

GERM 3040 GERMAN GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION SPRING 2017

Instructor: Dr. Claudia Schwabe
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Class hours: TR 9:00-10:15 p.m.
Class room: Old Main 301
Office hours: TR 10:30-11:30 a.m.
(and by appointment)

Course Fees:

The \$24.00 course fee you have paid is used to staff and maintain the Language Lab (MAIN 004) and to pay German teaching assistants who assist instructors in the classroom.

Course Description:

This course offers an in-depth review and study of the more problematic aspects of German grammar for English speakers: from adjective endings, to the proper uses of cases, tenses, and the passive voice. The course is based on the conviction that form-focused learning in a communicative context is the optimal route to second language acquisition. From this perspective, students must understand that the goal of language is not rules and vocabulary lists, but rather communication of real ideas in a culturally appropriate idiom; and also that an essential aspect of effective communication is the correct use of words and grammatical structures.

This course seeks to promote these goals by providing clear, thorough explanations of the grammar; semantically related clusters of useful, functional vocabulary; and exercises that promote cognitive mastery of discrete forms as well as the challenge of spontaneous interaction. Although the grammar component of this class is fundamental, it must be understood as the basic underpinning of the ability to write coherent and meaningful essays. The course is thus designed to prepare students for writing grammatically correct essays in upper division classes in German Literature and Culture.

Objectives:

A major objective of this course is to improve the ability to communicate in writing in German through a variety of discourses, such as descriptive, narrative (past and present), argumentative, and analytical. This objective will be accomplished through the study and practice of grammar, through a variety of exercises as well as by writing different types of compositions.

Language of Instruction: German

Required Texts:

- *Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik*, 6th Edition, by Jamie Rankin and Larry Wells, ISBN 978-1305078840

Course Requirements:

- Regular attendance and oral participation
- Homework and other in-class assignments

- Several Grammar Quizzes
- One 15-minute oral presentation with a German grammar exercise
- One in-class midterm exam
- One in-class final exam

Grading:

- Regular attendance and oral participation: 20%
- Homework and other in-class assignments 20%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Presentation: 10%
- Midterm: 20%
- Final Exam: 20% (**May 2nd at 7:30 a.m.**)

Grading Scale

A (100-93)	A- (92-90)	B+ (89-88)	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
- Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)
- Learning to analyze & critically evaluate ideas, arguments, points of view
- Acquiring an interest in learning more by asking questions and seeking answers

Semester Outline (Subject to Change):

Week 1

January 10: Adjectives, Adjective Endings

January 12: Writing with Adjectives

Week 2

January 17: Comparative and Superlative

January 19: Comparing and Contrasting

Week 3

January 24: Questions and Interrogatives

January 26: Personal, Indefinite and Demonstrative Pronouns

Week 4

January 31: Reflexive Pronouns; Using Process Writing

February 2: Infinitives; Expressing your own ideas

Week 5

February 7: Infinitives; Expressing your own ideas

February 9: Da-Compounds

Week 6

February 14: Subjunctive, Subjunctive II

February 16: Subjunctive, Subjunctive II

Week 7

February 21: MONDAY CLASS SCHEDULE (NO CLASS)

February 23: Adjective Nouns, Participial Modifiers

Week 8

February 28: Numerals and Measurements; Conveying Statistical Information

March 2: **MIDTERM EXAM**

Week 9

March 7: SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)

March 9: SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)

Week 10

March 14: Seasons, Dates, and Time Expressions

March 16: Adverbs & Establishing a Sequence of Events

Week 11

March 21: Adverbs & Establishing a Sequence of Events

March 23: Particles and Flavoring Particles

Week 12

March 28: Particles and Flavoring Particles

March 30: Indirect Discourse; Subjunctive I

Week 13

April 4: Indirect Discourse; Subjunctive I

April 6: Passive Voice and Practicing the Passive

Week 14

April 11: Passive Voice and Practicing the Passive

April 13: Verb Prefixes & Writing with Inseparable Prefix Verbs

Week 15

April 18: Verb Prefixes & Writing with Inseparable Prefix Verbs

April 20: Prepositions as Verbal Complements & Categories of Writing

Week 16

April 25: Prepositions as Verbal Complements & Categories of Writing

April 27: Review for final exam

May 2: FINAL EXAM (7:30 a.m. to 9:20 a.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 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. Excessive unexcused absences (more than three) will result in a lower grade (each unexcused absence will lower the final grade by 2%). 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

Homework 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.

Presentations

Each student will give one oral presentation of 15 minutes on a German grammar exercise and provide a one-page handout for the other classmates. I have to approve the presentation topic in advance. Presentations should prove that the student has engaged with and understood the grammar exercise.

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. Quizzes will **not** always be announced and take place throughout the semester. There will be a mandatory written midterm exam on **Tuesday, March 2** and a final exam on **Tuesday, May 2 at 7:30 a.m.**

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.

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.