

GER 1103: Advanced Elementary German

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das Heidelberger Schloss
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Fall 2006 MWF 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. @ BMC 101

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Office Hours: BMC 103: M 3-4 p.m., W 10-11 a.m., F 2-3 pm and by appointment:

Phone: 410-871-3110, Campus extension 3110

Web site for the course: <http://www2.mcdaniel.edu/german/1103>

Required books: Langenscheidt: Optimal A2 Package: Textbook, Workbook, Glossary and CD-ROM

Recommended books: English Grammar for Students of German, 3rd ed. by C. Zorach and C. Melin.

Collins: German-English-German Dictionary (or any other dictionary)

Course Description: This course is designed for students who have studied German previously and have placed into this course by taking the German Placement Exam at McDaniel College. In this course, you will expand previously acquired reading, writing, speaking and listening skills and deepen your understanding of fundamental structures of German grammar. You will continue to familiarize yourself with some aspects of contemporary German culture and everyday life. In class, you will practice your skills through group activities (role playing, graffiti, etc.), individual presentations, and discussions of short texts, video clips, and songs.

General goals for German 1103:

1. **Continued development of proficiency and fundamental skills:** You will review/learn the basic vocabulary and grammatical structures necessary to communicate at an elementary level with speakers of German.
2. **Use of available technology used by German speakers and learners:** You are required to type up your homework using a word processor during the semester, and are expected to include typed Umlauts and other diacritical marks not generally used in English. You will make use of the textbook's website (<http://www.langenscheidt.de/optimal>) and also use the audio CD for your homework assignments.
3. **Learning about other disciplines through the language:** reading selections included in the textbook and Internet activities assigned by your instructor will explore the world using the German language.
4. **Understand original texts and ways of thinking in the German language and cultures:** You will read original documents, magazine articles, and advertisements in German and discuss them in class.
5. **Compare and analyze the culture and language of the German-speaking world and compare it with your own:** Your instructor will introduce you to the German-speaking world through personal experiences, the Internet, short films and other media. You will discuss differences among cultures in the German-speaking countries and similarities/differences with the culture(s) and language(s) you have inherited.

Specific course objectives: After successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Express themselves in simple sentences, using different tenses and a basic repertoire of nouns, verbs adjectives, pronouns, prepositions, flavoring particles, and a few idiomatic expressions
- competently communicate in various situations (introducing each other, order meals, ask for and give information / directions etc.)
- converse about themselves, their interests, feelings, dreams, express their opinion
- talk about their family, their city, school, work, traveling, past events
- write simple letters, notes and cards (incl. invitation and congratulation) as well as dialogues and short essays about everyday topics
- read simple German texts about the world of work, urban life, education and traveling in Germany and Europe

- appreciate major cultural differences between North America and German-speaking countries regarding work, leisure, observation of Holidays, care for the environment, conception of *Heimat* (Homeland) and *Fremde* (foreign territory/country), and the approach to the culturally other (incl. immigration)

The **HONOR CODE** will be strictly enforced. Students must **write out** and **sign** the honor pledge at the end of all assignments, tests and essays. The honor pledge is posted in every classroom.

If you have any **SPECIAL NEEDS**, please share them with your instructor so that he/she may accommodate them as directed by Student Academic Services. Please give your instructor the written notice from that office outlining these accommodations by the end of the first week of classes. Thank you!

Grading:		Grading Scale:	
Class Participation, Daily Preparations, Homework Assignments	30%	A+ 97 – 100%	C+ 77 – 79%
Chapter Tests (incl. Quizzes)	25%	A 93 – 96%	C 73 – 76%
Group Project “Typisch Deutsch”	15%	A- 90 – 92%	C- 70 – 72%
Final Exam	20%	B+ 87 – 89%	D+ 67 – 69%
Oral Presentation	10 %	B 83 – 86%	D 63 – 66%
		B- 80 – 82%	D- 60 – 62%
TOTAL	100%		

Requirements

Attendance is mandatory: Three (3) unexcused absences will lower the final grade by 3%, three (3) by 6% and so on. Excused absences are at the discretion of the instructor. Absences caused by college related activities are only excused if the instructor is made aware of them in advance. Please provide a written excuse for each class hour missed.

Classroom etiquette: in order to keep your learning environment a pleasant and productive one, please keep the following guidelines in mind: arrive promptly and dressed properly; treat everyone in the class with courtesy; turn off your cell phones before class; give the instructor your complete attention.

Daily Preparation and Participation: Active participation in class and consistent preparation are very crucial for maintaining and improving your language skills. Please read all required pages for each class hour, study the vocabulary, and prepare the exercises assigned. Be active in class. Speak up, speak out, **“USE IT OR LOSE IT!”**

It is very important that, in addition to your official assignments, **you find 20-30 minutes** per day in which you expose yourself to authentic German material such as films, news magazines and websites that inspire your personal curiosity. It is not important that you understand everything, but more than important that you get used to the sound and speaking/writing patterns which you will eventually recognize. Please also regularly practice speaking with fellow students and our friendly assistant from Germany. In the classroom, please take copious notes (do not passively wait for the occasional handout), ask lots of questions (there are no stupid questions) and speak up as often as you can!

Whatever it is you have to study: try different learning techniques until you find the one that works for you.

Homework: Homework will include exercises in the workbook and textbook, online exercises, listening comprehension exercises from the CD-ROM, free web research, free writing, as well as additional video assignments and the recording of voice samples. Homework needs to be done consistently, completely and on time. Work handed in late will not be accepted and will lower your allover homework grade. It will be collected every week. Due dates are on the syllabus.

Language Lab Recordings: You will record yourself six times in the semester using Audacity in the foreign language laboratory. Speak loud and clear into the microphone. Export your recordings as MP3 and save them onto the Foreign Language Server. Your scores for these assignments will be recorded under the category of homework.

Language Lab Recording 1: Read and record using Audacity. Speak loud and clear into the microphone. Export your recordings as MP3 and save them onto the Foreign Language Server. Talk about yourself, your hometown and which languages you speak. Make sure that you use the vocabulary that you have studied in chapter 1. **Due on September 8.**

Recording 2: Talk about your dreams and wishes. Make sure that you use the vocabulary that you have studied in chapter 3. **Due on September 22.**

Recording 3: Record a dialogue between you and a fellow student. Pretend you are on the phone, need information about the services of a firm and make an appointment. Make sure that you use the vocabulary that you have studied in chapter 4. **Due on October 6.**

Recording 4: Give a detailed description of your favorite relative. Make sure that you use the vocabulary you have studied in chapter 6. **Due on October 20.**

Recording 5: Recite and record Franco Biondi's poem "Sprachfelder" (see handout) **Due on November 3.**

Recording 6: What does "Heimat" mean to you, and what do you like about "Fremde"? Make sure that you use the vocabulary that you have studied in chapters 8 and 10. **Due on November 17.**

Individual Presentation: In the second half of the semester, each student will be asked to adopt an interesting German website and give a short in-class presentation. List with dates will circulate in the week before Fall Break.

Group Project "Typisch Deutsch:" groups of at least 3 (three) students are going to produce a web publishable piece of work presenting their perceptions of what is "typically German." You will take and/or collect pictures, import and/or produce sound files as well as mini video clips and write short descriptive remarks in German. A handout with ideas, tips and instructions, including copyright rules, will be provided. A brief **project outline is due on September 11**, collected material and a **first "draft" is due on October 13**, the **final version is due on December 1.**

Chapter Tests: You will have five (5) announced chapter tests based on the textbook. There will also be some shorter, written or oral, unannounced quizzes. Your lowest test score will be dropped from your average at the end of the semester. **Missed chapter tests and short quizzes may not be made up** and will be recorded as zeros unless a valid excuse is presented to the instructor.

Final Exam: The final exam will consist of two parts, an oral interview with the instructor and a written part, which will cover all materials studied in the Fall semester. **The oral part will take place during the last two weeks of classes. The written part will be administered in the week of December 11-15.**

Tutoring is available. Hours and name of the tutor will be announced in class.

You must save all **GRADED WORK** until you receive your final grade at the end of the semester.

Please join the German Club and support it by attending cultural events sponsored by both.

Changes to all aspects of this syllabus are at the discretion of the instructors. We reserve the right to amend the terms and conditions of this syllabus as we see fit at any point during the semester.

Viel Spaß und Erfolg!
(Wishing you lots of fun and success!)