GERM1010 - GERMAN FIRST YEAR (I)

FALL 2015

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

Class hours:  
MTWR 3:30-4:20 p.m.  
Class room:  
(MW) MAIN 203,  
(TR) RWST 306  
Office hours:  
TR 10:30-11:30 a.m. and by appointment

Course Objectives and Goals:
The course develops and strengthens the student’s understanding, speaking, reading, and writing in German. It is designed to build a firm foundation in the language by focusing on grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and speech patterns. Repetition and creativity are essential in language study, and this course is planned and organized to supply both. Students will encounter and work on mastering beginning communication skills in German and will also acquire an understanding of, and respect for, cultural differences. Acquiring a foreign language is learning a new skill, and this requires practice to become proficient. The main emphasis will be on classroom interaction, so students are urged to be on time and to be prepared. Regular attendance and participation, as integral parts of the class, are expected and will be noted daily. The class will be conducted primarily in German. GERM 1010 will cover chapters 1 to 6 of the textbook Wie Geht’s? The book allows students to practice what they have learned in class. Supplementary materials such as videos, current topical excerpts from newspapers, poems, music, etc. will support the learning process.

Language of instruction: German

Required Texts:
- SEVIN, Wie Geht’s? 10th edition, which includes an audio-CD  
  (ISBN 9781285733609)  
  (ISBN 9781285737126)

Grading & Course Requirements:
- 10 % Active class participation  
- 10 % Workbook and homework assignments  
- 10 % Quizzes  
- 40 % Chapter Tests  
- 15 % German Culture Project  
- 15 % Final Exam

Grading Scale
A (100-93)  A- (92-90)  B+ (88-89)  B (87-83)  
B- (82-80)  C+ (79-78)  C (77-73)  C- (72-70)  
D+ (69-68)  D (67-60)  F represents a grade below 60
Learning Objectives:
Based on the IDEA evaluation system, the following objectives apply most closely to this course:

- Developing skills in expressing oneself orally or in writing
- Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories
- Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)
- Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual/cultural activity (music, science, literature, etc.)

Semester Outline (Subject to Change):

Week 1:
August 31: Wie geht’s?
September 1: Farben und das Zimmer
September 2: Aussprache
September 3: Zahlen, Kleidung, Gegenteile

Week 2:
September 7: Das Jahr und Wetter
September 8: Wie spät ist es? Die Uhrzeit
September 9: Wiederholung
September 10: Chapter Test 1 (Schritte: Beginnen wir!)

Week 3:
September 14: Besprechung des Tests
September 15: Familie, Länder, Sprachen
September 16: Hörverständnis
September 17: Present tense of regular verbs

Week 4:
September 21: The nominative case
September 22: Sentence structure
September 23: Lebensmittel und Geschäfte
September 24: Essen und Trinken, Hörverständnis

Week 5:
September 28: present tense of sein and haben
September 29: The accusative case and n-nouns
September 30: Sentence structure
October 1: Wiederholung, Hörverständnis

Week 6:
October 5: Chapter Test 2 (Kapitel 1 & 2)
October 6: Besprechung des Tests
October 7: Im Restaurant
October 8: Hörverständnis: Im Gasthaus
Week 7:
October 12: Verbs with vowel changes
October 13: The dative case
October 14: Writing a composition in German
October 15: FRIDAY CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 8:
October 19: Am Telefon
October 20: Feiertage und Feste,
October 21: Hörverständnis, Geburtstagsparty
October 22: GERMAN CULTURE PROJECT DUE
October 23: Extra Credit Opportunity (Fairy-Tale Workshop)

Week 9:
October 26: The present perfect with haben / sein
October 27: Subordinating conjuctions
October 28: Wiederholung,
October 29: Chapter Test 3 (Kapitel 3 & 4)

Week 10:
November 2: Besprechung des Tests
November 3: In der Stadt / Gespärche
November 4: Hörverständnis: Touristen in Innsbruck
November 5: Personal pronouns

Week 11:
November 9: Modal auxiliary verbs
November 10: Sondern vs. aber
November 11: Wohnung zu vermieten
November 12: Aussprache, Hörverständnis: Herr Müller!

Week 12:
November 16: Two-way prepositions
November 17: Imperatives
November 18: Wissen vs. kennen
November 19: Analyzing Comparisons and Contrasts

Week 13:
November 23: Wiederholung
November 24: Chapter Test 4 (Kapitel 5 & 6)
November 25: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY (NO CLASS)
November 26: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY (NO CLASS)

Week 14:
November 30: Besprechung des Tests
December 1: Auf der Bank und im Hotel
December 2: Hörverständnis: Eine Busfahrt
December 3: Der- and ein-words
Week 15:
December 7: Separable-prefix verbs
December 8: Flavoring particles
December 9: Practicing free writing in German
December 10: Wiederholung

Week 16:
December 14: FINAL EXAM (Monday, 3:30-5:20 p.m. in classroom)

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 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. Excessive unexcused absences (more than three) will result in a lower grade. 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. Students are encouraged to take thorough notes, participate in class discussion, and ask clarifying questions.

Homework & Workbook
Homework and workbook assignments are part of your final grade. All homework assigned may be collected at any time. 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.

German Culture Project
Students will produce a creative project of their own choice (for example, poster board, photo collage, educational short film, audio podcast, sculpture, painting, comic, poem, model, invention, etc.) and of a topic related to German culture.
However, the project may NOT address stereotypical cultural areas, such as German beer, cars, soccer, sausages, sauerkraut, lederhosen, etc. A brief 200 word abstract in English and German will be submitted along with the project that explains the cultural context. The final project will be displayed at a public exhibition at USU. Please talk to me regarding options of financial funding for your project. This is a pass/fail assignment and extra credit will be given on creativity effort.

Tests and Quizzes
There will be absolutely no make-up assignments/quizzes/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 final exam on Monday, December 14th.

Physical Impairments
Students with ADA- documented physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Veterans may also be eligible for services. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center as early in the semester as possible. In class alternate format materials (braille, large print, digital or audio) are available with advance notice.

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.

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 reinforce 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.