



**German 2211: Intermediate German 1**  
**MWF 11:30-12:30 p.m. in BMC 100**

**Fall 2006**  
**Dr. Esa**

**Office Hours:** BMC 109: MWF 2-3 p.m., TTH 9-10 a.m. and by appointment:  
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Web site for the course: <http://www2.mcdaniel.edu/german/2211>

**Course Description:** Welcome to German 2211: Intermediate German I - German Language and Culture! This course is the first course in the second-year sequence at McDaniel College. It is designed for students who have studied German previously and wish to improve their reading, writing, listening, and speaking abilities. The course will be enhanced by selected videos that are closely related to the material studied. You will also have the opportunity to write essays and answer essay questions on tests in German.

After successful completion of this course you will be able to handle a variety of communicative tasks in German, such as:

- participating in conversations in German about topics of general interest such as leisure time activities and hobbies, talking about yourself and your family, ordering meals, talking about films and more
- giving oral presentations in German about various topics
- reading and understanding the main ideas of German texts such as short stories, poems, newspaper and magazine articles, and Internet pages
- understanding authentic German language used in films, short videos and other media
- composing short essays on different topics related to the readings
- understanding and appreciating some new aspects of German culture and the important role of Germany in the European Union and the world.

**Required Books:**

- *German in Review*, by K. Sparks and Van Horn Vail. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Thomson & Heinle (GiR)
- *Einer singt falsch*, Felix & Theo, Langenscheidt
- *Oktoberfest*, Felix & Theo, Langenscheidt
- *Oh, wie schön ist Panama*, Janosch, Beltz
- *Post für den Tiger*, Janosch, Beltz
- *Collins: German-English-German Dictionary* (or any other dictionary)

**Important:** Doing your homework (written or otherwise) is absolutely vital. You must be prepared for every class. Read the assigned texts and study the vocabulary prior to the meeting time. **Please keep in mind that you are expected to practice German eight hours per week outside of class.**

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.

**Plagiarism** is using another person's words or ideas in a direct or indirect way without proper acknowledgment. Whenever using two or more important words, they must be placed in quotation marks.

**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 instructor. He reserves the right to amend the terms and conditions of this syllabus as he sees fit at any point during the semester.**

**Special need:** 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!

**Classroom Deportment:** In order to have an optimal teaching and learning environment, please keep the following guidelines in mind: arrive promptly and dressed properly for the classroom (no caps, no pajamas); treat everyone in the class with courtesy; turn off your cell phones before class; give the instructor your complete attention.

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

Grading:		Grading Scale:	
Preparation, Participation & Konversationsstunde	20%	A+ 97 – 100%	C+ 77 – 79%
Quizzes	20%	A 93 – 96%	C 73 – 76%
Group Presentations	20%	A- 90 – 92%	C- 70 – 72%
Portfolio	20%	B+ 87 – 89%	D+ 67 – 69%
Final Exam	20%	B 83 – 86%	D 63 – 66%
		B- 80 – 82%	D- 60 – 62%
	<b>TOTAL 100%</b>		

## Requirements

Students are required to attend all classes, a couple of evening lectures and concerts recommended by the instructor, see all films, and participate in classroom discussions and in other group activities. All readings listed on the syllabus are required, and should be completed by the day for which they are assigned.

**Attendance** is mandatory. Three (3) unexcused absences will lower the final grade by 3%, four (4) by 6% and so on. Excused absences are at the discretion of the instructor. Absences caused by college related activities or religious holidays are only excused if the instructor is made aware of them in advance. Please provide a written excuse for each class hour missed.

**Daily Preparation & Class participation:** Daily preparation and active participation in class are very crucial for 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, throw your hat into the ring! **“Use it or lose it!”**

Regular attendance is an obvious requirement to get a good participation grade. Your participation-grade is based on the following evaluation:

- A shows total preparation; original comments and constant references to assigned materials;
- B noteworthy oral participation, with full understanding of the material/ participates voluntarily often;
- C participates once in a while/ participates by request only;
- D present, but no participation;
- F absent.

**Konversationsstunde.** Anna-Lena Schenck, the German Assistant from Berlin, will set up a time for a weekly conversation hour with the entire class. The conversations will be conducted entirely in German. Anna-Lena will have a sign up sheet for each week. Each time you miss or don't participate in the Konversationsstunde, you will lose 1% of the final grade.

**Quizzes:** You will have 4 quizzes based on the grammar book and the four books we will read. Missed quizzes may not be made up, and will be recorded as zeros unless a valid excuse is presented to the instructor.

**Group Presentation:** The students will be divided up into small groups and are expected to work together on two oral presentations: The first group presentation is about the film **Lola rennt** and it is scheduled for **October 18<sup>th</sup>** and **20<sup>th</sup>**. You'll receive further information later on in the semester. The second group presentation will be about a creative idea. Write your own play and perform it. Make a German music video using various pictures from the Internet and the audio track. Make a film from one of the books you have read (I'll give you more details on this). Study simple dialogues or sketches and perform them with others. Play a scene from your daily life, etc. The second group presentation is scheduled for **December 4<sup>th</sup>** and **6<sup>th</sup>**.

**Portfolio:** A *portfolio* is a collection of your own work. It includes materials connected with the class. Portfolios include samples of evidence that demonstrate the progress of your language learning. You can either use a 1" ring binder with at least 4 tab dividers, or submit everything digitally on a CD, via Blackboard or put it on the server in the Foreign Language Lab. I'll show you how this works. I will collect the portfolio twice in the semester. Each time I collect the portfolio, I'll read it, make some comments and give you 100 points. If you don't submit the portfolio you don't receive any points. However, I do give extra points for creative and comprehensive portfolios.

Your portfolio will consist of 4 parts: homework assignments, vocabulary lists, speaking samples and oral interviews that must be submitted either on a CD or posted on the server in the foreign language lab, and finally a reflection part.

- **Homework Assignments/ Essays:** Homework will include assigned exercises in the grammar book as well as additional essays on the books we will read. Essays (at least 250 words each) will be graded on quality of the content, use of vocabulary, grammatical accuracy, and comprehensibility. You will write the essays twice. I will read your first drafts and return them back to you with suggestions and comments. Your corrections should incorporate my suggestions. The final grade for the essays is the average of both drafts. If you miss the first deadline for the essays, you'll lose the chance to rewrite them.
- **Weekly Vocabulary lists:** This is your own Wörterbuch (dictionary). To accomplish this successfully, you **must** take notes in class on a daily basis. I would use a good composition book just for this purpose and then type up the vocabulary on a weekly basis. Record words, phrases, idiomatic expressions, and grammar points that are of interest and importance to you. This is not limited only to items covered in class. You can also include items you encounter outside of class. You may want to collect German words and phrases about one or two areas you like to speak and write about: your favorite German (US) musician, painter, writer, or about your favorite sport, about your hobbies, leisure time activities, about politics, etc. I would recommend starting with words and phrases and then move to whole sentences and then paragraphs. By the end of the semester, you'll be comfortable writing short essays about these topics.
- **Speaking samples:** You'll record yourself four times in the semester using the foreign language lab:
  1. At the beginning of the semester you'll tell the instructor something about yourself (your name, age, major, hobbies, etc.); **due September 18<sup>th</sup>**.
  2. In the second part, you will talk record what you have done in an entire week and then talk about that in the past tense or present perfect, **due October 13<sup>th</sup>**.
  3. In the third part, together with a partner, perform excerpts from one of the books we read in class; **due November 6<sup>th</sup>**.
  4. At the end of the semester, you will talk about what you have done during the entire semester. Tell us about what you have learned, what courses you had, and which you liked the most and why. Talk about any field trips you have taken or films you have seen,

etc. Be creative and use your imagination. Don't read from a text you have already written. Try to speak freely just using talking points. **Due December 1<sup>st</sup>.**

You may save these samples directly onto your folder in the Foreign Language Lab or send them to me via e-mail. **speaking samples 1 and 3 must be sent to me when they are due, 2 and 4 must be submitted (along with 1 and 3) when the portfolio is due.** However, I would suggest that you don't wait until the last minute. Try to record yourself more than one time before you decide to submit the recording. You will not be able to erase your recording once you have saved it onto the server.

- **Reflections:** In this section you'll reflect about the learning process itself, about what and how you learned, and also about the German language and culture. Include short comments in German and deeper, reflective pieces in English. There are no limits of how much you can write here. I would suggest that you record your reflections every week and then write up a summary before the fall break and at the end of semester when the portfolio is due.

**Final Exam:** The final exam will cover all the materials studied in the Fall semester. Keep and correct all of your quizzes. They will be very helpful as a review for the final exam.

**Extra Credit:** There are many ways to earn extra credit. You can attend cultural events recommended by instructor, write up summaries in German, and include these in your portfolio, clearly marked as extra credit with title of event, place and date of event, and by whom it was sponsored. You can help with German-American Day on October 17<sup>th</sup> and earn either some money or extra credit. You can also conduct an oral interview or exam with the instructor. The oral interviews will take place in the last two weeks of classes and questions will be asked about the books we have read in the semester.

*Viel Spaß und Erfolg!*