

## 01:470:121 German in Review (4 credits)

Fall 2011

M, Th 9:50am-11:10am SC 116  
W CA A5

Course Index #: 20267

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### Course description

This course will introduce you to the language and cultures of German-speaking countries, using theme-related vocabulary, grammatical structures and authentic materials. The major course objectives, stated broadly, are to understand the nature of human languages and their speakers and to analyze the products of the target culture in relationship to its history and values. Meeting these objectives means that you will practice speaking, writing, reading, and listening to German. At the end of this semester, you will be able to communicate in German regarding the following situations: introducing yourself and giving personal information about yourself, your family, your professional and private life; talking about your daily activities at college and during your leisure time; having simple conversations/ small talk about the weather and your private life in formal and informal dialogues; describing people and objects; talking about your talents and obligations at home and at work; describing living arrangements; expressing wishes and feelings.

You will also learn about cultural perspectives, products, and practices of German-speaking cultures and compare them to those of your own country. Some of the topics addressed this semester include geography and landscape; building styles and regional architecture; university studies and professional education; laws and regulations; and customs and holidays.

By the end of the semester, you will be able to use the German language to express present, past, and future events in simple statements and questions by applying the vocabulary and grammar that you have practiced in class, at home, and in the language lab.

In order to reach these goals, *it is important that you participate in all classroom activities and keep up with out-of-class assignments*, such as independent projects, partner work, and daily written homework. Throughout this course, we emphasize effective communication through linguistic accuracy. Creativity, breadth of expression (through syntax and vocabulary) and variation of language (“style”) in different social contexts and for different tasks are critical to long-term achievement. Therefore, we favor a communicative approach, which highlights critical reading and writing right from the beginning. A balance of activities that are always focused on cultural knowledge will ensure the gradual but continual development of differentiated language abilities in all modalities. Assessment of progress will occur across all modalities and throughout the semester.

*Taught in German*

Prerequisites: Placement test or special permission.

### Assessment

#### A. Class Participation: 10%

Class participation is an essential foundation for learning a language. Consistent and constructive participation will enable students 1) to build up confidence in using German; 2) to experience and learn to negotiate the complex relationship between comprehension and production, between content

and language form; 3) to learn to negotiate and find a useful balance between accuracy, fluency, complexity, and comprehensibility and appropriateness of a message; 4) to obtain feedback from instructor regarding areas of language use in speaking that need further attention. Your class participation grade will be based on the following criteria:

Grade	Criteria
A	always well-prepared always is attentive and eager to volunteer always tries to use German with classmates and instructor always makes the most of each exercise shows real resourcefulness and imagination when using the language always responds to and engages classmates in a respectful manner remains critical and open-minded toward target and native culture
B	usually well-prepared usually is attentive and volunteers occasionally usually tries to use German with classmates and instructor usually makes the most of each exercise completes exercises with some imagination and resourcefulness makes some effort to engage fellow students shows some development of cultural sensitivity
C	adequately prepared and attentive occasionally needs to be reminded to use German with instructor and classmates responds and completes exercises with minimal imagination does not engage classmates beyond the minimum requirements for an assignment
D	usually unprepared makes little effort to participate or complete exercises rarely tries to use German with instructor or classmates
F	makes no contribution to class whatsoever

#### B. Homework and lab work: 15%

A sustained and consistent level of preparation for all aspects of classroom work is critical 1) to ensure regular engagement with focused material outside of class, leading to better preparation for class; 2) to practice and improve accuracy of vocabulary and grammatical forms, particularly through writing to learn activities (e.g., work book practice); 3) to engage in more extended language use that cannot be accomplished in class (e.g., listening comprehension with audio-visual materials, reading comprehension, and beginning writing tasks); 4) to provide an opportunity to work with other students in the class on more comprehensive communicative tasks. Homework will be graded according to the following criteria:

- “check plus” (100%): Homework handed in on time and indicating a very thorough effort, including extended responses to writing prompts and a conscientious use of the answer keys to check and correct responses
- “check” (80%): Homework handed in on time and indicating a satisfactory effort (e.g., inconsistent or ineffective use of the answer key, partially complete responses to writing prompts)
- “check minus” (65%): Homework handed in on time but indicating an unsatisfactory effort (e.g., no use of the answer key to check or correct responses; only minimal answers to writing prompts)

*Note:* You are permitted and even encouraged to use the answer keys in the back of the textbook and the workbook to check your answers and to help you complete the homework assignments effectively. However, there should be a clear indication on your homework (e.g.,

a different color ink) where and to what extent you have used the answer key to assist your completion of the assignment. Failure to do so could result in your receiving no credit for that homework assignment.

In addition, the instructor may give occasional pop-quizzes based on recently covered material that will also count towards the homework grade.

*Late homework assignments will not be accepted.*

### C. Written exams and essays: 30%

1. At the end of several chapters (chapters 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10), tests will assess students' knowledge in specified areas of thematic and cultural as well as linguistic knowledge. Test will comprise reading, writing, and listening skills. Tests will be worth 20% of the final grade. *Chapter tests cannot be made up without a compelling excuse (e.g. doctor's note).*

2. In this course you will have many informal occasions for learning to write in German (e.g., through workbook assignments). In addition, there will be three graded writing assignments. Over the course of the semester they gradually increase in length and complexity, and you will be expected to write two drafts for each assignment. You will receive a grade for the first draft based on the three categories (task, content, and language focus, which will be elaborated for each assignment) as well as feedback from the instructor on how to improve your writing. Your final grade will be based on the quality of your rewrite. Your grade can increase a maximum of two levels (e.g. from B to A-) if significant and appropriate revisions based on instructor feedback have been made. The three writing assignments will constitute 10% of the final grade.

### D. Oral exams: 15% (two oral exams during the semester plus oral final, each valued at 5%)

During the semester you will complete three formally graded individual speaking tasks that will be recorded in the language lab. Approximately 3 min. long, these tasks will allow you to demonstrate your breadth of vocabulary, fluency, comprehensibility, and ability to use grammatical structures.

### E. Written Final: 30%

While chapter tests pertain to highly targeted specific features of the language and expect relatively high levels of formal accuracy, the final exam focuses on integrated tasks (e.g., reading and listening comprehension, short writing assignment) and addresses both language and content knowledge.

Course grades are as follows:

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

### **Required texts**

*Textbook:* Kontakte: A Communicative Approach. Ed. by Erwin Tschirner, Brigitte Nikolai, Tracy D. Terrell. Boston et al.: McGraw-Hill, 6th ed. 2008 (ISBN: 978-0-07-353533-3)

*Workbook:* Kontakte: Arbeitsbuch, (includes Audio Program). 6th ed. 2008 (ISBN: 978-0-07-335515-3)

Available at Rutgers Bookstore, the Ferren Deck Mall in New Brunswick (across from the train station).

Additional materials online: <http://www.mhhe.com/kontakte6>

### **Attendance**

All students must attend regularly and arrive prepared. If you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me. Those who miss more than two class sessions without a compelling excuse (a doctor's note, for instance) 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. Absences for religious observation are excused. However, students are advised to provide timely notification to the instructor about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work or exams according to a previously agreed-upon schedule. In any case of absence, it is the responsibility of the student to find out what he/she missed and obtain materials that may have been handed out.

*Exams and quizzes cannot be made up without a compelling excuse (missed quiz or exam grade=0).*

### **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.

In particular, the use of online translators to complete writing assignments or homework, as well as having your essays proofread by German native speakers or other persons proficient in German before submission, constitutes plagiarism.

### **Photocopies**

Department photocopying expenses add up quickly and impressively. Therefore, the department charges five cents per page for any handouts given throughout the semester. *Not* included in this fee are the syllabus, quizzes, exams, and writing task sheets. As an alternative to photocopies, most handouts will be posted on the course Sakai website. You should be enrolled and have access automatically if you are a registered Rutgers student and have signed up for the class. Go to <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal>, log in using your net id and password, and print out all handouts yourself. Please check Sakai frequently for updates, announcements, and resources.

### **Additional information**

Cell phones and all other technological devices (beepers, iPods, MP3Players, etc.) must be turned off during class out of respect to the instructor and fellow students. Please schedule all important communications outside of class time.

### **Language lab**

You are required to go to the language lab at least once a week to complete the lab assignments. Be sure to sign in via the Internet each time you visit; sign-in information is forwarded to your instructor each week and will be included in your grades. Rutgers-New Brunswick language labs can be found at the following locations:

CAC: Language Lab, 20 Seminary Place, room 119

Douglass: Ruth Adams Building, room 102

Livingston: Tillett Hall, room 202

### **Additional assistance**

Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor to discuss any questions or problems concerning the class. Any student who needs additional help should contact the LRC (Learning Resource Center) or the department's tutors as soon as possible. Additional practice is available at the conversation tables offered each semester at the Language Institute. Informal conversation sessions are also held weekly in the Rutgers students center. Check the German Department website ([www.german.rutgers.edu](http://www.german.rutgers.edu)) for further details.

### **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.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus and add additional homework.

**There will be 3 oral exams in the weeks of October 3, October 31 and December 5**  
**Specific dates to be announced.**

**FALL 2010 TIME TABLE: German 121 (42 class meetings)**

Class	Date	Chapter	Assessment	Major Assignments
1	Sept. 1 Th	Einf. A, B		
2	Sept. 7 W	Einf. A, B		
3	Sept. 8 Th	Ch. 1		
4	Sept. 12 M	Ch. 1		
5	Sept. 14 W	Ch. 2		Chapter 1 workbook due
6	Sept. 15 Th	Ch. 2		
7	Sept. 19 M	Ch. 3	Chapter 1 & 2 test	Chapter 2 workbook due
8	Sept. 21 W	Ch. 3		
9	Sept. 22 Th	Ch. 3		
10	Sept. 26 M	Ch. 3-4		Chapter 3 workbook due
11	Sept. 28 W	Ch. 4		
12	Sept. 29 Th	Ch. 4		
13	Oct. 3 M	Ch. 4		Chapter 4 workbook due
14	Oct. 5 W	Ch. 5	Chapters 3 & 4 test	1 <sup>st</sup> writing assignment: 1 <sup>st</sup> draft due
15	Oct. 6 Th	Ch. 5		
16	Oct. 10 M	Ch. 5		
17	Oct. 12 W	Ch. 5		1 <sup>st</sup> writing assignment: rewrite due
18	Oct. 13 Th	Ch. 6		Chapter 5 workbook due
19	Oct. 17 M	Ch. 6		
20	Oct. 19 W	Ch. 6		Chapter 6 workbook due
21	Oct. 20 Th	Ch. 6		
22	Oct. 24 M	Ch. 7	Chapters 5 & 6 test	
23	Oct. 26 W	Ch. 7		Chapter 7 workbook due
24	Oct. 27 Th	Ch. 7		
25	Oct. 31 M	Ch. 7		
26	Nov. 2 W	Ch. 8		
27	Nov. 3 Th	Ch. 8		
28	Nov. 7 M	Ch. 8		
29	Nov. 9 W	Ch. 8		2 <sup>nd</sup> writing assignment: 1 <sup>st</sup> draft due
30	Nov. 10 Th	Ch. 9	Chapters 7 & 8 test	Chapter 8 workbook due
31	Nov. 14 M	Ch. 9		
32	Nov. 16 W	Ch. 9		2 <sup>nd</sup> writing assignment: rewrite due
33	Nov. 17 Th	Ch. 9		
34	Nov. 21 M	Ch. 10		Chapter 9 workbook due
35	Nov. 22 T No Class	Ch. 10	Class will be made up during Reading Days	
36	Nov. 28 M	Ch. 10		Chapter 10 workbook due
37	Nov. 30 W	Ch. 10		

38	Dec. 1	Th	Ch. 11	Chapters 9 & 10 test	
39	Dec. 5	M	Ch. 11		Chapter 11 workbook due
40	Dec. 7	W	Ch. 11		3 <sup>rd</sup> writing assignment: 1 <sup>st</sup> draft due
41	Dec. 8	Th	Ch. 11		
42	Dec. 12	M	Ch. 11	review day	3 <sup>rd</sup> writing assignment: rewrite due
43	Dec. 13	T	Make-up day for Nov 22		

***Final Exam: Tuesday, December 20, 2011 12-3 p.m. SC 116***