

German 345: Advanced Conversation & Composition

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Tobias Barske	E-MAIL: tbarske@uwsp.edu
OFFICE: 488c CCC	PHONE: (715) 346 4406
TIME: WF 2 – 3:15	OFFICE HOURS: M 12:30-1:30, R 9-10 and by appointment
LOCATION: 305 CCC	D2L: https://uwsp.courses.wisconsin.edu/ (D2L)

GOALS AND STRUCTURE: German 345 is a video- and text-based 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 six semesters of German. This course is designed to improve your writing skills, while offering you opportunities to use German actively to communicate your idea. Learning involves the students' active and serious interaction with the materials and participation in role-plays, discussions, presentations, and writing assignments. The main focus of this class is on fine-tuning your proficiency in speaking and your accuracy in writing. A review of more sophisticated concepts of German grammar will be part of the entire semester. Grammar review will also be part of the course as indicated by patterns of mistakes on homework assignments. The class materials stem from a variety of sources, but predominantly from newspapers and online materials.

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 narrate longer stories in different time frames.

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.

COURSE MATERIALS:

1. Dippmann, G. & Watzinger-Tharp, J. (2000). *A Practical Review of German Grammar* (3rd ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
2. Cell phone, laptop or tablet will be required in almost every class

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:

Summaries	25 %	Narrations	25 %	Webposts	15 %
Final exam	15 %	Participation	10 %	Homework	10 %

Your grades will be calculated using D2L. Note that your grade on D2L does NOT reflect deductions for missed days! You have access to your grade at all times via D2L.

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%

SUMMARIES (25%): Throughout the semester, we will work on 3 articles in greater detail. You will read each article multiple times, familiarize yourself with the vocabulary, identify critical phrases and concepts in each article, and write two versions of a summary for each article. The multiple drafts will help you work on improving the accuracy of your writing. The summary should be at least 150 words long, typed using a regular word-processing program with 1 inch margins, double-spaced, and a Times 12 font. 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.

NARRATIONS (25%): You have to submit 3 narrations in the course of the semester. These narrations are based on the *Vater und Sohn* picture stories by E.O. Plauen. Mastering the skill of narrating longer stories represents a major obstacle in terms of improving your German proficiency. With these assignments we will focus specifically on ways of mastering this skill.

ACTFL Proficiency Levels: Advanced Low

Speakers at the Advanced Low sublevel are able to handle a variety of communicative tasks. They are able to participate in most informal and some formal conversations on topics related to school, home, and leisure activities. They can also speak about some topics related to employment, current events, and matters of public and community interest.

Advanced Low speakers demonstrate the ability to narrate and describe in the major time frames of past, present, and future in paragraph-length discourse with some control of aspect. In these

narrations and descriptions, Advanced Low speakers combine and link sentences into connected discourse of paragraph length, although these narrations and descriptions tend to be handled separately rather than interwoven. They can handle appropriately the essential linguistic challenges presented by a complication or an unexpected turn of events.

Responses produced by Advanced Low speakers are typically not longer than a single paragraph. The speaker's dominant language may be evident in the use of false cognates, literal translations, or the oral paragraph structure of that language. At times their discourse may be minimal for the level, marked by an irregular flow, and containing noticeable self-correction. More generally, the performance of Advanced Low speakers tends to be uneven.

Advanced Low speech is typically marked by a certain grammatical roughness (e.g., inconsistent control of verb endings), but the overall performance of the Advanced-level tasks is sustained, albeit minimally. The vocabulary of Advanced Low speakers often lacks specificity. Nevertheless, Advanced Low speakers are able to use communicative strategies such as rephrasing and circumlocution.

Advanced Low speakers contribute to the conversation with sufficient accuracy, clarity, and precision to convey their intended message without misrepresentation or confusion. Their speech can be understood by native speakers unaccustomed to dealing with non-natives, even though this may require some repetition or restatement. When attempting to perform functions or handle topics associated with the Superior level, the linguistic quality and quantity of their speech will deteriorate significantly.

WEBPOSTS (15%): 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. Every week, you will submit a webpost on D2L. Each webpost is based on watching the Thursday 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 D2L.

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 D2L. D2L will be set up so that you cannot submit any late work. Writing aids for German characters are posted on D2L. 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.

FINAL EXAM (15%): The final exam will be based on the vocabulary covered as a class in terms of discussing the three summary articles and the three narrations. It will also include writing a summary.

PARTICIPATION (10%): Daily attendance in class is necessary and expected. Even though you are allowed 2 absences, you will receive 0 points for any missed class. Beginning with the 3rd absence, your course average will drop dramatically (1% off of your final grade per missed day.)

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Criteria for evaluating performance in class:</i>
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 (10%): You will be responsible for all the assignments listed on the syllabus for any given day, mainly the collection of vocabulary from the articles and comprehension quizzes on the articles. 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 Webposts 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 (such as Babelfish or Lycos) 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.

Weekly Lesson Plan

DATE		ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1	Mi	<i>Einführung</i>

	Fr	<i>Wiederholung</i>	Text: Wer bin ich?
Week 2	Mi		Webpost #1 + Google Quiz
	Fr	<i>Artikel #1</i>	Webpost #2 + Google Quiz Vocabulary (D2L)
Week 3	Mi		Draft: Summary #1
	Fr		Webpost #3 + Google Quiz
Week 4	Mi		Summary #1
	Fr	<i>Narration #1</i>	Webpost #4 + Google Quiz Vocabulary (D2L)
Week 5	Mi		Draft: Narration #1
	Fr		Webpost #5 + Google Quiz
Week 6	Mi		Narration #2
	Fr	<i>Artikel #2</i>	Webpost #6 + Google Quiz Vocabulary (D2L)
Week 7	Mi		Draft: Summary #2
	Fr	<i>Class online – 10/20</i>	Webpost #7 + Google Quiz
Week 8	Mi		Summary #2
	Fr	<i>Narration #2</i>	Webpost #8 + Google Quiz Vocabulary (D2L)
Week 9	Mi		Draft: Narration #2
	Fr	<i>Class online – 11/3</i>	Webpost #9 + Google Quiz
Week 10	Mi		Narration #2
	Fr		<i>No class!</i>
Week 11	Mi	<i>Artikel #3</i>	Webpost #10 + Google Quiz Vocabulary (D2L)
	Fr		Webpost #11 + Google Quiz
Week 12	Mi		Draft: Summary #3
	Fr		<i>Erntedankfest!!</i>
Week 13	Mi		Webpost #12 + Google Quiz
	Fr		Summary #3
Week 14	Mi	<i>Narration #3</i>	Webpost #13 + Google Quiz Vocabulary (D2L)
	Fr		Draft: Narration #3
Week 15	Mi		Narration #3
	Fr	<i>Course Evaluation; Review for Final</i>	---

Final Exam: Wednesday, 12/20/2017: 10:15am-12:15pm in 305 CCC