Syllabus German 1010 Fall 2014

**Instructor:** Rami Heers

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**Time:** 8:30 am - 9:20 am

**Days:** TWRF

**Where:** Old Main 207

**Date Range:** Aug 26, 2014 - Dec 12, 2014

**Required Text:** Vorsprung, Enhanced Edition or the 3rd edition by Thomas A. Lovik, J. Douglas Guy, and Monika Chavez

**Office hours:** Tuesday 9:30-10:30 am

**Course description and objectives:**

GERM 1010 is an intensive elementary German class that is based on the communicative approach. Students will acquire communicative competencies in the four language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing, with extensive exposure to German-speaking cultures.

**Grading:**

- attendance / participation: 25 %
- homework (due Fridays at midnight via canvas or email): 15 %
- quizzes (mostly given online): 10%
- written assignments (1 per chapter): 15 %
- chapter tests: 20 %
- midterm/final exam: 15 %

**Tutoring/homework group:** I will be at the cafe in the library on Fridays from 9:30-10:45 am for a group homework session. If you need help or want to work with a partner or as a group, please join me. I will be there to help and explain. We will also use the time to improve your speaking/listening skills by communicating in German.

**What does my typical class look like?**

- We will start every day with a 5-10 minute warm up. During that time, you will mostly work with a partner (sometimes with a group) and practice previously learned vocabulary and grammar in a conversation. An example warm up is: “You and your partner are planning an active weekend. Use vocabulary (spare time activities) and modal verbs
Sometimes, the warm up will be an introduction to new vocabulary. It usually means acting out the words.

- The main part of class is used to introduce new grammar, prepare for a listening or reading activity, complete said activity, and practice grammar and vocabulary. Most of the practice will be partner or group work. Some activities will be completed on paper and on the board, so that everyone can compare their work.

- I usually end the class with a 2-5 minute cool down, which is very similar to the warm up. It wraps up recently learned material in some kind of partner or group conversation. We may also play a game or sing a song (all to reinforce previously learned material).

- You will see a breakdown of each chapter at the end of the syllabus.

**What I expect from you:**

- Please be on time and present in the classroom.
- Try your best to only speak German once you enter the classroom.
- Don’t be afraid to participate in active games, songs, silly dances, etc. … It makes learning a language and memorizing vocabulary and grammar more fun. And since everybody will be doing the same thing, there is no need to be embarrassed.
- Since we cover A LOT of material per chapter, it is important to review and study every night.
- You will get a homework packet that is due each Friday at midnight. Please email or use canvas to submit your work (or hand in a paper copy by the end of class each Friday). It may be helpful to work on your homework package throughout the week, since it will help with reviewing the material. The homework will be posted on the canvas calendar well in advance.
- Please complete all homework on time. You can always turn in your work early if you have a time conflict.
- Please let me know of any time conflicts for tests, written assignment due dates, and classes well ahead of time, so that we can reschedule for you.
- Check canvas daily. I may post events, reminders and helpful links.

**midterm:** You will have an oral exam (dialog with a classmate). You will know the possible topics in advance, so that you can prepare.

**final exam:** It will be a written exam that will include material from the whole semester. So, keep all your notes. You will also have an oral exam in the same fashion as the midterm.

- Absolutely NO discriminatory remarks about or behavior directed towards a person’s race, creed, religion, national origin, age, sex, or disability will be tolerated in the classroom.
What you can expect from me:

- I am here to help you learn German and have a successful experience in German 1010. So, if you are stressed, need extra help or suggestions to succeed in this class, please see me during office hours or by appointment.

- I will be available during Stammtisch hours (Fridays from 9:30-10:45 am) to answer any questions and to practice your communication skills.

- I may make a mistake when grading your work. If you find the mistake and believe you should get more points, don’t be afraid to talk to me. Also, if I miss one of your mistakes and find them later, I will NOT deduct any points. After all, it was my fault to miss it.

We have 56 instructional days.

Our goal is 6 Chapters, which leaves about 9 days per chapter. At the end of the chapter, you will write a chapter test and a written assignment (first draft and final draft).

Our midterm will be an oral presentation after we complete Chapter 3.

Chapter test dates will be announced in class and can also be found on the canvas calendar.

Due dates for written assignments will also announced in class and posted on the canvas calendar.

A more detailed look into each chapter:

**Kapitel 1:** August 26 - September 9, 2014

This chapter covers the following items:

- describing yourself and others
- identifying classroom objects
- numbers
- colors
- countries and nationalities
- definite articles in the nominative case (der, die, das)
- indefinite articles in the nominative case (ein, eine) and kein
- pronoun substitution
- the verbs sein (to be), heißen (to be called)
• commands/requests (open/close your book please; stand up; sit down, etc)
• cultural highlights: greetings and farewells; where German is spoken; titles of address

Kapitel 2: September 10 - September 24, 2014

This chapter covers the following items:

• vocabulary such as the months, days of the week, telling time, family tree, describing daily activities, and school subjects
• the verb haben (to have)
• conjugation of verbs in the present tense
• the accusative case
• accusative pronouns
• verbs with separable prefix
• cultural highlights: German immigration to North America and types of universities in Germany

Kapitel 3: September 25 - October 10, 2014

This chapter covers the following items:

• vocabulary such as spare time activities, food and drink
• stem-vowel changing verbs
• nominative and accusative of possessive adjectives (my, his, her, …)
• coordinating conjunctions (because, but, or, and, …)
• modal verbs möchten (would like) and können (to be able to)
• the verb kennen (to be familiar with) vs. wissen (to know as a fact)
• cultural highlights: mealtime in German-speaking countries, the metric system, the cities of Heidelberg and Mannheim

Midterms: October 14th, 15th, 16th, 2014 by appointment

• I will announce two possible topics that will be tested in dialog form. Your partner and you will have time to prepare for the oral exam. You will draw your topic from a hat on exam day.

Kapitel 4: October 14 - October 29, 2014

This chapter covers the following items:
• vocabulary such as items in a suitcase, clothing, personal characteristics
• modal verbs mögen (to like), sollen (should), müssen (must), wollen (to want to), dürfen (to be allowed to)
• the imperative (du-imperative, ihr-imperative, wir-imperative, Sie-imperative)
• accusative prepositions
• cultural highlights: riding bikes; traveling by train or car; the city of Frankfurt am Main

**Kapitel 5: October 30 - November 13, 2014**

This chapter covers the following items:

• vocabulary such as talking about the weather, the four seasons, talking about friendship and love
• talking about past events with the auxiliaries haben and sein
• subordinating conjunctions (that, if, when, because, …)
• infinitive clause with zu
• cultural highlights: the city of Hamburg; acquaintances or friends

**Kapitel 6: November 4 - November 24, 2014**

This chapter covers the following items:

• vocabulary such as rooms in a house, furniture, body parts
• the dative case
• dative pronouns
• dative prepositions
• dative verbs
• der-words
• cultural highlights: where students live; the city of Tübingen

**Final Exam review days: December 2 - December 5, 2014**

• Final exam: by appointment: December 4, 5, 8, and 9, 2014
• written part in class on December 9, 2014
• oral test (in the same fashion as the midterm)

**Plagiarism:**
Plagiarism includes knowingly “representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one’s own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged used of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.” The penalties for plagiarism are severe. They include warning or reprimand, grade adjustment, probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, and referral to psychological counseling.

Academic Integrity/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.

Viel Erfolg und vor allem Spaß beim Deuchlernen!

“Weiter, there’s a Herr in my soup.”