

# **German 4200/6200—German Linguistics and Phonetics—Spring 2011 Semester**

## **Instructor and Class Information:**

Felix W. Tweraser, [felix.tweraser@usu.edu](mailto:felix.tweraser@usu.edu) 797-7439

Office Hours: (Old Main 002J) TWR 10:30-11:45 and by appointment

Classroom and Time: Main 326, TR 3-4:15

## **Required Text:**

Hall, *Modern German Pronunciation: an Introduction for Speakers of English*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition  
Available in Campus Bookstore

## **Course Objectives and Goals:**

This course is an introduction to German applied linguistics, phonetics, and linguistic theory. During the first half of the semester students receive a thorough grounding in the sounds and symbolic representation of the German language, learning the International Phonetic Alphabet and applying this knowledge to an analysis of modern German. We will work extensively with the textbook for background information, produce sound recordings and audio files, and be attentive to the regional differences that characterize the German language. The result of this work will be a student portfolio of audio files and transcriptions suitable for future use (e.g. teaching opportunities) and job applications. The second half of the course combines 1) a survey of the history of the German language, including the social, cultural, and political factors that contributed to regional differences, with 2) acquaintance with more general linguistic theory and socio-linguistics. Students will make one class presentation on an aspect of the historical survey of the German language. The goal of the course is to provide students with a deeper understanding of the sounds and orthography of the German language and model techniques for future teachers of German at the secondary and higher education levels. Viel Spaß und Erfolg!

Beginning the second week of class, make sure to regularly consult the course Blackboard site for updates and resources.

## **Grading:**

15%: Mid-term exam (Thursday, 3 March)

15%: Final project (Due at Time of Final Exam: Tuesday, 3 May, 1:30-3:20)

15%: Student Portfolio: Phonetic transcriptions and recordings

15%: Class presentation of final project

40%: Daily work, including attendance, participation, and quizzes

**No Class Dates:**

27 January (FWT away)

22 February (Presidents' Day Observed)

7 April (FWT away)

**Semester Outline:**

Week 1: The Phonetic Alphabet

Week 2: German Consonants

Week 3: German Consonants

Week 4: German Vowels

Week 5: Stress and Intonation

Week 6: Stress and Intonation; Syntax

Week 7: Sounds and Conversational Situations

Week 8: Review of German Phonetics; Midterm Examination, 3 March

Week 9: History of Germanic Languages: Migratory Patterns and Settlement;  
Major sound shifts that distinguish German

Week 10: History of German: Political and Cultural Developments; Innovations in  
Communication Technology and Media

Week 11: History of German: Regional Differences in Historical Context;  
German in the United States (Mass Migration of 19<sup>th</sup> century)

Week 12: History of German: Mass Media and Linguistic Standardization;  
German as a Global Language

Week 13: Linguistic Theory: Universal Grammar (Chomsky); and the Human Brain

Week 14: Socio-Linguistics and Non-Verbal Communication; Socio-Linguistics and Power

Week 15: Presentation of Final Projects

Final Projects are Due at the Scheduled Time for the Final Exam: Tuesday, 3 May 1:30-3:20