English.

Alternatively, hours can be selected from English offerings in your own department or related technical courses from other departments.

This means you can earn credits for Courses in English while fulfilling your regular or General Studies course requirements.

The following table lists the Courses in English offered in FK 13 General Studies in SS 2009.

Instructor	Title	Day	Time
Block	Problems of English Grammar I	Tue	13.30
Block	The American Language	Tue	15.15
Block	Human Machine Communication	Wed	13.30
Block	German Grammar in English for International Students	Wed	15.15
Stratmann	Issues in Canada & Australia	Tue	15.15
Stratmann	The Eurosceptic and the Eurofriendly: Britain and Ireland in the European Unions	Tue	17.00-20.15
Zimmermann,R.	Physics of Logic: Holistic Aspects	Tue	1145

The courses will be held in G building, Lothstraße 34, R building, Lothstraße 64. See the course plan for exact locations.

For further information, contact the coordinator, Prof. Dr. Russell Block, “block@hm.edu”.

FB 13 – General Studies: Courses in English Winter Semester 2008/2009

Block, Russell

The American Language – History and Culture

- Topic: This was the title of the classic study (1919) by the American journalist H.L. Mencken, in which he attempted to capture the spirit of American speech. In this lecture, we will use Mencken and other more modern sources in order to get an overview of the American language. We will discuss a number of topics including: The origins of the American Language. Why all American dictionaries are called "Websters," the differences between American and British English - pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar, language and society in Great Britain and the USA, Black English, American dialects, other languages in America, feminism and the American language.
- Goal: In addition to obvious practical benefits, this course will illustrate the connection between language, history and society.
- Method: Lecture with questions and classroom discussion. A full script with review questions will be provided at the beginning of the semester.
- Hinweise: Regular attendance at the lectures is essential.

Block, Russell

German Grammar in English for International Students (FAW)

- Topic: It is difficult to learn the grammar of a foreign language in a foreign language if you are not yet fluent in the foreign language. Since most of the international students who come to us are better in English than in German at the time of their arrival, a description of the main points of German grammar in English should be a welcome approach.
- Goal: This course is intended to address the needs of international students at the beginning and intermediate levels of German. Students who are planning to spend one semester at the MUAS will acquire a working knowledge of German beyond the beer garden. Those spending two semesters should be able to function in courses conducted in German in their second semester.
- Method: Hard-core grammar with minimal vocabulary to accommodate both beginning and intermediate students. No language barriers here. Ask in English.
- Remarks: Obviously, this will not work unless you attend class. You can take the "German Language – History and Culture" for General Studies credit. This course is a streamlined language learning course for those who can profit by it. Each course is offered independently, but combining the sublime with the practical is recommended.

Block, Russell

Human-Machine Communication

- Topic: Have you ever wished that, instead of C++, you could use ordinary English (or even German!) when talking to your computer? Capt. Kirk can - why can't you? Just think of the possibilities - you could tell your data base exactly what you want to know, or hold an intelligent conversation with an Expert System. For the last forty years, research in Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been working on this problem. In this lecture, I will provide an introduction to the basic problems of human-machine communication, based in part on my own experience in AI research projects.
- Goals: In this lecture, we will explore the philosophical and computational basis of communication.

- Method: Lecture with questions and classroom discussion. A full script with review questions will be provided at the beginning of the semester.
- Remarks: Regular attendance at the lectures is essential.

Block, Russell Problems of English Grammar I and II

- Topic: English grammar and German grammar are fundamentally very similar. But, there are small differences that cause us problems. In this course, we will apply the methods of modern linguistics to explain the differences between English and German. The analysis will go far beyond the usual English "school grammar." We will draw on the resources provided by the last half-century of language study to make sense out of English grammar.
In Problems of English Grammar I, we will focus particularly on the terrible English tense and aspect system: *I go, I am going, I have gone, I have been going*, etc. Problems of English Grammar II is devoted to phrase and clause structure, e.g., the difference between *that* and *which* in relative clauses and the use of the complementizers *that, for-to, -ing* as in: *I forgot that I mailed the letter, I forgot to mail the letter, I forgot mailing the letter*.
- Goal: This course will provide insights into how languages, particularly English and German, work. At the same time, it should provide practical benefits for learning English and other foreign languages.
- Method: Lecture with questions and classroom discussion plus selected exercises in class and as homework. A full script with review questions will be provided at the beginning of the semester.
- Remarks: Regular attendance at the lectures is essential. Problems of English Grammar I is **not** a prerequisite (required) for Problems of English Grammar II.

Stratmann, Silke English: Issues in Canada and Australia

- Topic: Among the English-speaking countries, Canada and Australia have been getting more interesting – to the Munich exchange student as well as the German investor. However, most people's knowledge is limited and dominated by cliché: Canada is almost like the US (isn't it?!) and Australia home of Crocodile Dundee. High time to dedicate a bit more time and scrutiny to current issues in those two countries, issues that will be of cultural but also of economic interest.
- Goals: This is first and foremost a language class; so improving the students' English is high on the agenda. With the help of selected material on politics, literature, popular culture, students are, however, to gain a better understanding of Australia and Canada today and develop their intercultural skills.
- Method: Listening and reading comprehension, composition, short in-class presentations
- Remarks: Regular attendance mandatory (80 %), entrance test of 30-45 minutes in the first session (for those who have not successfully passed a UNICert III course yet)

Stratmann, Silke The Eurofriendly and the Eurosceptic – Ireland and Britain in the EU

- Topic: Whereas the British have always given the impression of being sceptical of or even positively hostile to the idea and the development of the European Union, the Republic of Ireland has become one of Europe's showcases, with pride in European Union membership and a strong European identity. This course will deal with the cultures of the two EU members and their own definitions as such from the early decades of the EC's/EU's existence. It will become obvious that the path to European integration – should it ever be successful – is paved with national myths and collective irrationalities. But it is exactly those irrationalities that are most instructive for an understanding of cultures.
- Goal: Students are introduced to the European Union from the perspectives of Britain and Ireland, as well as to those aspects of British and Irish cultures that may explain their attitudes towards the EU.
- Method: Much will depend on student activity: student presentations will alternate with class discussion, group work, and lectures.
- Remarks: Prerequisites: 2nd semester and up; regular attendance (2 absences permitted); willingness to do some research and use various libraries in Munich. An individual in-class presentation of app. 30-40 minutes and a term paper (of app. 7-10 pages based on the presentation) will determine students' grades; bibliography and list of presentation topics available in 1st session, as well as some guidelines as to how to write a term paper; 15 students max.

Zimmermann, Rainer E.

Physics of Logic – Holistic Aspects

- Topic: A survey will be given, presenting the philosophical implications of the present state of scientific research exhibiting a convergence of topics from physics, biology, and information science.
- Goal: We will attempt to grasp what it means to visualize the whole of the Universe as an emerging and self-organizing (quantum) computational system.
- Method: A video movie presentation accompanies continued discussion in both lecture course and seminar style.
- Remarks: Reading: Rainer E. Zimmermann: *Loops and Knots as Topoi of Substance. Spinoza Revisited*. www.arXiv.org/pdf/gr-qc/0004077 . There will be a written examination of 60 minutes. It is advisable to actually attend courses as often as possible.