

<p style="text-align: center;">UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF WORLD LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, AND CULTURES</p>

Introduction to German Linguistics – GERM 4330
Spring Semester 2018

General Information:

Instructor: Dorian Roehrs
Email: roehrs@unt.edu
Main office: (940) 565-2404

Office hours: TR 11:30 – 12:20 or by appointment (LANG 401-J)
Class meets: TR 12:30 – 1:50 (LANG 204)

Important Dates:

Final project: Thursday, May 10, 10:30 – 12:30

Course Description and Objectives:

After a general introduction, we will be exploring the *structural* areas of German linguistics ([phonetics/phonology,] morphology, syntax, semantics) as well as topics with regard to historical and contemporary *variation* of the language. Besides developing analytical linguistic skills and a deeper understanding of language, our general goal is to improve proficiency in the language. 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 and elaborate on some of these grammar points with the intention to understand them better.

Writing: Another focus will be on writing in German - to express ideas and to argue a point. We will have regular homework assignments to be turned in as well as a summary and poster based on the final project.

Required Texts:

Fagan, Sarah. 2009. *German: A Linguistic Introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

General Course Policies:

1. Attendance: 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.

2. 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.**

3. Homework: Unless otherwise specified by the instructor, all homework is to be turned in **before** class starts. These assignments will consist of taking notes, problem sets, and short essays. Since some of the reading will be in English, these assignments are to be prepared in German. They are meant to further activate your linguistic skills in German and help you in the preparation for the Midterm exam and the final project.

4. Midterm Exam on *Structure*: After half the semester, we will be taking an exam in German. It will consist of short questions and identifications based on the readings and discussions of the first part of the class. In preparation of this exam, you will be turning in homework regularly. N.B.: taking notes at home and during class will help you immensely!

5. Final Project on *Variation*: In the last part of the class, students will, in consultation with the instructor, choose a topic and elaborate on it. Focusing on issues related to German-based minority languages such as Texas German and Yiddish, students will present the results of this work as a group effort and turn it in as an individually written-up one-page summary and a collectively created poster on **May 10**.

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).

All class communication will be sent to your official UNT email address.

Evaluation:

Attendance and active participation	10%
Homework (taking notes on readings)	15%
Homework (problem sets, short essays)	15%
Midterm Exam	25%
Presentation	10%
Final Project (summary 10%, poster 15%)	25%

Grade Distribution:

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

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:

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 Accommodation (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 see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at [940.565.4323](tel:940.565.4323).

Acceptable Student Behavior:

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 www.deanofstudents.unt.edu

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: <http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources>. Renee LeClaire McNamara is UNT's Student Advocate and she can be reached through e-mail at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students' office at 940-565-2648.

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT):

The student evaluation of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. A 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 SPOT to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Nützliche Internet-Adressen

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

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

Tentative Schedule

week	contents		assignments
WEEK 1 Jan. 15 MLK Day Jan. 16 – 19	Introduction to the course; Twain: <i>The Awful German Language</i> ; Introduction		
WEEK 2 Jan. 22 – 26	Structure	Chapter 2: Morphology Parts of words	hw
WEEK 3 Jan. 29 – Feb. 2		Different kinds of word formation: Affixation, Derivation, Compounding	hw
WEEK 4 Feb. 5 – 9		Chapter 3: Syntax Words, phrases, sentences Word order	hw
WEEK 5 Feb. 12 – 16		Different positions of the verb Case	hw
WEEK 6 Feb. 19 – 23		Chapter 4: Semantics Idioms	hw
WEEK 7 Feb. 26 – Mar. 2		Registers Relations between words	Midterm Exam
WEEK 8 March 5 – 9	Variation	Chapter 5: History of the Language Indo-European, Germanic	hw
WEEK 9		Spring Break	
WEEK 10 March 19 – 23		Early Varieties of German Later and Modern German	hw
WEEK 11 March 26 – 30		Chapter 6: Regional Variation Dialects	hw
WEEK 12 April 2 – 6		Pennsylvania German Texas German	hw - find topic for Final Project
WEEK 13 April 9 – 13		Chapter 7: Sociolinguistic Issues Stylistic levels	hw
WEEK 14 April 16 – 20		Language and Gender Colloquial German	hw
WEEK 15 April 23 – 27		Preparation of Final Project Preparation of Final Project	
WEEK 16 April 30 – May 3 May 4 Reading Day		PowerPoint Presentation PowerPoint Presentation	Presenation Presentation
Finals		May 10, 2018; 10:30-12:30	
		Summary and poster of Final Project (German-speaking minorities)	