

GERMAN 3540 TECHNIQUES IN TRANSLATING GERMAN TEXTS

Fall 2012

Instructor: Dr. Claudia Schwabe
claudia.schwabe@usu.edu
Office: Old Main 002D
Phone: 435-797-8624

Class hours: M, W, F 9:30-10:20 a.m.
Class room: Old Main 201
Office hours: M, W 10:30-11:30 a.m.
(and by appointment)

Course Objectives and Goals:

This course is designed to offer an introduction to different approaches to translation and to teach you skills that will enable you to translate a broad spectrum of German texts. You will become acquainted with reference materials, various aids, and web resources as well as specialized vocabulary, professional and technical terminology, idioms and a wide array of culturally and historically determined linguistic conventions. Reflections on social and regional variants, questions of style, colloquial German (*Umgangssprache*), Standard German (*Hochdeutsch*), Business German (*Wirtschaftsdeutsch*) and scholarly German of the academic world (*Wissenschaftsdeutsch*), shall make up important sections of this course. Particular attention will, however, be given to the difficulties posed by literary texts. The lecture format will be complemented by practical exercises that will make up a large part of the classroom instruction and the homework. Progressing from simpler structures to more complex and sophisticated ones, these exercises will be accompanied by brief discussions of grammar. The practical trajectory will be complemented by an introduction into the theory, history, and methodology of translation. Texts by Martin Luther, Johann W. Goethe, the Brothers Grimm, Berthold Brecht, Eduard Mörike, W.G. Sebald, Günter Grass, and Martin Walser constitute some of the important 'landmarks' we shall visit. The primary language of instruction will be German.

Course Gateway:

Much of the administrative business of the class will be conducted online, so you should get in the habit of checking the course Canvas site for updates, news, and occasional chat-format discussions. This is also the central location for all assignments, Web resources, and supplemental materials for your work in the course.

Teaching Materials:

All teaching materials will be made available in hard copy or on Canvas. The materials stem from a wide variety of sources, including but not limited to the following:

- Hervey, Sándor, Michael Loughridge, and Ian Higgins. *Thinking German Translation*. 2nd ed. London, UK: Routledge, 2006.
- Jannach, Hubert and Richard Alan Korb: *German for Reading Knowledge*. 6th ed. Boston, MA: Heinle Cengage Learning, 2009.
- Koller, Werner: *Einführung in die Übersetzungswissenschaft*. 4th ed. Heidelberg: Quelle und Meyer, 1992.
- Kußmaul, Paul. *Verstehen und Übersetzen: Ein Lehr- und Arbeitsbuch*. 2nd ed. Tübingen: Gunter Narr Verlag, 2010.
- Schäffer, Christina: *Annotated Texts For Translation: English-German*. Clevedon, UK: Multilingual Matters, 2001.
- Sofer, Morry: *Guide for Translators*. Rockville, MD: Schreiber, 1995.
- Sofer, Morry: *The Translator's Handbook*. 7th rev. ed. Rockville, MD: Schreiber, 2009.
- Wilss, Wolfram: *Knowledge and Skills in Translator Behavior*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 1996.

General Dictionaries (ca. 2,000 pages):

German-English, English-German (one mandatory):

Brockhaus-Wahrig-Deutsches Wörterbuch

Collins German-English English-German Dictionary

HarperCollins Unabridged Dictionary

Langenscheidts Enzyklopädisches Wörterbuch

The Oxford Duden German Dictionary (with CD)

German-German (one mandatory):

Duden Deutsches Universal Wörterbuch

Wahrigs Deutsches Wörterbuch

(Recommended)

English Thesaurus

Duden Wörterbuch der Abkürzungen (J. von Werlin)

Großes Abkürzungsbuch: Abkürzungen, Kurzwörter, Zeichen, Symbole (H. Koblichke)

Grading:

- 10% Oral report
- 20% Class participation
- 20% Midterm examination
- 20% Final examination
- 30% Translation exercises/assignments

Attendance:

In accordance with USU policies, regular attendance is expected of all students. As this is a fast-paced and group-oriented method of learning, attendance is mandatory. Attendance means physical as well as mental attendance. Planned absences should be discussed with the instructor beforehand. If you need to be absent due to an emergency, please notify me at your earliest convenience. Examples of planned absences that are excused are: university duties or trips and required court attendance. Examples of emergency absences that are excused are: serious illness or injury of the student or a close member of the student's family. Medical excuses have to be signed by a physician. Written documentation for excused absences must be provided at your next attendance. All missed work must be completed and handed into to me within one week from the day you return. It is the responsibility of each student to make up missed material. Please get notes from someone else in the class or talk to me during my office hours.

Students should plan to arrive on time and stay for the duration of the class. I reserve the right to regard constant tardiness (more than twice) as an unexcused absence. Classroom etiquette will be expected (e.g. students will refrain from reading material not related to class and packing up possessions prior to the end of the lecture). Cell phones are to be turned off before class begins (silent not vibrate). If you feel like an exception is necessary, please see me. There will be no laptop computers allowed in class. Students are encouraged to take thorough notes, participate in class discussion, and ask clarifying questions.

Homework:

Homework assignments are part of your final grade. All homework assigned may be collected at any time. Translation exercises are always due on the following day of class. If you do not hand in your work on the day it is due or asked for it counts as a 0.

Oral participation:

Active participation of the student in class is required. Oral practice of the German language is essential to become comfortable with it and the culture. Oral participation also includes repeating, readings, conversations with partners, group debates, role plays, etc.

Oral report:

Throughout the semester each student will prepare a small translation assignment and a brief grammar exercise or review for the rest of the class. The student's translation assignment must relate directly to the German language and should be approximately 15 minutes long. The genre/author/text type of the translation assignment can be chosen by the student but should be approved by me beforehand. The grammar exercise/review should be approximately 10-15

minutes long. The student should prepare a handout for the rest of the class. I will assign the oral report dates to the students.

Tests:

There will be absolutely no make-up assignments/tests, unless you have a reason you can document. In case of emergency, you are responsible for contacting me prior to the exam. There will be a mandatory written midterm exam on **Wednesday, October 17th, 2012** and a final exam on the day and period specified in the university schedule.

Physical Impairments:

If a student has any physical disabilities or other concerns that would require some accommodation on the part of the instructor, these must be made known to the instructor during the FIRST WEEK of the course. Any request for special concerns must be discussed with and approved by the instructor prior to the completion of the fifth day of the semester. Students with ADA-documented physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Room 101 of the University Inn, (435)797-2444 voice, (435)797-0740 TTY, (435)797-2444 VP, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. Please contact the DRC as early in the semester as possible.

Honor Code Policy:

As stated in The Student Code, "Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. The Honor System is designed to re-enforce the higher level of conduct expected and required of all Utah State University students." Complete academic honesty is expected in this course. Cheating on exams or plagiarism on written assignments will result in a failing grade and may result in further action according to university policy.