

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

German 4338: German Translation
Spring 2023

Instructor: Dr. Carol Anne Costabile-Heming (she/her)
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Office hours: Mondays 1 - 2 pm and Wednesdays 6:30 – 7:30 pm; or by appointment (LANG 401-K)

Course Description: This course introduces basic techniques for translating texts from German to English. This course is designed to deepen your knowledge about the German language, the relationship between German and English, and the art and science of translation. Assignments will require you to translate various text types from German into English. You will need to explain and justify the decisions that you make as you create your translation. Language of instruction is English and German.

Course Objectives: By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand basic concepts of translation
- Understand key issues and considerations in translation
- Understand formal properties of texts
- Compare German and English language systems
- Improve their knowledge of German vocabulary, grammar, and culture

Course Prerequisite: Successful completion of 3 hours of advanced German.

Required Text: *Thinking German Translation. A course in Translation Method: German to English.* Eds. Margaret Rogers and Michael White. Routledge. ISBN: 9781138920989.

You can purchase a copy of the book from the UNT Bookstore. There is also an EBook available through Willis Library (<https://discover.library.unt.edu/catalog/b6760076>). I encourage you to choose the textbook option that fits best with your learning style and your budget.

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADE ASSESSMENT

1. Participation (15%): Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions and to prepare the readings and written assignments prior to each class. Class participation, effort, attentiveness, preparation, responsibility, and, in general, active and constructive involvement in all aspects of the course will be graded by the instructor. Please refrain from the following: late arrival, early departure, cell phone/laptop usage unrelated to class work. When you are absent, it is YOUR responsibility to obtain the day's assignment (by consulting the syllabus, a classmate and/or Canvas).

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly. If you do not attend, you cannot participate actively in the class discussions and conversations, which will affect your overall participation grade. It is important that you communicate with the professor **prior** to being absent, so you and the professor can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

2. Homework assignments (30%): Homework assignments will derive from the exercises in the textbook as well as short translation activities beyond the information in the textbook. Assignments should be prepared prior to class as they will also form the basis of class discussions and group work.

3. Quizzes (15%): There will be **weekly** quizzes based on the assigned readings.

4. Translation project (40%): Students will select a text in German that they will translate into English. The text should be approximately 1000 words in length, and may derive from any genre (literature, scientific text, consumer text) and medium (print or web). Students will be required to work through several stages of the project: translation project proposal; outline of translation strategy (including purpose and audience); draft translation; detailed discussion of the decisions made in the translation; translated text; and information about the text and author (to be written in German).

Project Development Stages (Deadlines noted below)

Translation Project Proposal Identification of text type (5%). Students should write a 200-word proposal in German that describes the translation project they wish to undertake. The proposal must identify the text type/genre and medium. **Due: February 15.**

Outline of Translation Strategy (10%). Students will submit a detailed outline of the strategies they will use to complete the translation, including identifying the purpose of the translation. **Due: March 22.**

Draft Translation (5%). At week 13, students will submit a draft of the translation. Students should feel free to identify specific problems/ questions in the draft. The instructor will return the drafts with comments and suggestions for revisions. Students can also schedule consultation meetings with the instructor. **Due: April 19.**

Translated Text and detailed justification (15%). Students will submit a revised/final version of the translation along with a detailed justification for the specific decisions they made in the translation. Students should attempt to address all comments and suggestions from the draft. **Due: May 10 at 4 pm.**

Author and text information (5%). Students will write a 2-page summary about the text and its author **in German**, including biographic information about the author and an explanation of the text's historical importance/context. **Due: May 10 at 4 pm.**

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 materials will be posted on the course Canvas site. Assignments that cannot be submitted via Canvas should be turned in during class.

Communication Expectations: The instructor will communicate with students through Canvas Announcements and through UNT e-mail. All e-mail will be 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 will only respond to student e-mail if it is sent from the official UNT account. Any messages sent Monday-Friday will be answered within two days.

Cell phones and laptops: The instructor utilizes technology and other media in the learning process. All students are expected to 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.

Religious holidays: In accordance with Section 51.911 of the Texas Education Code, UNT will allow 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. Students are required to file a written request with each professor within the first 15 days of the semester to qualify for an excused absence. A copy of the state rules and procedures regarding holy days and the form for notification of absence from each class under this provision are available from the Registrar's Office.

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 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 17 and May 4, 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/conduct/sexual-misconduct>. The UNT Survivor Advocates can be reached by emailing SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or calling 940-565-2648. If there is an emergency, please call the police at 911.

Important Dates and Deadlines: Students should familiarize themselves with the Registrar's office dates and deadlines by visiting this website: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-registration-guide>

German at UNT: I encourage you to participate in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities offered by the German program. Information about events will be posted to Canvas.

Vorläufiger Semesterplan

This is a tentative outline of assignments. Any changes will be announced in class and via Canvas announcements.

Date	Thema/Zum Lesen	Major Assignments
18. Januar	Einführung/ Spielen mit der Sprache. <i>Thinking German Translation</i> S. 1-3	
25. Januar	<i>Thinking German Translation</i> , Chapter 1	
1. Februar	<i>Thinking German Translation</i> , Chapter 2	
8. Februar	<i>Thinking German Translation</i> , Chapter 3	
15. Februar	<i>Thinking German Translation</i> , Chapter 4	Translation Project Proposal
22. Februar	<i>Thinking German Translation</i> , Chapter 5	
1. März	<i>Thinking German Translation</i> , Chapter 6	
8. März	<i>Thinking German Translation</i> , Chapter 7	
15. März	Spring Break	
22. März	<i>Thinking German Translation</i> , Chapter 8	Outline of Translation Strategy
29. März	<i>Thinking German Translation</i> , Chapter 9	
5. April	<i>Thinking German Translation</i> , Chapter 10	
12. April	<i>Thinking German Translation</i> , Chapter 11 and 12	
19. April.	<i>Thinking German Translation</i> , Chapter 13	Draft Translation
26. April	<i>Thinking German Translation</i> , Chapter 15	
3. Mai	<i>Thinking German Translation</i> , Chapter 16	
10. Mai @ 4:00 pm		Translation Project due