

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

**German History – GERM 3042**  
**Fall Semester 2019**

**General Information:**

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

Office hours: **MW 1:00 – 1:50 or by appointment (LANG 401-J)**  
Class meets: **MWF 10:00 – 10:50 (LANG 113)**

**Important Dates:**

Final exam: **Saturday, December 7, 8:00 – 10:00**

**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 3042:

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 two group presentations (a famous person and an event/cultural phenomenon). 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), one short position paper (commenting on a specific point covered in class), and a third essay (choosing between a second summary or another 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*. (5<sup>th</sup> 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

## Assignments/Course Requirements:

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 **three (3)** absences, whether excused or unexcused, without penalty. After **three** absences, your attendance grade will suffer in percent. After the **twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>)** 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 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! **The use of laptop computers in class is not allowed. Occasionally, we will be using cellular phones as part of class activities.**

3. 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.**

4. Presentations, Summaries, and Position Papers: Presentations are given in a group taking 10-15 minutes (about 5 minutes per person). Essays are written in class and should have a length of about 200-250 words.

5. 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!

## Evaluation:

## Grade Distribution:

Attendance and <i>active</i> participation	10%	A = 100 – 90%
Homework	20%	B = 89.9 – 80%
Presentation 1 (event/cult. phenomenon)	7.5%	C = 79.9 – 70%
Presentation 2 (person)	10%	D = 69.9 – 60%
Summary I	10%	F = 59.9 – 0%
Position paper I	10%	
Summary/Position paper II	12.5%	
Final Exam	20%	

If you have questions or concerns at any point during the semester, please contact your instructor. 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 ☺

## 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 [https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/07.012\\_CodeofConduct\\_2013\\_0.pdf](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/07.012_CodeofConduct_2013_0.pdf)

### **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>.

The UNT Survivor Advocates can be reached by emailing [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or calling 940-565-2648. The UNT Survivor Advocates connect students who have been impacted by violence to resources (counseling, health, safety, academics, legal, etc.), and act as their advocate. They can assist a student by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change (if needed), and connecting students to the many other resources that are available, both on and off campus. They are here to help! For more information see <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/sexual-misconduct/reporting-sexual-misconduct>

### **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 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 <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

### **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

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

# TENTATIVE OUTLINE GUIDE

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO RIGID ADHERENCE TO THIS SCHEDULE, SHOULD THE CLASS NEED MORE TIME FOR SOME SECTIONS AND LESS TIME FOR OTHER SECTIONS.

Woche	Inhalte	Aufgaben
WEEK 1 Aug. 26 – Aug. 30	Introduction to the course, <b>I. ALTERTUM</b> (Germanen, Völkerwanderung)	
WEEK 2 <b>Sept. 2 Labor Day</b> Sept. 3 – Sept. 6	<b>II. Anfang des MITTELALTERs</b> <i>Karolinger</i> (Karl der Große)	
WEEK 3 Sept. 9 – 13	<i>Ottonen</i> (Heinrich I, Otto I)	
WEEK 4 Sept. 16 – 20	<i>Salier</i> (Heinrich IV) <b>und</b> <i>Staufer</i> (Friedrich I, Barbarossa)	
WEEK 5 Sept. 23 – 27	<b>III. Leben im Mittelalter</b> <i>Allgemeines</i> (Adel, Rittertum, Goldene Bulle, Schwarze Pest)	Summary I
WEEK 6 Sept. 30 – Oct. 4	<i>Wirtschaft</i> (Städte, Hanse, Fugger)	
WEEK 7 Oct. 7 – 11	<i>Kultur</i> (Universitäten, Gutenbergs Druckpresse)	
WEEK 8 Oct. 14 – 18	<b>IV. NEUZEIT und Reformation,</b> <i>Habsburger</i> (Luther, Bauernkriege)	Position Paper I
WEEK 9 Oct. 21 – 25	<i>Der Dreißigjährige Krieg</i> (Gustav Adolf, Wallenstein)	
WEEK 10 Oct. 28 – Nov. 1	<b>V. Österreich</b> (Maria Theresia) / <b>Preußen bis 1815, Hohenzollern</b> (Friedrich der Große)	
WEEK 11 Nov. 4 – Nov. 8	Finish and review	Summary/Position Paper II
WEEK 12 Nov. 11 – 15	<b>VI. Ende des Ersten Reiches und des Dualismus / Anfang des Zweiten Reiches</b> (Bismarck)	
WEEK 13 Nov. 18 – 22	<b>VII. Erster Weltkrieg und Weimarer Republik</b>	
WEEK 14 Nov. 25 – Nov. 27 <b>Nov. 28 - 29 Thanksgiving</b>	<b>VIII. Das Dritte Reich</b> (Hitler)	
WEEK 15 (Pre-final week) Dec. 2 – 5 <b>Dec. 6 Reading Day</b>	<b>IX. Nachkriegszeit</b>	