

German 314: Intermediate Composition

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| INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Thomas Leek | E-MAIL: tleek@uwsp.edu |
| OFFICE: 404 CCC | PHONE: (715) 252 7515 |
| TIME: MW 9.30-10.45 | OFFICE HOURS: Montag, 11.00-12.00 via Zoom |
| LOCATION: Online | |

GOALS AND STRUCTURE: German 314 is an intermediate course for German language and culture. In this course you will communicate in German in meaningful contexts, as you learn about and develop a greater knowledge of social, cultural, and political developments in German-speaking countries. It is intended for students who have completed at least five semesters of German. This course is designed to improve your writing skills, while offering you opportunities to use German actively to communicate your ideas. Learning involves the students' active and serious interaction with the materials and participation in role-plays, discussions, presentations, and writing assignments. Speaking and listening will be emphasized in the classroom, while reading and writing will largely be done outside of class. Since I assume a comprehensive knowledge of basic concepts of German grammar, we will mainly review grammar as part of homework assignments. The class materials stem from a variety of sources.

Course Learning Outcomes:

- ❖ Students will be able to write summaries of various kinds of writings in an organized way to demonstrate the ability to narrate using major time frames and different aspects.
- ❖ Students will be able to understand and interpret a language other than their own in its written and spoken form on a variety of topics.
- ❖ Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices, products, and perspectives of the cultures studied.
- ❖ Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studied and their own.

General Education Learning Outcomes (Global Awareness):

- ❖ Identify and explain various components of a culture that is distinct from those found within the United States.
- ❖ Analyze how cultural similarities and differences are negotiated in ways that help shape the modern world.

Emergency Response:

- ❖ Active Shooter/Code React – Run/Escape, Hide, Fight. If trapped hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out and remain quiet. Call 9-1-1 when it is safe to do so. Follow instructions of emergency responders. See UW-Stevens Point Emergency Procedures at www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures for details on all emergency response at UW-Stevens Point.
- ❖ In the event of a medical emergency call 9-1-1 or use Red Emergency Phone. Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide emergency responders to victim.

- ❖ In the event of a tornado warning, proceed to the lowest level interior room without window exposure. Avoid wide-span structures (gyms, pools or large classrooms).
- ❖ In the event of a fire alarm, evacuate the building in a calm manner. Notify instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals.

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: We (instructor and students) will speak German only in class. Do not use English when talking with your classmates. DO NOT BRING AN ENGLISH-GERMAN DICTIONARY TO CLASS. If you do not know a particular word or phrase while talking, you are expected to circumlocute the meaning (explain the meaning using different words!), ask a classmate, or—your most reliable resource—ask me.

Evaluation Criteria:

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| Essays | 25 % | Webposts | 30 % | | |
| Final exam | 15 % | Participation | 15 % | Homework | 15 % |

Your grades will be calculated using Canvas. You have access to your grade at all times via Canvas.

| Ranges for Letter Grades | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| A | > 94 % | B- | 80 – 83% | D+ | 68 – 69% |
| A- | 90 – 94% | C+ | 77 – 79% | D | 63 – 67% |
| B+ | 87 – 89% | C | 74 – 77% | D- | 60 – 62% |
| B | 84 – 86% | C- | 70 – 73% | F | < 59% |

DUOLINGO (20%): Duolingo is a language-learning app available on multiple app stores. It is a free app. Make sure to bring a device such as cell phone, laptop or table to every class, since we will spend time working on this app in almost every class.

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| A (4 pts.) | 100 skills mastered |
| B (3 pts.) | 80-99 skills mastered |
| C (2 pts.) | 60-79 or more skills mastered |
| D (1 pt.) | 40-59 skills mastered |
| F (0 pts.) | fewer than 40 levels mastered |

Working with Duolingo will help you strengthen your language skills appropriate for this course level described below:

ACTFL Proficiency Levels: Intermediate Mid

Speakers at the Intermediate Mid sublevel are able to handle successfully a variety of uncomplicated communicative tasks in straightforward social situations. Conversation is generally limited to those predictable and concrete exchanges necessary for survival in the target culture. These include personal information related to self, family, home, daily activities, interests and personal preferences, as well as physical and social needs, such as food, shopping, travel, and lodging.

Intermediate Mid speakers tend to function reactively, for example, by responding to direct questions or requests for information. However, they are capable of asking a variety of questions when necessary to obtain simple information to satisfy basic needs, such as directions, prices, and services. When called on to perform functions or handle topics at the Advanced level, they provide some information but have difficulty linking ideas, manipulating time and aspect, and using communicative strategies, such as circumlocution.

Intermediate Mid speakers are able to express personal meaning by creating with the language, in part by combining and recombining known elements and conversational input to produce responses typically consisting of sentences and strings of sentences. ___

Overall, Intermediate Mid speakers are at ease when performing Intermediate-level tasks and do so with significant quantity and quality of Intermediate-level language.

WEBPOSTS (30%): Writing in a foreign language represents a very important skill and requires a lot of practice. Throughout the semester you will have plenty of opportunities to practice and to improve your writing skills in the form of webposts. Most weeks, you will submit a webpost on Canvas. Each webpost is based on watching at least one episode of the German newscast *logo* (<http://www tivi.de/fernsehen/logo/start/index.html>). After you watch the newscast, pick one of the topics and write your webpost. You should list 10 vocabulary items crucial to your post and write a paragraph-long summary of the segment. In addition, you should add a second paragraph where you draw comparisons between Germany/the topic of the segment and the US. An example of these webposts is available on Canvas.

You should type your posts using a regular word-processing program using 1 inch margins, double-spaced, and a Times 12 font. Each post should be about 1 page long. You will submit your webposts on Canvas. Writing aids for German characters are posted on Canvas. Please read the note about Academic Dishonesty very carefully! Working on writing summaries will help you work on developing higher level writing skills to improve your language proficiency in this area:

ADVANCED LOW

Writers at the Advanced Low sublevel are able to meet basic work and/or academic writing needs. They demonstrate the ability to narrate and describe in major time frames with some control of aspect. They are able to compose simple summaries on familiar topics. Advanced Low writers are able to combine and link sentences into texts of paragraph length and structure. Their writing, while adequate to satisfy the criteria of the Advanced level, may not be substantive. Writers at the Advanced Low sublevel demonstrate the ability to incorporate a limited number of cohesive devices, and may resort to some redundancy and awkward repetition. They rely on patterns of oral discourse and the writing style of their first language. These writers demonstrate minimal control of common structures and vocabulary associated with the Advanced level. Their writing is understood by natives not accustomed to the writing of non-natives, although some additional effort may be required in the reading of the text. When attempting to perform functions at the Superior level, their writing will deteriorate significantly.

SUMMARIES (25%): Based on your webposts, you need to compose two essays. Topics will vary depending on the episodes of the newscasts you watched. You will submit 2 drafts so that you can work on improving the accuracy of your writing. The essay should be at least 450 words long, typed using a regular word-processing program with 1 inch margins, double-spaced, and a Times 12 font. An emphasis of these essays has to be on a) an in-depths description of the news event featured in the newscast and b) a thorough comparison between the event as part of what is happening in Germany and how this compares/contrasts to life in the US.

FINAL EXAM (15%): The final exam will be based on the vocabulary covered as a class in terms of discussing news events and also on pertinent grammar issues discussed in the course of the semester. Topics will vary depending on problems displayed by students in the course of the semester.

PARTICIPATION (15%): Daily attendance in class is necessary and expected. Even though you are allowed 2 absences, you will receive 0 points for any missed class, unless you present a university-approved reason.

| <i>Grade</i> | <i>Criteria for evaluating performance in class:</i> |
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| 2 points | Student always uses German, is well-prepared, and uses circumlocution to compensate for unknown vocabulary. In addition, student volunteers to answer questions, pays attention, negotiates meaning with other students, and elaborates answers spontaneously. |
| 1 point | Student only attends class but does not participate; waits to be called on; responses mostly incorrect; resorts to English. |
| 0 points | Student does not attend class. |

HOMEWORK (15%): You will be responsible for all the assignments listed on the syllabus for any given day. Homework assignments must be completed for the date listed on the syllabus. No late homework will be accepted!

EXTRA CREDIT: A great way to practice your German (and get extra credit!) is to participate in events by the department-sponsored *German Club*. Swing by the *Stammtisch* for a very informal chance to chat with native and non-native speakers of German at all levels of language ability. Dates, places, and times for all extra-curricular events offered through the German club will be announced in class. Participation in each event counts as 2 points toward your test scores. You can receive up to 6 points through extra credit.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: All work for this class should reflect YOUR work. The only “outside help” permissible is from me, dictionaries, spell checkers, and grammar books. Help from tutors, other instructors, or other speakers of German for graded assignments will be treated as cheating. Using online translation packages are also NOT admissible. Please read Chapter 14 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code “Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures” that applies to ALL students to see penalties for any infraction of academic integrity (www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsChap14.pdf).

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with your instructor soon. Please provide an “Accommodations Request” letter from the Office of Disability Services to validate the need for the accommodation.