

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS  
DEPARTMENT OF WORLD LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, AND CULTURES

**German 3070: Advanced German II (Written Communication)**  
**Spring 2024**

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Class meets: MW 2-3:20 (LANG 104)

Office hours: MW 1-2 pm in LANG 401K or by Zoom appointment

**Course Description:** This course focuses on strengthening written communication and increasing written language proficiency by learning about the history and culture of German-speaking Europe. By the end of the semester, provided you complete all assignments and participate actively in class, you should be able to do the following:

- Read, categorize, and understand with increasing ease texts written in authentic German;
- watch and understand German-language films with increasing ease of comprehension;
- become increasingly confident in your ability to discuss texts and films, express opinions and articulate thoughts in spoken German;
- write organized compositions in various genres in German;
- speak clearly and creatively, formally and informally on topics of political, literary, cultural, and historical significance.
- exhibit consistent control of basic and increasingly complex structures of German grammar;
- demonstrate general knowledge of a number of important cultural topics related to the history and culture of German-speaking Europe.

**CLASS requirement for Communication and Digital Skills:** This course fulfills the CLASS requirement for Communication and Digital Skills. At the end of this course, students should be able to demonstrate effective communication using a digital technological platform and do **at least two** of the following:

- Demonstrate the ability to communicate a central idea effectively using appropriate organization/structure.
- Demonstrate the ability to develop content at an advanced level using a combination of effective supporting materials.
- Demonstrate the ability to engage in verbal and nonverbal communication behaviors that are appropriate for the audience and adhere to the conventions of the medium selected (written, oral, or visual).

**Required Text:** Motyl-Mudretzkyj / Späinghaus. *Anders gedacht: Text and Context in the German-Speaking World*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. ISBN: 978-1-133-60730-4

This textbook is also required for GERM 3060. The book is available for rent and purchase from the UNT bookstore. It is available in both print and digital formats. I encourage you to choose the textbook option that fits best with your learning style and your budget. The textbook will provide a basic framework for

the work in our class--the basic vocabulary and grammar for the topics to be discussed—but assignments also will draw from a variety of materials readily available on the internet. All supplemental course materials will be posted to Canvas as well.

**Content Note:** Some of the material that we will cover in class may be upsetting or disturbing, as it can deal with issues of racism, sexism, and violence, among others. Learning takes place when we grapple with challenging ideas, concepts and perspectives, and this process not infrequently involves exposure to distressing facts and events. I am mindful of the varied responses that this subject matter can evoke in students. Please feel free to talk to me privately if you believe you will have problems engaging with texts or films that represent any of these issues, and I can help you navigate them. If you ever feel the need to step outside during one of these discussions, you may always do so without academic penalty. (You will, however, be responsible for any material you miss. If you do leave the room for a significant time, please plan to get notes from another student or see me individually.)

**ADDITIONAL REQUIRED MATERIALS:** A laptop, iPad, tablet or other Wi-Fi enabled device should be brought to each class session.

### **COURSE COMPONENTS:**

**I. Active class participation (20%):** Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions in German, and to prepare the readings, and written assignments prior to each class. This outside of class work is essential for our in-class work and discussions. Students are responsible for all material covered in class.

Active class participation will be graded 0, 1, 2, 3 (with 3 being the highest):

**3:** A score of 3 indicates that the student attended the entire class meeting, participated actively in classroom activities, which includes contributing to discussions thoughtfully, remaining on topic, preparing questions for discussion, actively engaging with collaborative learning tools used in class.

**2:** A score of 2 indicates that the student did not attend the entire class meeting or participated in some classroom activities, but did not fulfil one of the requirements for a score of 3.

**1:** A score of 1 indicates that students attended the class but did not participate in classroom activities.

**0:** A score of 0 indicates that the student did not attend class and did not contact the instructor prior to class. Excused absences will be marked as “excused” in Canvas.

**II. Homework (20%):** Homework will consist of a variety of assignments such as worksheets, collaborative assignments, Jamboard tasks, quizzes, etc. Submit assignments in the specified format in Canvas by the deadline, which will be **prior to the start of class**.

Assignments are assessed as **Complete/Incomplete** in Canvas.

- **There is no partial credit: either an assignment meets the goals or it does not.**
- Assignments will specify the requirements necessary to be considered **complete**.
- **Complete** is not a minimum expectation. It indicates that you have achieved the assignment’s learning goals and met the specifications.
- Students should utilize any recommended resources to assist them in completing assignments.

**Spelling, grammar, punctuation:**

- Use German capitalization, spelling and punctuation. Write complete sentences and use correct grammar to the greatest extent possible.
- Proof read, use spellcheckers and grammar checkers prior to submitting.
- Assignments containing excessive errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar will be considered **incomplete**.

### **Extensions and Revisions**

- Students can request up to **4 homework deadline extensions** and up to **2 requests to submit revisions**.
- Revisions requests will not be granted for assignments considered not complete because of excessive spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors.

**III. Essays (4x10%= 40%):** For each chapter, students will write one 2-page essay on assigned topics with clear parameters that you will receive as each assignment approaches. The instructor will review the essay, and students will have the opportunity to revise the essay based on instructor feedback. The papers will be graded on a scale of 1, 2, 3 (with 3 being the highest). The requirements for each paper will be specified in the assignment details in Canvas.

**IV. Presentation (10%):** Students will prepare a 5-minute oral presentation on one of the course themes.

**V. Final project (10%):** Students will prepare an essay (3 pages) and oral presentation (5 minutes) on a topic of their choosing related to the course themes. The final presentation will take place during the regularly scheduled final exam period: **May 6 at 1:30 pm**. Specific requirements for the essay and presentation

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADE ASSESSMENT**

#### **Course Evaluation:**

<i>Active participation</i>	20%
Homework/Quizzes	20%
Presentation	10%
Aufsätze (4x10%)	40%
Final Project	10%

#### **Grade Distribution:**

A = 100 – 90%
B = 89.9 – 80%
C = 79.9 – 70%
D = 69.9 – 60%
F = 59.9 – 0%

### **General course and university guidelines**

**Canvas:** All course assignments and secondary materials will be posted on the course Canvas site.

**Communication Expectations:** The instructor communicates with students through Canvas Announcements and through UNT e-mail. All e-mail is sent to students' UNT e-mail accounts. It is the students' responsibility to check UNT e-mail regularly or have UNT e-mail forwarded to another account. In addition, the instructor only responds to student e-mail if it is sent from the official UNT account. Any messages sent to UNT e-mail Monday-Friday will be answered within 2 days.

**Cell phones and laptops:** The instructor utilizes technology and other media in the learning process. Students must bring a Wi-Fi-enabled device (cell phone, iPad, tablet, or laptop) to every class to facilitate collaborative work.

**Academic integrity:** According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

**Course expectations:** It is expected that all work submitted is authored by the submitter. Failure to acknowledge the contributions of others **including the use of AI** may be considered academic dishonesty.

**Religious holidays:** UNT allows a student who is absent from class for observance of a religious holy day to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time.

**Disability accommodation:** The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

**Acceptable student behavior in the classroom:** Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <http://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012>.

**Emergency Notification & Procedures:** UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify you with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). The system sends voice messages (and text messages upon permission) to the phones of all active faculty, staff, and students. Please make certain to update your phone numbers at [www.my.unt.edu](http://www.my.unt.edu). Some helpful emergency preparedness actions include: ensuring you know the evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas, determining how you will contact family and friends if phones are temporarily unavailable, and identifying where you will go if you need to evacuate the Denton area suddenly. In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

**Student Perceptions of Teaching:** The Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you between April 15 and May 2, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SPOT to be an important part of your participation in this class.

**Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, & Assault:** UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence,

dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. UNT's Dean of Students' website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/dean-of-students>. The UNT Survivor Advocates can be reached by emailing [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or calling 940-565-2648. If there is an emergency, please call the police at 911 or the Denton County Friends of the Family 24-hour crisis line at 940-382-7273.