

German 252
Spring Semester 2018
Intermediate German II
MWF 9:00-9:50
http://faculty.mercer.edu/weintraut_ej

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Office Hours: M 10:00-11:00
W 4:30-5:00
F 11:00-11:45
and by appointment

Course Purpose:

The primary objective of this course is to introduce more advanced features of the German language and to help you cultivate strategies that will enable you to communicate in German with greater confidence and sophistication. Teaching you how to communicate effectively in German is my most important goal in this course, although I am not completely willing to sacrifice grammatical accuracy.

By the end of the semester you should be able to **read** and understand articles and stories written for native Germans; many of these deal with cultural topics. Although you will still have to read a text several times for satisfactory understanding, you should be able to comprehend the main ideas and increasingly more details.

By the end of the semester you should be able to **write** cohesive factual and hypothetical narratives in present, past, and future time references. Ideally, you should start using cohesive elements such as personal pronouns, relative pronouns, and conjunctions to enhance the rhetorical structure of your writing.

By the end of the semester you should be able to **understand spoken German** used in a variety of everyday contexts you have already encountered. You should be able to understand the main ideas of spoken reports or conversations, but your comprehension of details may still be uneven.

By the end of the semester you should begin to **converse** meaningfully with others on a variety of uncomplicated themes based on everyday life. Your speech will likely be characterized by inaccuracies and long pauses, and there will be moments when you are at a loss to find the "right word" or the appropriate grammatical structure. Your pronunciation and intonation may still be heavily influenced by your American dialect, but your speech should become ever more understandable to sympathetic native speakers of German.

This course is appropriate for students who have completed three semesters of German study at the college level.

Required Texts

Wells/Rankin, Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik (Sixth edition: Cengage; 978-1-305-07884-0)

As in all courses, you are expected to observe the provisions of the Mercer Honor Code. Unless otherwise authorized, you may not solicit help on any class assignment from native or near-native speakers of German. I will report any perceived violation of the Honor Code immediately to the Honor Council, without exception.

*“Students requiring accommodations or modifications for a disability should inform the instructor at the close of the first class meeting or as soon as possible. The instructor will refer you to the ACCESS and Accommodation Office to document your disability, determine eligibility for accommodations under the ADA/Section 504 and to request a Faculty Accommodation Form. Disability accommodations or status will not be indicated on academic transcripts. In order to receive accommodations in a class, students with sensory, learning, psychological, physical or medical disabilities must provide their instructor with a Faculty Accommodation Form to sign. Students must return the signed form to the ACCESS Coordinator. **A new form must be requested each semester.** Students with a history of a disability perceived as having a disability or with a current disability who does not wish to use academic accommodations are also strongly encouraged to register with the ACCESS and Accommodation Office and request a Faculty Accommodation Form each semester. For further information, please contact Katie Johnson, Director and ADA/504 Coordinator, at 301-2778 or visit the ACCESS and Accommodation Office website at <http://www.mercer.edu/disabilityservices>*

I reserve the right to determine on a case-by-case basis whether any circumstances (e.g. hospitalization, family tragedy, official Mercer function) make it appropriate to waive any policy described below.

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%
Compositions			18%
Oral Presentation			10%
Recitation and Interpretation			12%
Tests (2)			36%
Final Exam (Monday, 30 April, 9-noon)			14%

Attendance Policy and Class Participation

I expect you 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 fourth absence, one point will be deducted from your final course grade.

Cell phones, text messengers **and** pagers must be turned off before entering the classroom or language lab. First-time violators will receive a warning; for every subsequent infraction **five** 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 materials derived from the textbook (including web-based exercises). 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. Given the number and variety of homework assignments, there are no provisions for any extra-credit work.

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 5 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 30% of the composition grade (the original draft constituting the remaining 70%).

Cultural Presentation

In the first week of classes you select one of the following holidays. On the suggested date listed you will make a brief presentation (between 5 and 10 minutes) **in German**:

Suggested Topics

Karneval (Braunschweig)
Rosenmontag (Köln)
Fasching (München)
Fasnet (Rottenburg in Baden-Württemberg)
Ostern (identify town or region)
Christihimmelfahrt (identify town or region)
Tag der Arbeit (identify town or region)
Pfingstmontag (identify town or region)
Fronleichnam (identify town or region)

Suggested Dates

26 February
26 February
28 February
28 February
28 March
11 April
11 April
16 April
16 April

In your presentation you should first identify and discuss the town or region which you are focusing on and then the customs or traditions associated with this holiday/festival. Your presentation should illustrate your topic with a variety of images.

Your oral presentation will be evaluated by me and students according to a rubric distributed in class. It must be delivered as **extemporaneously** as possible, without reading from a written script or PowerPoint notes. I'm mostly interested in seeing how you are cultivating **your own idiom** in speaking German in real time! Reading from any script will automatically reduce the grade for this presentation by fifteen points.

In order to ensure the accuracy of your information and the quality of your use of the German language, you will need to submit a paper in which you describe the salient features of your oral presentation **at least one week before** speaking to class. One of your goals is to use language that is readily accessible to the students. If there is any delay in meeting this deadline, your final grade for this assignment will be lowered by 5 points per day.

This paper will serve as one of your composition grades. It does not necessarily have to be identical to the presentation you will be making orally, but should be reasonably similar.

Recitation and Interpretation

During the final week of the semester you will recite one of the poems from the collection distributed in class. After reciting the poem (by heart!) with some animation, you will (in German) provide a brief biography of the poet, explain how you interpret the poem, and lead a brief discussion about the poem's meaning. I will evaluate your recitation (4%) and interpretation (6%) according to a rubric distributed in class (e.g. memorization, pronunciation, and animation for reciting; range of vocabulary, accuracy of grammar, and engaging other students for interpreting). All listeners are responsible for learning the information you present!

Quizzes and Tests

Quizzes last approximately 10-15 minutes and will be announced at least one class day in advance. You may be required to complete a grammar, vocabulary, or listening comprehension quiz electronically via Blackboard. You may drop your lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester. The remaining quiz grades will be averaged to create one test grade.

Two major, hour-long tests are tentatively scheduled for **Friday, 23 February**; and **Wednesday, 4 April**. If necessary, we can negotiate adjustments to this schedule in class. These tests are comprehensive, emphasizing the material presented in the most recent chapters, while including items from previous tests. Tests and quizzes may **NOT** be made up unless your absence has been officially excused.

Final Composition

The final exam must be taken on **Monday, 30 April, from 9 to noon**. The final exam will be comprehensive: your ability to read, write, and understand spoken German will be evaluated; information provided in the cultural presentations is also fair game. This exam may contain a web-based listening comprehension component. Special emphasis will be placed on material covered in the final three weeks of the semester.