

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

German History – 3040
FALL SEMESTER 2012

General Information:

Instructor: Dorian Roehrs
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Main office: (940) 565-2404

Office hours: TR 10:00 – 11:00 or by appointment (LB 401-J)
Class meets: TR 12:30 – 1:50 (LB 212)

Important Dates:

Final exam: Thursday, December 13, 10:30 – 12:30

Course Description and Objectives:

This course provides an overview of the history of Germany and its predecessors. It focuses as much on important events as on important people that helped shape today's country. Besides gaining some knowledge of German history and culture, this course is aimed at further developing critical thinking skills that might allow us to understand "where the Germans are coming from" and where they might be going as a consequence of that.

We will build upon a wide range of language skills in Germ 3040:

Reading: Throughout the course, we will be reading a variety of shorter German texts.

Speaking and listening: Spoken German also constitutes an integral component of the course. You will be expected to participate *actively* in class discussions and group work. During the semester, you will give one group presentation (a famous person/event). Note that it will NOT be sufficient to read out a written text (but key words on flash cards are allowed).

Grammar: You are expected to have a good grasp of intermediate German grammar concepts (although you are responsible for reviewing grammar that still presents you with difficulties, your instructor will be very happy to assist you in these efforts). Occasionally, we will revisit some fundamental grammatical concepts.

Writing: Another focus will be on writing in German - to express ideas, convey information, and improve style and accuracy. We will write one summary (giving a brief overview of the material covered in the last class periods) and one short position paper (commenting on a specific point covered in class), and a third essay (choosing between a second summary or position paper). Besides improving your linguistic skills, both the summaries and position papers are also meant to help you prepare for the final exam. In all writing assignments, the grade will be based on organization and content as well as accuracy of structures and forms.

Required Texts:

Wulf Koepke. *Die Deutschen*. (5th ed.) Thomson Heinle.

Instructor-generated class handouts

General Course Policies:

- No academic dishonesty (plagiarism, machine translation, inappropriate help by tutors, etc.)
- No late homework accepted
- *Active* participation
- Attendance will be taken

REGULAR ATTENDANCE is required. Repeated unexcused absences and tardiness will affect your grade significantly. Three tardies is the equivalent of one absence. Leaving class before the end of the period will be considered an absence. You are allowed a maximum of two (2) absences, whether excused or unexcused, without penalty. After two absences, your attendance grade will suffer in percent. After the eighth (8th) absence, you will receive a failing grade for the entire class. Under certain circumstances, special accommodations can be made at the instructor's discretion.

MACHINE TRANSLATION. The use of machine translators (aka computer translation) such as Babelfish is strictly prohibited. Any assignment that is determined to have been translated from English by a computer will receive an F.

TUTORS: Some of our students work with tutors and can benefit from this additional work. Please note that tutors *help* you do your work but may not do it for you. If you are helped by a tutor in completing writing assignments, I need to see both your first draft and a final version of the assignment, showing evidence of your unaided work and results of the tutor's input.

Evaluation:

Grade Distribution:

Attendance and <i>Active</i> participation	10%	A = 100 – 90%
Homework	20%	B = 89.9 – 80%
Presentation	12.5%	C = 79.9 – 70%
Summary I	12.5%	D = 69.9 – 60%
Position paper I	12.5%	F = 59.9 – 0%
Summary/Position paper II	12.5%	
Final Exam	20%	

Assignments/Course Requirements:

1. Participation: Besides becoming more fluent in important topics in German culture, you will be expected to work steadily on developing your proficiency in reading, writing, and oral expression. Careful preparation for class and regular, active participation are the foundation of this course! **Cellular phones must be switched off and kept out of sight. If it is visible to the instructor, you will receive a zero grade for participation on that day. The use of laptop computers in class is not allowed.**

2. Homework: Homework will typically consist of taking notes, formulating comments, and asking questions on the reading assigned for the class. Besides facilitating discussion during class, this activity is meant to further activate your linguistic skills in German and help you in the writing of the summaries as well as in the preparation for the final exam. In general, all homework is to be turned in *before* class starts. **If it is specified by the instructor that the homework is to be turned in *after class*, take notes during class in a *different color*.**

3. Summaries and Position Papers: Essays are written in class and should have a length of about 200-250 words.

4. Final Exam: At the end of the semester, we will be taking a comprehensive final exam in German. It will consist of questions on the readings and discussions of the class. In preparation of this exam, you will be turning in homework regularly, and write summaries and position papers. Note that taking notes during class will help you immensely!

If you have questions or concerns at any point during the semester, please contact your instructor. Plan on attending office hours at least once during the semester, even if it is just for an informal visit. Furthermore, I encourage you to use *Kaffeeklatsch* and any other activities or films for additional speaking practice.

I hope that your study of German will be stimulating, productive and enjoyable and wish you a successful semester! I am looking forward to this class ☺

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 Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities 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 www.unt.edu/csrr.

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.

American with Disabilities Act Compliance:

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

The University of North Texas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112, The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

Students must follow the Procedure for Requesting Special Accommodation, as indicated in the UNT Policy Manual, Volume 3, 18.1.14, part II. According to these guidelines, "[w]ithin the first week of class, qualified students must notify the instructor or academic unit liaison for disability accommodation that options to standard methods of educational access will be needed" (part II, section B).

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, 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 SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

<http://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/de/>

Nützliche Internet-Adressen

www.dw-world.de (German news, radio, and TV online)

www.tagesschau.de (German news with TV clips)

www.spiegel.de (Leading political magazine, with a link to the "Gutenberg-Projekt", the largest online collection of German literature)

www.faz.de, www.zeit.de, www.sueddeutsche.de (Leading German newspapers)

www.campus-germany.de (If you plan to study in Germany...)

Tentative Schedule

Woche	Inhalte	Aufgaben
WEEK 1 Aug. 29 – 31	Introduction to the course, I. ALTERTUM (Germanen, Völkerwanderung)	
WEEK 2 Sept. 3 Labor Day Sept. 4 – 7	II. Anfang des MITTELALTERs <i>Karolinger</i> (Karl der Große)	
WEEK 3 Sept. 10 – 14	<i>Ottonen</i> (Heinrich I, Otto I)	
WEEK 4 Sept. 17 – 21	<i>Salier</i> (Heinrich IV) und <i>Staufer</i> (Friedrich I, Barbarossa)	
WEEK 5 Sept. 24 – 28	III. Leben im Mittelalter <i>Allgemeines</i> (Adel, Rittertum, Goldene Bulle, Schwarze Pest)	Summary I
WEEK 6 Oct. 1 – 5	<i>Wirtschaft</i> (Städte, Hanse, Fugger)	
WEEK 7 Oct. 8 – 12	<i>Kultur</i> (Universitäten, Gutenbergs Druckpresse)	
WEEK 8 Oct. 15 – 19	IV. NEUZEIT und Reformation, <i>Habsburger</i> (Luther, Bauernkriege)	Position Paper I
WEEK 9 Oct. 22 – 26	<i>Der Dreißigjährige Krieg</i> (Gustav Adolf, Wallenstein)	
WEEK 10 Oct. 29 – Nov. 2	V. Österreich (Maria Theresia) / Preußen, Hohenzollern (Friedrich der Große)	
WEEK 11 Nov. 5 – 9		Summary/Position Paper II
WEEK 12 Nov. 12 – 16	VI. Ende des Ersten Reiches / Anfang des Zweiten Reiches (Bismarck)	
WEEK 13 Nov. 19 – 21 Nov. 22 - 25 Thanksgiving	VII. Erster Weltkrieg und Weimarer Republik	
WEEK 14 Nov. 26 – 30	VIII. Das Dritte Reich (Hitler)	
WEEK 15 (Pre-finals week) Dec. 3 – 5 Dec. 7 Reading Day	IX. Nachkriegszeit	