Course Purpose:

The primary objective of this course is to review the vocabulary and grammar introduced in the Elementary German sequence, 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 rather simple descriptive and narrative texts that deal primarily with cultural topics. Although you may 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 routine social correspondence, cohesive summaries, and brief descriptions and 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 had more than two years of high-school German study or have completed the elementary German sequence at the college level.

Required Texts

Terrell/Tschirner, Kontakte (Seventh edition: McGraw Hill; 978-1-308-21409-2)
ConnectGerman Online (be sure to purchase Kontakte with the viable ConnectGerman key)
Kernecker/Flippo, Deutsche Sagen und Legenden (National textbook; 978-0-844-22075-8)
Wells/Rankin, Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik (Sixth edition: Cengage; 978-1-305-07884-0)

Kontakte will be used as a bridge between German 112 and German 251; only the key to Online Connect needs to be purchased by students who are new to the program. The Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik serves as the “Bible” for all 200- and 300-level German courses. Deutsche Sagen und Legenden will focus on popular myths and legends and will serve as a means to explore contemporary German culture.
Grading Policy

Fractional grades after “x.44” are rounded up (e.g. 64.45 = 65)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (90-100)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B (80-89)</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td>C (70-75)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D (66-69)</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<td>F (00-065)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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Homework ........................................................................................................ 10%
Cultural PowerPoint/Prezi (1) ................................................................. 5%
Cultural PowerPoint/Prezi (2) ................................................................. 10%
Compositions ............................................................................................. 10%
Tests and Quizzes ..................................................................................... 50%
Final Exam (Friday, 11 December, 7-10 pm) ........................................... 15%

No Class Sessions on Monday, 7 September; Friday, 9 October;
Wednesday, 25 November
Withdrawal Deadline on Friday, 23 October

“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 ADAAA/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 Carole Burrowbridge, Director and ADA/504 Coordinator, at
301-2778 or visit the ACCESS and Accommodation Office website at
http://www.mercer.edu/disabilityservices”*

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.

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.

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 fourth unexcused absence, two points
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 by 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 Blackboard 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 announced deadline will be assigned the grade of “Incomplete.”

Cultural PowerPoint/Prezi

Prior to midterm and prior to the end of the semester you will make a brief presentation (3-5 minutes). The first might deal with one or more objects that is/are important to you personally; the second must deal with some aspects of German culture. This presentation must be held in German; you should use PowerPoint or Prezi to highlight images and/or words that are essential to your presentation. Evaluative criteria include your spoken delivery, your range of vocabulary, your range of grammatical structures, and attractiveness of presentation. Your presentation will be evaluated by me and two other class participants according to a rubric distributed in class. The second presentation contributes more to the final course grade because your skills in German should have improved as the semester nears its end.

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 10-15 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 Blackboard. 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.

Two major, hour-long tests are tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, 30 September and Friday, 13 November. If necessary, we can negotiate adjustments to this schedule in class. These tests are comprehensive, emphasizing the material presented most recently. 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 Friday, 11 December, between 7 and 10 pm. The final exam will be comprehensive; your ability to read, write, and understand spoken German will be evaluated. 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.

Access to Course Grades

Grades will be posted and updated weekly on Blackboard. 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.