

Language Evening Courses for Beginners



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Introduction

In collaboration with the Stellenbosch University International (part of GEP courses- Global Education Programmes), the Department of Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) offers beginners' evening classes in French, German, Spanish and Chinese. The introduction of Arabic language evening course is also being planned. The courses take place during the semester and are intended for students who have very little or no knowledge of the language. Members of the University community as well as the public are welcome to enrol.

Credits

For South African Students/Staff or Member of public: The courses are not credit bearing. It does not lead to a qualification. **No certificate is issued**. Transcript will be provided.

For International Students: 3 US Credits, 6 ECTS Credits.



<https://www.su.ac.za/en/faculties/arts/departments/modern-foreign-languages>



<https://www.su.ac.za/en/suinternational>

Global Learning Outcomes

The Department of Modern Foreign Languages through its evening course offering aligns itself (where applicable) with the updated Global Learning Outcomes (2024). The courses often take place in small groups to allow for as much interaction amongst lecturers and students as possible. The structure of the classes also promotes positive interaction amongst local students and international students to ensure a collaborative environment of cultural exchange.

As such, the foreign language evening courses aim:

- * to allow students to critically reflect on their own cultural, social and educational frames of reference.

In a modern foreign language classroom, students do not approach the target language as neutral learners; each student brings with them culturally shaped assumptions about communication, politeness, authority, learning styles, and “correctness.” Encouraging critical reflection helps students recognise that their linguistic interpretations are informed—and sometimes constrained—by their own cultural and educational backgrounds.

- * to demonstrate respect for diversity by adopting pluriversal perspectives inside the classroom.

A pluriversal approach recognises that there is no single “target culture.” Modern languages are spoken across multiple regions, communities, and identities, each with its own norms and realities. By foregrounding this diversity, the classroom becomes a space where multiple voices and experiences are legitimised.

- * to allow for the development of professional skills and competencies in intercultural settings.

Foreign language classrooms are ideal environments for developing transferable professional skills required in international and multicultural workplaces. Language learning inherently involves negotiation of meaning, adaptability, and sensitivity to context. These skills are also refined through the interpersonal interactions that form an integral part of foreign language learning.

- * to motivate a continuous development and application of students’ global learning across multiple contexts.

Global learning extends beyond the course itself, encouraging students to apply their skills across academic, social, and professional domains. The goal is to cultivate lifelong learners who view language as a tool for ongoing global engagement.

1. French Beginners' Evening Classes (Code: 60593 - 114)



Requirements: The class is offered for beginners; no prior knowledge of French is required.

Duration: 23 February – 13 May 2026

Contact Hours: 33 hours (2 classes of 90 minutes per week for 11 weeks)

First Meeting: Tuesday 24 February 2026 at 17:30, at Room 553, Arts and Social Sciences Building, Merriman Avenue, Stellenbosch

Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays 17:30 – 19:00, Room 553, Arts and Social Sciences Building

Break: There will be no classes in the recess week 28 March - 5 April 2026, nor on public holidays.

Test: A test will be written during the last class on Wednesday 13 May 2026.

Fees payable: R4200 (material included)

Generic Outcomes

To understand, speak, read and (to a lesser extent) write basic French in certain everyday situations with a basic knowledge of contemporary French society.

Specific outcomes

At the end of the semester the learner should be able to:

- talk about himself/herself, his/her life and surroundings, the weather, likes and dislikes and other basic conversational topics;
- understand very basic texts;
- write a short friendly letter;
- understand and react to a very basic conversation in French;
- listen to French songs and other simple recordings.

Please Note: A minimum of **5 students (international AND local)** is preferred to offer this course. If not, SU International and MFL have the right to not present at all.

2. German Beginners' Evening Classes (Code: 60666 - 114)



Requirements: These classes are offered for beginners; no prior knowledge of German is required.

Duration: 24 February – 14 May 2026

Contact Hours: 33 hours (2 classes of 90 minutes per week for 11 weeks)

First Meeting: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 at 17:30, at Room 551, Arts and Social Sciences Building, Merriman Avenue, Stellenbosch

Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays 17:30 – 19:00, Room 551, Arts and Social Sciences Building

Break: There will be no classes in the recess week 28 March - 5 April 2026, nor on public holidays.

Test: A test will be written during the last class on Thursday 14 May 2026.

Fees payable: R4200 (material included)

Generic Outcomes

To understand, speak, read and (to a lesser extent) write basic German in everyday situations and have a basic knowledge of contemporary German society.

Specific outcomes

At the end of the semester, a student should be able to:

- talk about himself/herself, his/her life and surroundings, the weather, likes and dislikes and other basic conversational topics;
- understand simple basic texts;
- understand and react to a basic conversation in German;
- listen to basic recordings in German (songs, announcements, weather report etc.);
- write a short letter or e-mail.

Please Note: A minimum of **5 students (international AND local)** is preferred to offer this course. If not, SU International and MFL have the right to not present at all.

3. Spanish Beginners' Evening Classes (Code: 57894 -114)



Requirements: The class is offered for beginners; no prior knowledge of Spanish is required.

Duration: 24 February – 14 May 2026

Contact Hours: 33 hours (2 classes of 90 minutes per week for 11 weeks)

First Meeting: Tuesday, 24 February 2026 at 17:30, at Room 545, Arts and Social Sciences Building, Merriman Avenue, Stellenbosch

Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays 17:30 – 19:00, Room 545, Arts and Social Sciences Building

Break: There will be no classes in the recess week 28 March - 5 April 2026, nor on public holidays.

Test: A test will be written during the last class on Thursday 14 May 2026.

Fees payable: R4200 (material included)

Generic outcomes

To understand, speak, read and (to a lesser extent) write basic Spanish in everyday situations and have a basic knowledge of contemporary Spanish society.

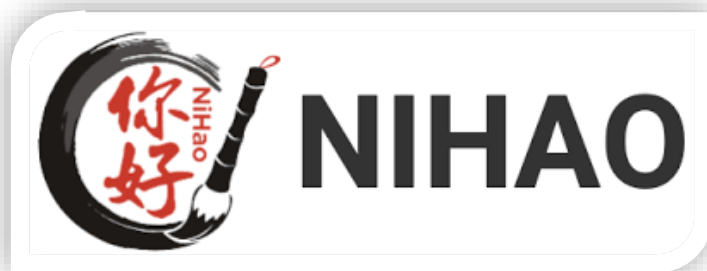
Specific outcomes

At the end of the semester, a student should be able to:

- talk about himself/herself, his/her life and surroundings, the weather, likes and dislikes and other basic conversational topics;
- understand simple basic texts;
- understand and react to a basic conversation in Spanish;
- listen to basic recordings in Spanish (songs, announcements, weather report etc.);
- write a short letter or e-mail.

Please Note: A minimum of **5 students (international AND local)** is preferred to offer this course. If not, SU International and MFL have the right to not present at all.

4. Chinese Beginners' Evening Classes (Code: 13016 -114)



Requirements: The class is offered for beginners; no prior knowledge of Chinese is required.

Duration: 23 February – 13 May 2026

Contact Hours: 33 hours (2 classes of 90 minutes per week for 11 weeks)

First Meeting: Monday 23 February 2026 at 17:30, at Room 547, Arts and Social Sciences Building, Merriman Avenue, Stellenbosch

Times: Mondays and Wednesdays 17:30 – 19:00, Room 547, Arts and Social Sciences Building

Break: There will be no classes in the recess week 28 March - 5 April 2026, nor on public holidays.

Test: A test will be written during the last class on Wednesday 13 May 2026.

Fees payable: R4200 (material included)

Generic Outcomes

To understand, speak, read and (to a lesser extent) write basic Chinese in certain everyday situations with a basic knowledge of contemporary Chinese society.

Specific outcomes

At the end of the semester the learner should be able to:

- talk about himself/herself, his/her life and surroundings, the weather, likes and dislikes and other basic conversational topics;
- read basic texts in pinyin and recognize basic texts in characters;
- type or write a short friendly letter or email;
- understand and react to a very basic conversation in Chinese;
- listen to Chinese songs and other simple recordings;
- write basic Chinese characters for daily use.

Please Note: A minimum of **5 students (international AND local)** is preferred to offer this course. If not, SU International and MFL have the right to not present at all.

5. Lecturers



French

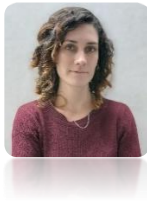
TBC



German

Ms Karoline Tomas

karoline.tomas@gmx.at



Spanish

Ms Beatriz Villacanas Claver

E-mail: beatriz@sun.ac.za



Chinese

Mr Allen Luo

E-mail: lx@sun.ac.za



Mr Bo Lyu

E-mail: bo@sun.ac.za

6. Code of Conduct (International students)

Code of Conduct - GEP Students

Please take note of the following very important terms and conditions regarding academic courses:

GEP courses are created specifically for international students.

All GEP courses are strictly for registered students and are not open to unregistered participants. Thus, please make sure you are registered for the GEP course before attending a module.

Any course you wish to deregister for after the final date of registration will still appear on your transcript. The mark loaded will appear as INCOMPLETE or FAIL and no refund will be made.

Class attendance is obligatory for GEP courses. Non-attendance is not permitted and may result in failing the course. The mark loaded on your final results will appear as INCOMPLETE or FAIL. Attendance regulations apply as determined by the University.

Please let your lecturer know in advance if you must miss a class due to health or other unavoidable reasons. Taking a vacation or trip during term is not an acceptable reason for missing a class.

A lecturer may fail a student because of excessive unexcused absences.

The university does not tolerate rude, aggressive or offensive behaviour or verbal abuse towards SUI staff, academic staff or fellow students.

Students who do not complete their Final Course Registration Form by the deadline will not be registered for any GEP courses and will not be allowed to attend any GEP courses or classes – Deadlines for final course registration is communicated at the start of the semester.

SU International may cancel a course if there are not at least five (5) participants registered. This number may change depending on the specific course in question.

Important notices are often sent to students via e-mail. PLEASE write your e- mail address very clearly. Note that lecturers ONLY use your Stellenbosch University e-mail address.

Please check SUNLearn regularly for updates.

Official university dates are available here: <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/dates>

Should you wish to register for a module, and you have reached the maximum of 64 credits, you will have to cover the cost of the module yourself.

There are no classes on official South African public holidays. South African public holidays are available here: <https://www.gov.za/about-sa/public-holidays#2025>

Student name:

Student Signature:

Date:

7. Use of AI declaration

(Please note that the use of AI in any of the four evening courses presented by the Department of Modern Foreign Languages is strictly prohibited.)

All students will be required to read and sign the AI declaration prior to the submission of assignments, or be required to sign an electronic equivalent of the declaration on SUNLearn:

* This assessment product is an indication of my own learning, knowledge, skills, and understanding, and I am able to provide evidence to support this claim.

* Where the use of AI tools was explicitly not allowed, I can say with integrity and honesty that I did not use any such tools.

* Where the use of AI tools was permitted, I have documented the use of such tools and I am prepared to talk about the process I used and what it contributed to my learning and insights.

* I am aware that the lecturer can ask me to demonstrate my learning, for example through explaining the choices I made in terms of approach, content used, literature selected, conclusions drawn, etc. through an additional assessment like an oral.

* I understand that if I am not able to agree to the above points, my academic behaviour may be deemed unethical and might lead to a disciplinary case being brought against me on the grounds of cheating or plagiarism and that the standard procedures for such behaviour will be followed.

* As per the Disciplinary Code of SU (par. 10.2.1 and 10.2.2) I understand that I take responsibility for the integrity of my work, which includes the obligation to ask for clarification from an academic member of staff if I am unsure of anything, and that I strictly adhered to all instructions received in the course of the academic assessment by relevant and authorised staff (whether the instruction is in oral or written format).

* I understand that when AI-tools were not allowed in the assessment, or where I am not able to document and declare my use of such tools, this behaviour will be deemed as cheating in examinations and assessments (Disciplinary Code 1.1 c.) as I referred to “unauthorized notes, books, electronic devices or other reference material”

Student name:

Student Signature:

Date:

8. Enquiries



Registration (international students)

Ms Michelle Masango-Plato (SU International)

Email: msm@sun.ac.za

Address: Room 1026, Krotoa Building, Stellenbosch University

Registration (SU staff, local students, and members of public)

Departmental Officer

Ms Lizelle Engelbrecht (Department of Modern Foreign Languages)

Email: lizellee@sun.ac.za

Address: Room 548, Arts and Social Sciences Building, Stellenbosch University

OR

Course Coordinator

Mr Jaco du Plooy (Department of Modern Foreign Languages)

Email: jacoduplooy@sun.ac.za

Address: Room 540, Arts and Social Sciences Building, Stellenbosch University

For any questions, please contact the course coordinator.



Every language I learn makes my world a bit bigger!
Elke taal wat ek leer maak my wêreld 'n stukkie groter !