

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

Fall 2010  
Mondays 7:40pm - 9pm  
Upper Lounge, Leupp Hall  
Course Index #: **00272**

Devin O'Neal  
[devino@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:devino@rci.rutgers.edu)  
Department of Germanic, Russian and East European Lang. and Lit.  
172 College Avenue  
Main Office: 732-932-7201  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:30-3:30pm and by appointment

**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%

**Course grades as follows:**

A=90-100%; B+=85-89; B=80-84; C+=75-79; C=70-74; D=65-69; F=64 and below

**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

Luscher, Renate: *Landeskunde Deutschland – Von der Wende bis heute*.  
Verlag für Deutsch, 2010.  
ISBN: 9783938251010

### 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 8-10 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 and the accompanying questions. Completing the readings and questions will ensure that you are prepared for course discussions and quizzes. Your answers to the assigned questions will be collected on the due date listed on the syllabus. *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 **December 20th between 8pm and 11pm in our classroom**. 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 communications outside of class time.

|   | <b>Date</b>                    | <b>Topic</b>                            | <b>Assigned Work</b>                                 |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | <b>(Wednesday)</b> September 8 | Introduction;<br>Worksheets             |  |
| 2 | September 13                   | Geografische<br>Lage und<br>Bevölkerung | Pages 8-14,<br>including<br>questions on 9<br>and 11 |
| 3 | September 20                   | Geografische<br>Lage und<br>Bevölkerung | Read: 14-22;<br>ques. 16, 18, & 22                   |

|    |  |                                   |                                    |
|----|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 4  | September 27   | Die Bundesländer                  | Read: 24-43;<br>ques. 26, 43       |
| 5  | October 4  | Die Bundesländer                  | Read: 44-58;<br>ques. 57           |
| 6  | October 11   | Soziales                          | Read: 60-66;<br>ques. 61 & 64      |
| 7  | October 18   | Soziales                          | Read: 67-82;<br>ques. 72, 76, & 81 |
| 8  | October 25   | Politik und<br>öffentliches Leben | Read 84-94                         |
| 9  | November 1   | Politik und<br>öffentliches Leben | Read: 94-108;<br>ques. 103, 107    |
| 10 | November 8   | Kulturelles                       | Read: 110-124;<br>ques. 110, 120   |
| 11 | November 15  | Kulturelles                       | Read: 125-134;<br>ques. 128        |
|    | <b><i>Thanksgiving Recess –<br/>No class Monday November<br/>22<sup>nd</sup></i></b> |                                   |                                    |
| 12 | November 29  | Aus der Wirtschaft                | Read: 136-145;<br>ques. 142        |
| 13 | December 6   | Aus der Wirtschaft                | Read: 145-157;<br>ques. 146        |
| 14 | December 13  | Review                            |                                    |
|    | <b>December 20: Final Exam</b>   |                                   |                                    |