Syllabus German 1010 Fall 2015

Instructor: Rami Heers

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Time: 8:30 am - 9:20 am

Days: MTWR

Where: Old Main 207

Date Range: Aug 31, 2015 - Dec 18, 2015

Required Text: Wie Geht’s, Tenth Edition by Dieter Sevin, Ingrid Sevin, and Beatrix Brockman

Office hours: Tuesday 9:30-10:30 am; Thursday: 9:30-10:30 am

Stammtisch/Homework group: This time period also counts as my office hour. I will be available on Thursdays from 9:30-10:30 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.

Academic Calendar:

Classes begin: Monday, August 31st
Labor Day: Monday, September 7th
Friday class schedule: Thursday, October 15th
Fall break: Friday, October 16th
Thanksgiving break: November 25th-27th
Classes end: Friday, December 11th
Final Exam: Monday, December 14th, 7:30 - 9:20 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.

Grading:

- attendance: 10%
- participation: 10%  
- homework (due Fridays at midnight): 10%
- quizzes (given online): 10%
- written assignments: 10%
• chapter tests: 30 %
• midterm/final exam: 20 %

What does my typical class look like?

• We will start most days 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 (would like, can, should, want, must,...).” 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 use the book’s online tools or email to submit your work (or hand in a paper copy by the end of class each Thursday). 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 or on the book’s website 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 (Thursdays 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.

A look into each chapter:

Schritte
• Vocabulary:
  ○ greetings, colors, classroom objects, clothing, numbers, weather, telling time
• Grammar:
  ○ personal pronouns, word order, verb conjugation

Kapitel 1
• Vocabulary:
  ○ family members, countries, languages
• Grammar:
  ○ verb conjugation, sentence structure, compound nouns

Kapitel 2
• Vocabulary:
  ○ food and drink, stores, shopping
• Grammar:
  ○ present tense of sein and haben, accusative case

Kapitel 3
• Vocabulary:
  ○ ordering in a restaurant
• Grammar:
○ dative case, verbs with stem-vowel change

Kapitel 4

- Vocabulary:
  ○ ordinal numbers, dates, holidays
- Grammar:
  ○ present perfect, subordinating conjunctions

Kapitel 5

- Vocabulary:
  ○ giving directions
- Grammar:
  ○ personal pronouns, modal verbs, sondern vs. aber

Kapitel 6

- Vocabulary:
  ○ housing, furniture, rooms in the house
- Grammar:
  ○ two-way prepositions, imperative, wissen vs. kennen

Kapitel 7

- Vocabulary:
  ○ telling time, booking a hotel room
- Grammar:
  ○ der- and ein-words, verbs with separable prefixes

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 Deutschlernen!

“Waiter, there’s a Herr in my soup.”

How many germans does it take to change a light bulb?

One. We are efficient and don’t have humour.