

470:299:01 German Media and Society (1.5 Credits)

Fall 2009

Mondays 7:40pm - 9pm

Upper Lounge, Leupp Hall

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00am-11:00am

Course Description

This course seeks to build awareness of German society and politics, while simultaneously developing German language skills through consistent speaking and writing. Special attention will be paid to the cultural differences between the United States and Germany. Course texts will include print and electronic media, including use of the internet, arts and film. Texts will be chosen and presentations will be graded according to the language level of the students.

Prerequisites

Successful completion of German 102 or equivalent grade on placement test.

Course taught in German.

Grading

Participation: 20%

Homework and Quizzes: 20%

2 Presentations: 30%

Final Exam: 30%

Attendance

All students must attend regularly and arrive prepared. Those who miss more than two class sessions without a compelling excuse (e.g. a doctor's note, college dean's note, etc.) should expect a one-step reduction in the course grade (i.e. an A becomes a B+, a B+ becomes a B). Three late arrivals count as one absence. Note: It is the responsibility of the student who has been absent to find out what they have missed and obtain materials that may have been handed out.

Required Text

Lewis, Derek: *Contemporary Germany. A Handbook*. London: Arnold. 2001

ISBN 0 340 74039 6 (hardcover edition)

ISBN 0 340 74040 X (paperback edition)

Photocopies

Department photocopying fees add up quickly and impressively. Therefore, the department needs to collect five cents per page for any handouts given throughout the semester. *Not* included in this fee are the syllabus, quizzes and tests.

To avoid excessive fees, handouts and readings not found in the textbook will be available for download from German news websites or the course's Sakai webpage. If you cannot log into Sakai, let me know and I will give you access.

<http://sakai.rutgers.edu>

Presentations

There are two presentations.

1. One short presentation (approximately 2-3 minutes, in German) covering a current news subject. The theme should concern an aspect related to German culture or society and preferably be based on a German news source, but given in the student's own words.
2. One long presentation (approximately 10 minutes, in German) on a current issue related to course material researched by the student. While the presentation may be not read, flashcards may be used.

Quizzes

A total of three quizzes will be given at various points throughout the semester. Each quiz will be announced *a week before the quiz is given*. Quizzes will cover material read for the current class period.

Homework

Homework assignments consist primarily of the readings from the textbook specified on the syllabus. Completing the readings will ensure that you are prepared for course discussions and quizzes. *Additional homework and readings not listed on the syllabus will be assigned in class.*

Final Exam

The final exam will be divided into **two separate sections**: an oral exam and written take-home exam (each section worth 15% of the final exam grade).

The take-home essay is a discussion of one issue in contemporary Germany that you find most interesting. It must be about 500-600 words long and is due when you begin the oral exam.

The oral exam is a presentation on an issue in contemporary Germany *separate* from the subject of the take-home exam. The duration of the oral exam is approximately five minutes per student. If you wish, you may find a partner for your oral exam and create a dialogue.

Only one section must be in German (e.g. if your written portion is in German, you may present in English, or vice versa).

The date of the final exam is **Monday, December 21, 2009** between 8pm and 11pm.

Specific time slots will be arranged beforehand for the oral exam.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is an extremely serious matter, and can lead to a student's failing the course and being referred to his or her dean for disciplinary action. When referring to ideas other than your own, whether quoting or paraphrasing, **always acknowledge your sources clearly and completely**. Please see the University's policies on academic integrity at <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html> and discuss with the instructor any questions you may have about this issue.

Disability Support Services:

Students who may be requesting accommodations due to disabilities are encouraged to familiarize themselves with procedures and policies regarding disability support services at the following website: <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>. It is recommended that students seeking accommodations begin filing paperwork as soon as possible as the documentation review process may take up to 30 business days. Students are encouraged to speak with teachers about these issues at the beginning of the term. All such conversations will be kept strictly confidential.

Cell Phones:

Cell phones and all other technological devices (beepers, iPods, MP3players...) must be turned off during class out of respect to the instructor and fellow students. Please schedule all important telecommunications outside of class time.

	Date	Theme	Assigned Work
1	September 8	Introduction	
2	September 14	Quick review of German history; the German States	Pages 23-60
3	September 21	The German Government	Pages 83-100; Please read <i>das Grundgesetz für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland</i> (in German or an English translation) and prepare for comparison to the American Constitution. Both documents are available online.
4	September 28	The German Political Parties	Pages 110-116; Review of German elections
5	October 5	<i>Aktuelles Thema</i> ; WWII/Post-WWII	Print and read assigned article from Sakai; in-class viewing of scenes from: <u>Der Untergang</u>
6	October 12	Post-WWII Germany, <i>BRD/DDR</i>	Pages 1-8; 61-82; in-class viewing of scenes from: <u>Das Leben der Anderen</u> , <u>Die Stille</u>

			<u>nach dem Schuss,</u>
7	October 19	<i>Vereinigung</i>	In-class viewing of scenes from <u>Goodbye, Lenin!</u>
8	October 26	Germany & the EU	Pages 134-137; review the EU website (europa.eu), choose a subject or issue listed and create short presentation summarizing that subject.
9	November 2	<i>Aktuelles Thema</i> ; Extremism in Germany	Print out from Sakai; in-class viewing of scenes from <u>Die Stille nach dem Schuss</u>
10	November 9	Extremism in Germany	Pages 187-191
11	November 16	Immigration/Emigration	Pages 192-197
12	November 23	<i>Vergangenheitsbewältigung</i>	Selections from <u>Die Ermittlung</u> (print from Sakai).
13	November 30	<i>Aktuelles Thema</i>	Print out from Sakai.
14	December 7	Review of the semester	
	December 21 8-11 p.m.	Oral Final Exam	Written portion of final due.

Examples of German-language News Sources

Der Spiegel (German newsmagazine)
www.spiegel.de

Die Welt (German newspaper)
www.welt.de

Die Zeit (German newspaper)
www.zeit.de

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (German newspaper)
www.faz.net

Nachrichten der ARD (German Television Network News)
www.tagesschau.de

Bild (German Tabloid newspaper)
www.bild.de

The Rutgers Library System has many international news publications, which may be utilized in your research.

Visit www.news.google.de as a gateway to further German-language news sources.