

<p style="text-align: center;">UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES</p>
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Introduction to German Linguistics – 4330
FALL SEMESTER 2010

General Information:

Instructor: Dorian Roehrs
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Tel#: (940) 565-4928
Main office: (940) 565-2404

Office hours: 1 – 2 TR or by appointment (LB 401-J)
Class meets: 2 – 3:20 TR (LB 319)

Important Dates:

Final project: Tuesday, December 14, no later than 3:30 (in my mail box)

Course Description and Objectives:

After a general introduction, we will be exploring the four core fields of German linguistics (phonetics/phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics) as well as topics with regard to historical and contemporary varieties of the language. Besides developing analytical linguistic skills and a deeper understanding of language, our general goal is to improve proficiency in the language.

On the basis of assigned readings, we will complete three assignments that help us explore and understand the pertinent issues of the relevant topics. Furthermore, after three quarters of the class, students will take an almost-final exam that will help and prepare them for the final project. As to the latter, in consultation with the instructor, students will choose a topic and investigate it. We will be working on this project throughout the final third of the course and present it as a group effort at the end.

We will build upon a wide range of language skills in Germ 4330:

Reading: Throughout the course, we will be reading our textbook and some other texts. For the class to be a success, it is important to take notes in German at home.

Speaking and listening: Spoken German also constitutes an integral component of the course. You are encouraged to participate *actively* in class discussions and group work. The notes taken at home will help you with this considerably.

Grammar: You are expected to have a good grasp of intermediate concepts of German grammar. During the course, we will revisit some of these grammar points with the intention to understand and use them better.

Writing: Another focus will be on writing in German - to express ideas and to argue a point. We will have three homework assignments to be turned in and a one-page summary of the final project.

Required Texts:

Jean Boase-Beier & Ken Lodge. 2003. *The German Language. A Linguistic Introduction*. Blackwell.

Instructor-generated class handouts

General Course Policies:

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 absence, you will receive a failing grade for the entire class. Under certain circumstances, special accommodations can be made at the instructor's discretion.

COLLECTIVE WORK. Students are allowed (in fact, encouraged) to work together on the homework assignments. However, every student will turn in their own write-up (and not a copy of somebody else's). The final project requires group work (of max. three students).

Evaluation:

Attendance and <i>active</i> participation	10%
Notes taken on readings	10%
Homework (3 x 10%)	30%
Almost Final Exam	25%
Presentation (15%) and summary (10%) of final project	25%

Grade Distribution:

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

Assignments/Course Requirements:

1. Participation: Besides becoming more fluent in important topics in German grammar and linguistics, we will be working steadily on developing our language skills. 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.**

2. Homework: Unless otherwise specified by the instructor, all homework is to be turned in *before* class starts. Since some of the reading will be in English, it will typically consist of taking notes, formulating comments, and asking questions in German 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 preparation for the almost-final exam and the project.

3. Final Project: In the last part of the class, students will, in consultation with the instructor, choose a topic, try to formulate an initial hypothesis, and argue a point. The results of this will be presented as a group effort and turned in as a one-page summary no later than December 14 (in my mail box).

4. Written Assignments: Please format any of these works as follows:

- * Length: 1- (max.) 3 pages (homework)
- * Font: Times New Roman
- * Font Size: 12, double spaced
- * Extra margin right: 2 inches
- * Always hand in a printed version! Do not send it as an e-mail attachment!

Failure to follow this format will result in a lower grade of up to 10 %!!

5. Almost-Final Exam: After three quarters of the semester, we will be taking an (almost) comprehensive exam in German. It will consist of short questions and identifications based on the readings and discussions of the class. In preparation of this exam, you will be turning in your notes and homework regularly. N.B.: taking notes during class will help you immensely!

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

If you have questions or concerns at any point during the semester, please contact your instructor. I would also like to encourage you to use *Kaffeeklatsch* and any other activities or films for additional language 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 ☺

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.

Nützliche Internet-Adressen

<http://www.nthuleen.com/teach/grammar.html> (There you find explanations and Worksheets (Arbeitsblatt) and the solutions (Lösungsblatt) for all sorts of Grammar Issues.)

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

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

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

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)

Tentative Schedule

week	contents	assignments
WEEK 1 Aug. 26 – Aug. 27	Introduction to the course	
WEEK 2 Aug. 30 – Sept. 3	Chapter 1: Introduction, Twain: <i>The Awful German Language</i> Chapter 2: Syntax	
WEEK 3 Sept. 6 Labor Day Sept. 7 - 10	Words, phrases, sentences Word order	
WEEK 4 Sept. 13 – 17	Different positions of the verb Case	homework #1
WEEK 5 Sept. 20 – 24	Chapter 3: Morphology Parts of words	
WEEK 6 Sept. 27 – Oct. 1	Different kinds of word formation	
WEEK 7 Oct. 4 – 8	Chapter 4: Phonetics Production of sounds	
WEEK 8 Oct. 11 – 15	Chapter 5: Phonology Types of sounds	
WEEK 9 Oct. 18 – 22	Combination of sounds (syllables) Sound alternations (e.g., <i>König – Könige</i>)	homework #2
WEEK 10 Oct. 25 – 29	Chapter 6: Lexis Idioms	
WEEK 11 Nov. 1 – 5	Registers Relations between words	choose a topic for project
WEEK 12 Nov. 8 – 12	Chapter 8: Historical Background Indo-european, Germanic	Almost-final Exam
WEEK 13 Nov. 15 – 19	Early Varieties of German Later and Modern German	
WEEK 14 Nov. 22 – Nov. 24 Nov. 25 - 28 Thanksg.	Chapter 9: Contemporary Variation Dialects, stylistic levels	homework #3
WEEK 15 Nov. 29 – Dec. 3	Pennsylvania German Texas German	preparation of final project preparation of final project
WEEK 16 (Pre-finals) Dec. 6 – 9 Dec. 10 Reading Day	Review	Presentation and Summary of Final Project