

German 111
Fall Semester 2018
Beginning German I
MWF 2-3 TR 1:40-3 :05
http://faculty.mercer.edu/weintraut_ej

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Office Hours: M 10-11; T 11-12; R 3-4
and by appointment

Course Purpose:

This course is designed to help you cultivate a basic level of proficiency in all four language skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking). You will learn the basic structures and vocabulary of German while understanding fundamental cultural practices common to native speakers. This course is appropriate for students who have had less than two years of high-school German study or complete novices to the language. In this course you will acquire a basic ability to listen, speak, read, and write in German while becoming familiar with everyday culture in German-speaking regions.

This course fulfills a general education requirement since you will be able to demonstrate competency in German by the ability to articulate the role of language through comparative reflection with your own native language; characterize the culture(s) that use German; appropriately use the structures of German; and communicate meaningfully in writing in German.

Required Texts

Tschirner/Nikolai, Kontakte (Eighth edition: McGraw Hill; 978-1-25989137-3)
ConnectGerman Online (be sure to purchase Kontakte WITH the viable ConnectGerman key)

Grading Policy

fractional grades after "x.44" are rounded up (e.g. 64.45 = 65)

A (90-100)	B+ (86-89)	B (80-85)		
C+ (76-79)	C (70-75)	D (66-69)	F (00-65)	
Homework				10%
Cultural PowerPoint/Prezi				5%
Compositions				15%
Tests and Quizzes				55%
Final Exam (Monday, 10 December, 2-5 pm)				15%

**No Class Sessions on Monday, 3 September; Thursday-Friday, 11-12 October;
Wednesday-Friday, 21-23 November
Withdrawal Deadline on Friday, 26 October**

**You are expected to observe the provisions of the Mercer Honor Code.
You may not solicit help on any class assignment from native or near-native speakers of German,
nor may you have any electronic device within reach during testing situations.
I will report any perceived violation of the Honor Code
immediately to the Honor Council, without exception.**

*Students in need of accommodation due to a disability should contact the Access and Accommodation Office to complete the verification process to become approved for services. In order to receive accommodations, each term, students will request accommodation and faculty notification forms through the Access Office online system Accommodate. Students are strongly encouraged to schedule a meeting with each professor in a timely manner to discuss arrangements. Accommodations are not retroactive in nature. Note - **Disability accommodations or status are not reflected on academic transcripts**. Students with a history of a disability, perceived as having a disability or with a current disability who do not wish to use academic accommodations are also strongly encouraged to complete the verification process with the Access Office. **Students must request accommodations in a timely manner to receive accommodations in a timely manner.***

*The Access Coordinator for Macon Campus is
Katie Johnson, Director and ADA/504 Coordinator.
Phone: (478) 301-2778; email: johnson_kc@mercer.edu
Website: www.access.mercer.edu*

Attendance Policy and Class Participation

You are expected to attend each class session and to contribute constructively to classroom activities. Absences will affect your final grade adversely. Unless you provide me and/or the Dean's office with a valid written excuse for an absence, I will consider your absence unexcused. For each class session missed after your **fifth** unexcused absence, two points will be deducted from your final course grade.

Despite the best of our intentions, laptops, tablets, cell phones, text messengers and pagers tend to become troublesome distractions. For this reason I want you to turn those devices off as soon as class starts. I will let you know when it is appropriate to access such devices for our class activities. First-time violators will receive a warning; for every subsequent infraction **three** points will be deducted from the final course grade.

Homework

Homework will be assigned on a daily basis and must be submitted before the beginning of the next class meeting (ideally, an hour or so before class begins). Late submissions receive NO credit. Assignments will be based primarily on web-based materials and hard-copy worksheets. Each component of a homework assignment is graded (3=excellent; 2=good; 1=adequate; 0=unacceptable, late, or not submitted). The total number of points accrued by the end of the semester constitutes ten percent of your final grade. Homework assignments and other ancillary materials will be updated regularly on the Canvas site for this course. Any special group projects that are assigned will be graded under the rubric "Homework." Given the number and variety of homework assignments, there are no provisions for any extra-credit work.

In an ongoing effort to improve the quality of instruction, each student enrolled in this course is required to complete an end-of-semester course evaluation. Students failing to submit the evaluation by the deadline will be assigned the grade of "Incomplete."

Cultural PowerPoint/Prezi

By the beginning of September you will identify three other students with whom you would like to research a particular German festival or holiday. To be specific:

Bundesfeiertag (1 August; Schweiz)
Oktoberfest (19 September-4 October): cultural traditions
Oktoberfest (19 September-4 October): current practices
Tag der Deutschen Einheit (3 October)
Nationalfeiertag (26 October; Österreich)
9. November
Advent (29 November) (20 November)
St Niklaus Tag (6 December)
Heiliger Abend/Weihnachten (24.-25. December)
Silvester/Neujahrstag (31. December-1. January)

Your group will then create a PowerPoint or Prezi on this topic and make a presentation in class (**in English!**). I will evaluate your presentation according to the rubric distributed in class; you will evaluate the quality of contributions made by each of your team members.

Compositions

Objectives and evaluation criteria for each written composition will be assigned at least one week prior to the deadline for submission. Late submissions will be penalized 10 points for every calendar day past the deadline. If a rewrite is required or desired, you must hand in the revision by the second deadline. The revision will account for 35% of the composition grade (the original draft constituting the remaining 65%).

Quizzes and Tests

In-class quizzes last approximately 5-10 minutes and will be announced at least one class day in advance. From time to time you may be required to complete a grammar, vocabulary, or listening comprehension quiz electronically via Canvas. The average of all your quiz grades will be considered to have the value of one major test. You may drop your lowest test grade (or two lowest quiz grades) at the end of the semester.

Three major, hour-long tests are tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, 13 September**; **Thursday, 18 October**; and **Monday, 19 November**. If necessary, we can negotiate adjustments to this schedule in class. These tests are comprehensive, emphasizing the material presented in the most recent chapter, while including items from previous tests. Tests and quizzes may **NOT** be made up unless your absence had been excused by the University or Dean's Office.

The final examination **must** be taken on **Monday, 10 December**, between 2 and 5 pm. The final exam will be comprehensive. Special emphasis will be placed on material covered in the final three weeks of the semester.

Access to Course Grades

Grades will be posted and updated weekly on Canvas. I strongly encourage you to check these data on a regular basis; please report any discrepancies or inaccuracies to me immediately. I also invite you to discuss your progress with me as often as you wish. I will not discuss your grades over the phone, via e-mail, or with anyone but you. If you receive a failing grade on any test, you **must** consult with me immediately.

Course Objectives: Functional Skills To Be Mastered

General Abilities

- Speaking: You'll be able to adapt and personalize memorized material to form questions, statements, requests, and commands in everyday situations in a way that a sympathetic native speaker would understand
- Listening: You'll be able to comprehend basic spoken discourse pertaining to familiar situations in a well-defined and limited context
- Reading: You'll be able to comprehend narratives and dialogues on familiar topics, composed in simple, declarative sentences
- Writing: You'll be able to record in narrative or dialogue sentences or paragraphs which communicate some of your everyday, practical needs.

Specific Abilities

- 1) Exchanging Pleasantries
Greeting Others, Learning Names, Discussing Weather
- 2) Sharing Personal Information
Birth Place, Current Residence, Likes and Dislikes, Appearance, Employment Situation, Academic Situation, Family Relations, Recreational Activities, Frequency or Duration of Activities
- 3) Addressing Friends and Strangers
Making Requests; Asking Questions
- 4) Using Numbers
Telling Time, Exchanging Currencies, Counting Items, Determining Cost of items, Explaining Duration and Frequency
- 5) Describing Everyday Scenes and Situations in Simple Narratives