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Office hours:
M 12:00-1:30
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GE 30104-01 – Advanced Composition & Conversation

MWF, 3:30-4:20, O'Shaughnessy 345

Welcome to Advanced German Composition & Conversation! This course is designed for students who have successfully completed four semesters of German language. It expands on grammatical structures and offers you the opportunity to increase the sophistication of your written and oral German. A study of everyday German culture supports the language study. By exploring authentic newspaper articles, essays, television clips, movies, fictional texts and poems, we will analyze current public debates in Germany and their historical dimensions. Writing assignments are varied widely to address the interests and strengths of all students and to allow many opportunities for creativity through the exploration of different genres and writing styles. The conversational component requires student- teacher and student-student interaction in large and small group settings to exchange information, clarify meanings, express opinions, and argue points of view. Throughout the semester you will build your vocabulary, including idiomatic expression, and expand your ability to use German grammar flexibly and accurately.

Learning Goals:

Upon successful completion of this class, you will be able

- to engage in German conversations on a variety of topics, as well as to acknowledge, evaluate and counter (or accept and integrate) different points of view
- to articulate your thoughts clearly and compellingly in several different genres of written German from letter to five-page essay in German
- to recognize and implement idiomatic differences between written and oral German
- to formulate and express coherent arguments about both literary texts and ethical issues
- to identify cultural differences (particularly between the US and Germany) and appraise the impact of historical circumstance on culture

Required Texts (available in for purchase at the Notre Dame bookstore):

- Frank E. Donahue: *Deutsche Wiederholungsgrammatik. A Morpho-Syntactic Review of German* (New Haven: Yale, 2009).
- Heinrich Böll, *Die verlorene Ehre der Katharina Blum* (München: dtv, 1976).
- A good bilingual dictionary (such as Collins or Oxford)

You also have access to the Oxford Language Dictionary German/English, English/German (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007) via Hesburgh Libraries.

Please note: Online-dictionaries like LEO are NOT RECOMMENDED for this class. While some of these dictionaries are great tools for advanced students of German, they do not offer the contextual and grammatical clues you will need in order to choose the appropriate German word or to use it in a grammatically sound way. The Oxford dictionary provided via the library's website combines the in-depth information you will need with the convenience of an online-dictionary.

Supplementary Materials:

Many additional course materials will be made available via the course blog, which you can find at <http://blogs.nd.edu/compon13/> as well as the electronic course support system ("Sakai"). These supplementary materials will include audio and film clips, which you are expected to listen to and watch in your own time. If you do not own the technical equipment to do so, you can use the library's media center.

Grade Breakdown:

Composition:	55%	Five smaller assignments at 3% each:	15%
		Four larger assignments at 5% each:	20%
		Final paper:	20%
Conversation:	45%	Five oral assignments at 5% each:	25%
		Attendance and participation in class discussion:	20%

Please note that this class does not have a final exam. Instead, the final paper will be due on the day for which the exam is scheduled.

The following percentages apply:

100-95	A	82-80	B-	72-70	D
94-90	A-	79-78	C+	69 and below	F
89-86	B+	77-75	C		
85-83	B	74-73	C-		

Class Requirements:

Writing: Our course is divided into five main units, and you will generally write two compositions for each. The first of these, due halfway through each unit, will be short, i.e. not normally longer than a single page or so. The second composition assignment for each unit will grow longer over the course of the semester. The last of our units does not have a second writing assignment; instead, you will submit a rough draft for your final paper. Writing assignments should be typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced, all margins 1 inch. You must bring a hard copy of the assignment to class on the day that it is due. Rewrite Policy: I will hand back all written assignments

with grammatical markings and comments as needed in the class period after they were due. Students have until the following class period to hand in a rewrite if they choose to do so. In the case of a rewrite, the final grade will be the average of the grades for the two submissions.

Final Paper: At the end of the semester, you will write a 5-page paper on one of the suggested topics or another topic that I approve. An outline is due in the second to last week of class and a first draft is due on the last day of classes. I will have edits available within two days of the final class. Revisions are due on December 19, the day for which our final exam is scheduled. **NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GIVEN** for either the rough draft or final deadline.

Conversation: At the end of each unit, on the same day on which you also submit your writing assignments, we will conduct oral exercises of growing complexity. These may be structured dialogs, free-form discussions, oral presentations or the like. Sometimes you will work in groups, sometimes alone. Sometimes you will be allowed to use aids, such as notecards, and sometimes not. Regardless of the exact nature of the assignment, you are always expected to do preparatory work at home, and in some cases the entire assignment will be done as homework (for instance, if I ask you to record a video of yourself). Further details will follow at the beginning of every unit.

Attendance and Participation: This is a conversation class, so regular attendance and active participation in our discussions is obviously important. Structured activities will only get you so far; class time represents the best opportunity for you to improve your spoken German. The base-line expectation is that you will speak up during every class period. Absence policy: Standard departmental policy allows you to take three unexcused absences without penalty. Additional unexcused absences will lower your overall final grade for this class by 2% for every unexcused absence after the third. Please be aware that as per university policy, a slip from the health center does not normally excuse an absence. Absences can only be excused by Student Affairs. Tardiness in excess of 5 minutes will also count towards absences: 3 late arrivals = 1 absence.

Academic Code of Honor

The Department of German and Russian Languages takes Notre Dame's Academic Code of Honor very seriously. The Academic Code of Honor asks that whatever work you submit in this class (essays, homework assignments, oral presentations etc.) must be your own. This also implies that you are not allowed to use online translators for your assignments. Furthermore, if you wish for additional help with the writing assignments, you must work with a tutor appointed by the department, *not with a German-speaking friend*. Many activities in this class may require consultation of authentic German texts, but that does not mean that you can copy passages or sentences from someone else's text without clearly marking it as a citation. While this class will frequently require collaboration with others, each member of the group must contribute roughly the same amount to the final product of your collaboration. Simply signing off on someone else's work accounts for plagiarism (something we'll be talking about) – and besides, it is not much fun for anyone involved. It is your responsibility to make yourself familiar with the Academic Code of Honor. (<http://nd.edu/~hnr/code/docs/handbook.htm>; <http://nd.edu/~hnr/code/docs/studentguide.pdf>) If you have any questions, please ask me or one of your academic advisors.

Disability Accommodations

Any student who has a documented disability and is registered with Disability Services should speak with the professor as soon as possible regarding accommodations. Students who are not registered should contact the Office of Disability Services - <http://disabilityservices.nd.edu/>.

Technology Snafu Warning

This course relies heavily on access to computers (so many writing assignments!). At some point during the semester you may have a problem with technology: your laptop will crash, a file will become corrupted, a server will go down, or something else will occur. These are facts of life, not emergencies. Technology problems will not be accepted as excuses for unfinished work. Count on “stuff” happening and protect yourself by doing the following:

- Plan ahead – start early, particularly if scarce resources are required (time in the language lab)
- Save work often – at least every ten minutes
- Make regular backups of files in a different location from the originals
- Save drafts of work at multiple stages
- Practice safe computing when surfing the web and checking email
- On your personal computer, install and use software to control viruses and malware

On another technological note,

I will expect that you use correct German punctuation and spelling in your written assignments, including the symbols ä, ö, ü, and ß. This is very simple on macs and fairly easy on PCs. If you do not know how to make these symbols on your computer, please consult with me or the folks in the language lab for help.

<u>Datum</u>	<u>Vorbereitung</u>	<u>In der Stunde</u>
<u>Erste Unterrichtseinheit</u>		
Mittwoch 28. August (1)		Einführung in den Kurs
Freitag 30. August (2)	Informieren Sie sich über die 17. Wahlperiode des deutschen Bundestages!	Besprechung der ausgehenden Wahlperiode Partizip Präsens und Perfekt
Montag 2. September (3)	Video: Die Wahlprozedur Porträt: Angela Merkel Übungen zu Partizipien	Diskussion über die Unterschiede zwischen dem deutschen u. amerikanischen Wahlsystem Partizipien als Adjektive
Mittwoch 4. September (4)	Deutsche Parteiprogramme lesen und zusammenfassen	Konjunktiv II Mündliche Berichte zu deutschen Parteien
Freitag 6. September (5)	Einen Wahlkandidaten in Berlin-Mitte recherchieren und porträtieren (Erste kurze schriftliche Aufgabe)	Konjunktiv II in der Vergangenheit
Montag 9. September (6)	Deutsche Wahlspots anschauen und analysieren	Mit Texten überzeugen und beeinflussen lernen
Mittwoch 11. September (7)	Parteipräsenz in sozialen Netzwerken untersuchen	Weitere Übungen zum überzeugen und beeinflussen mit Texten
Freitag 13. September (8)	Poster und Flugblätter für Ihren Kandidaten entwerfen (Erste längere schriftliche Aufgabe)	Poster und Flugblätter präsentieren
Montag 16. September (9)	Auf die Debatte vorbereiten	Wahldebatte (Erste mündliche Aufgabe)

<u>Datum</u>	<u>Vorbereitung</u>	<u>In der Stunde</u>
<u>Zweite Unterrichtseinheit</u>		
Mittwoch 18. September (10)	Eine deutsche Tageszeitung analysieren	Die fünf "W-Fragen" Das Präteritum Deutsche Satzordnung
Freitag 20. September (11)	Ein deutsches Boulevardblatt analysieren Übungen zum Präteritum	Vergleich zwischen Tageszeitung und Boulevardpresse. Das Plusquamperfekt
Montag 23. September (12)	<u>Film:</u> <i>Der Baader-Meinhof Komplex</i>	Einen Film analysieren Konjunktiv I
Mittwoch 25. September (13)	Eine Filmszene analysieren (Zweite kurze schriftliche Aufgabe)	<u>Heinrich Böll:</u> <i>Die verlorene Ehre der Katharina Blum</i> Direkte und indirekte Rede
Freitag 27. September (14)	<i>Die verlorene Ehre der Katharina Blum</i> (Kapitel 1-22) Übungen zum Konjunktiv I	(Vertretung Prof. Della Rossa)
Montag 30. September (15)	<i>Die verlorene Ehre der Katharina Blum</i> (Kapitel 23-33)	Einen objektiven Bericht schreiben
Mittwoch 2. Oktober (16)	<i>Die verlorene Ehre der Katharina Blum</i> (Kapitel 34-42)	(Vertretung Prof. Della Rossa)
Freitag 4. Oktober (17)	Kein Unterricht! Produzieren Sie einen Video-clip zum Wahlausgang (Zweite mündliche Aufgabe)	Kein Unterricht!
Montag 7. Oktober (18)	Zeitungsartikel zum Wahlausgang einreichen (Zweite längere schriftliche Aufgabe)	<i>Die verlorene Ehre der Katharina Blum</i> (Schluss)

<u>Datum</u>	<u>Vorbereitung</u>	<u>In der Stunde</u>
<u>Dritte Unterrichtseinheit</u>		
Mittwoch 9. Oktober (19)	Informieren Sie sich über das 200. Jubiläum der Völkerschlacht bei Leipzig!	Einen Text vom Aktiv in das Passiv verwandeln
Freitag 11. Oktober (20)	Das Völkerschlachtdenkmal in Leipzig Übungen zum Passiv	Mehr zum Passiv Verschiedene Perspektiven auf die Schlacht bei Leipzig
Montag 14. Oktober (21)	<u>Heinrich Heine</u> : <i>Deutschland, ein Wintermärchen</i> (Caput I+II)	Gedichtanalyse Temporale Konnektoren
Mittwoch 16. Oktober (22)	Ausgewählte Gedichte von Heinrich Heine	Mehr zu Gedichtanalyse und temporalen Konnektoren
Freitag 18. Oktober (23)	Eine Gedichtanalyse einreichen (Dritte kurze schriftliche Aufgabe)	Kein Unterricht!
HERBSTFERIEN	HERBSTFERIEN	HERBSTFERIEN
Montag 28. Oktober (24)	Ausgewählte Gedichte von Bertolt Brecht und Wolf Biermann	Wie man einen autobiographischen Bericht schreibt
Mittwoch 30. Oktober (25)	Ausgewählte zeitgenössische Lyrik	Mehr zu autobiographischen Berichten
Freitag 1. November (26)	Einen autobiographischen Bericht schreiben (Dritte längere schriftliche Aufgabe)	Ein Gedicht aufsagen und kurz interpretieren (Dritte mündliche Aufgabe)

<u>Datum</u>	<u>Vorbereitung</u>	<u>In der Stunde</u>
<u>Vierte Unterrichtseinheit</u>		
Montag 4. November (27)	“Die verkaufte Sprache”: zu Business-Deutsch und “Denglisch”	Beispiele des Business- Deutschen Relativsätze
Mittwoch 6. November (28)	“Geschichte der Dialekte”	Mehr zu Relativsätzen Ortsbeschreibungen
Freitag 8. November (29)	Einen Ort beschreiben (Vierte kurze schriftliche Aufgabe)	Deutsche Dialekte hören Infinitivsätze
Montag 11. November (30)	“Weissu, is krasse Sprache!”	Erkan und Stefan Mehr zu Infinitivsätzen
Mittwoch 13. November (31)	<u>Feridun Zaimoglu:</u> <i>Kanak Sprak</i> (Auszug)	<i>Kanak Sprak</i> Übungen zum kreativen Schreiben
Freitag 15. November (32)	<u>Herta Müller:</u> “Bei uns in Deutschland”	“Bei uns in Deutschland” Mehr zum kreativen Schreiben
Montag 18. November (33)	Schreiben Sie eine kurze Geschichte! (Vierte längere schriftliche Aufgabe)	Debatte: Deutsche Identität (Vierte mündliche Aufgabe)

<u>Datum</u>	<u>Vorbereitung</u>	<u>In der Stunde</u>
<u>Fünfte Unterrichtseinheit</u>		
Mittwoch 20. November (34)	Heinrich von Kleist: <i>Michael Koblhaas</i>	Heinrich von Kleist Erweiterte Partizipial- konstruktionen
Freitag 22. November (35)	Heinrich von Kleist: <i>Michael Koblhaas</i>	Heinrich von Kleist Mehr zu erweiterten Partizipialkonstruktionen
Montag 25. November (36)	Heinrich von Kleist: <i>Michael Koblhaas</i>	Heinrich von Kleist Da-Komposita
ERNTE-DANKFEST	ERNTE-DANKFEST	ERNTE-DANKFEST
Montag 2. Dezember (37)	Volker Schlöndorff: <i>Michael Koblhaas—Der Rebell</i>	Workshop: Wie man einen akademischen Aufsatz auf Deutsch schreibt!
Mittwoch 4. Dezember (38)	Entwickeln Sie einen Abriss für Ihren Aufsatz! (Fünfte kurze schriftliche Aufgabe)	Volker Schlöndorff Mehr zu Da-Komposita
Freitag 6. Dezember (39)	Dirk Kurbjuweit: “Der Wutbürger”	“Wutbürger” in Deutschland und in Amerika
Montag 9. Dezember (40)	Bereiten Sie sich auf Ihre abschließenden Referate vor!	Rerate (Fünfte mündliche Aufgabe)
Mittwoch 11. Dezember (41)	Schreiben Sie die Rohfassung für Ihren Aufsatz! (Fünfte längere schriftliche Aufgabe)	Referate (Fünfte mündliche Aufgabe)