

German 4341 Fall 2009

Instructor: Dr. Michael Conner
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Course Description: German 4341 is an upper-division course encompassing a comprehensive review of German grammar. The prerequisite for the course is a grade of C or higher in German 2320 (fourth-semester German) or its equivalent. We will be looking at both theory (how the language works and why) and practice (form-focused and meaning-focused exercises). Because the course is aimed at the non-native speaker of German and prospective German teachers, grammar discussion will be held in English, rather than German. Open-ended communicative practice activities will be in German, as will partner- and group-based communicative activities.

Required text:

Deutsche Wiederholungsgrammatik: A Morpho-Syntactic Review of German. Donahue, Frank. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-300-12468-2.

Testing and Evaluation:

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| 1. Final Exam: | 30% |
| 2. Weekly quizzes: | 50% |
| 3. Homework: | 10% |
| 3. Participation and in-class work: | 10% |

The Learning Outcomes for the Department of Modern Languages are available at <http://www.modlang.txstate.edu/documents.shtml>

Course Policies:

Grades in general : I do not *give* grades – you *earn* them.

Attendance: This course meets two days per week for 80 minutes each class meeting. I take attendance at the beginning of class. You may miss a total of 2 class meetings without incurring any penalty. Beginning with the third absence, your average in the course will drop by 0.5 point per absence. You are responsible for keeping track of your absences yourself – I am not your mother.

Lateness: Students arriving in class after roll has been called will be marked as late and will earn a penalty of half an unexcused absence. Students who arrive late interrupt their fellow classmates' learning; habitually late students will be referred to the Dean of Students office for disruptive behavior. Perpetual lateness will also negatively affect your class participation grade.

Class Participation:

You will not get an automatic A just for being in class with a pulse. Since this is a language class, you are expected to be active and prepared on a daily basis.

Here are the criteria for participation grades:

1. **A--Outstanding Contributor:** Contributions in class reflect exceptional preparation. This student is always prepared and participates every day; he/she volunteers to answer questions and to complete any other language tasks. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of discussion would be diminished markedly.
2. **B--Good Contributor:** Contributions in class reflect thorough preparation. This student is prepared most of the time and participates in activities every day; volunteers less often, but when called upon usually shows knowledge of subject matter. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of discussion would be diminished.
3. **C--Adequate Contributor:** Contributions in class reflect satisfactory preparation. This student is not always prepared, but participates in activities. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of discussion would be diminished somewhat.
4. **D--Non-Participant:** This person says little or nothing in class. Hence, there is not an adequate basis for evaluation. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of discussion would not be changed.
5. **F--Unsatisfactory Contributor:** Contributions in class reflect inadequate preparation. If this person were not a member of the class, valuable air-time would be saved.

A few reminders on courtesy:

- Please do not talk to other students if a student is asking a question or I am answering that question, or if I am speaking to the entire class.
- Put your cell phone into SILENT or VIBRATE mode while in the classroom. *If you put your phone into vibrate mode, please silence it as quickly as possible, as most normal people find it obnoxious.* If your cell phone goes off during class ("goes off" = making any noise other than a vibrating alert), you will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for disruptive behavior and your class participation grade will be negatively affected. *Moreover, if your cell phone goes off during a test or quiz, you will lose a letter grade on that test (yes, I'm serious and yes, I have enforced this policy in the past, and not without a certain amount of glee.)*

- No texting or other use of a cell phone (or iPod Touch) during class.
- No use of laptops (unless *specifically authorized for an assignment or activity*), iPod or other electronic devices during class time.

Testing Policy: Tests must be taken **in ink**. The test will start and end for all students at the same time. If you show up late for a test, you have lost time – and I will not repeat instructions or oral questions that you have missed, unless you have a physician’s note (or other official document.) You have to finish the test at the same time as the other students.

If you fail to show up for an exam at the appointed time without having obtained permission from your instructor in advance of the test, you will receive no credit for the test. If you have a good reason why you cannot take the test, you will have to explain it to your instructor and seek his permission to take it at the earliest possible time. Emergencies that can be substantiated to the satisfaction of your instructor are exceptions. Otherwise, no retests will be allowed.

Academic Honesty: Texas State University has an Academic Honor Code. Full details can be found at <http://www.mrp.txstate.edu/studenthandbook/rules.html#academic> – students are expected to be familiar with it. Ignorance of the definition of plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty is not a valid excuse.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)**

Week 1 (August 26): Introduction to course

Week 2 (Aug 31, Sept 2): Chapter 1-3

Week 3 (Sept 9): No class on Monday (Labor Day); Chapter 4-5

Week 4 (Sept 14, 16): Chapter 6-8

Week 5 (Sept 21, 23): Chapter 8 (cont’d)-9

Week 6 (Sept 28, 30): Chapter 10-11

Week 7 (Oct 5, 7): Chapter 11-12

Week 8 (Oct 12, 14): Chapter 13-14

Week 9 (Oct 19, 21): Chapter 15-16

Week 10 (Oct 26, 28): Chapter 16 (cont’d) -18

Week 11 (Nov 2, 4): Chapter 19-20

Week 12 (Nov 9, 11): Chapter 20 (cont'd)- 21

Week 13 (Nov 16, 18): Chapter 22-23

Week 14 (Nov 23): Chapter 23 (cont'd), THANKSGIVING (classes do not meet 11/25-11/27)

Week 15 (Nov 30, Dec 2): Chapter 24

Week 16 (Dec 7): Last day of class, review for final.

Final Exam time for the course as per the Texas State Registrar's Office calendar: Monday, December 14th, 2009, 2:00-4:30pm. *If you show up late, you have lost time.*