



Course Index: 00261

Credits: 1.5

Meeting Times: Monday 7:40 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (Period 8)

Meeting Place: Murray Hall, Room 112

Prerequisites: 01:470:102 or Placement Test

Instructor: Alexander E. Pichugin

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Office Hours: Mondays 6:00 – 7:30 • Graduate School of Education, ground floor lounge
Tuesdays 4:30 – 6:00 • Scarlet Latte Café on the lower level of Archibald S. Alexander Library
Thursdays 11:30 – 1:00 • Scarlet Latte Café on the lower level of Archibald S. Alexander Library
& by appointment

Course Description

The main goal of this course is to increase the students' cultural awareness through the study of the various media and their role in contemporary German society, while furthering the students' German language skills through consistent speaking, listening, reading, and writing. In this course, we will explore the traditional (book and press), the new (film, radio and television) and the newest media (internet and mobile networking) and the role they play in different realms of contemporary German society in connection to some topics crucial to understanding the modern German-speaking world, including social structure, politics, culture, and everyday life. We will pay special attention to cultural comparisons between Germany and the United States.

In completing the homework assignments, the students will actively engage in watching videos, listening to audio clips, reading texts and participating in asynchronous online discussion. The class sessions will be discussion-based and include prepared, semi-prepared, and spontaneous discussions, which will provide the students with ample opportunity to advance their listening and speaking skills and further develop communication strategies.







All course materials and discussions are in German. The course may be repeated. Three credits from this course may be counted toward the major and minor.

Learning Outcomes for the Course

By the end of the course students will be able to better orient themselves in the German media landscape and engage in meaningful conversation about some aspects of the contemporary German-speaking world.

Assessment

Grade Composition

Aspect	Percentage
 Quality of Discussion Participation (see rubrics below)	15%
 Homework Assignments (Comments, Summaries, Reactions)	24%
 Quizzes (6)	18%
 Online Discussions (6)	18%
 Group Presentation	10%
 Final Examination	15%

Grade Distribution

Grade	Points (%)
A	90–100
B+	85–89
B	80–84
C+	75–79
C	70–74
D	65–69
F	64 and below

Class Participation Rubrics

	Attentiveness	Contribution	Use of German
Expectations are exceeded (90–100%)	The student always pays attention.	The student is always eager to contribute to class discussion, exercises, and group work. The student often asks questions. The student always volunteers answers.	The student speaks only German during class.
Expectations are met (80–89%)	The student pays attention most of the time.	The student is usually eager to contribute to class discussion, exercises, and group work. The student occasionally asks questions and volunteers answers most of the time.	The student speaks German almost always during class.
Expectations are barely met (70–79%)	The student sometimes pays attention.	The student is occasionally eager to contribute to class discussion, exercises, and group work. The student occasionally asks questions and sometimes volunteers answers.	The student speaks German most of the time during class, but sometimes still switches to English.
Expectations are not met (65–69%)	The student rarely pays attention.	The student almost never contributes to class discussion, exercises, and group work. The student almost never asks questions or volunteers answers.	The student speaks German some of the time during class, and often switches to English.

Study Materials

Sakai (<http://sakai.rutgers.edu>) is the general website for our course. All students officially enrolled in this course already have access to it. Students who do not have access need to contact the instructor. Students should check the website frequently for the most recent announcements, worksheets and assignments.

All study materials are placed on the Sakai Course Website. To insure maximum compatibility, all text materials are in *.pdf format, all audio materials are in *.mp3 format, and all video materials are in *.mp4 format requiring standard codecs. It is expected that the students print out the text materials and bring them in class.

The study materials are placed here: [Sakai](#) → [Resources](#) → [Folder with the Session Number and Date](#)

Course Requirements and Assignments

Class Participation • 15%

The course is culture-oriented and discussion-based. Although reviewing grammar lies outside of its scope, it is expected that the students produce understandable speech at the intermediate (post-102) level in order to productively participate in class discussions. Students are encouraged to improve their speech accuracy by taking appropriate level courses offered by the Department.

Homework Assignments • 24%

It is expected that students do the homework, as it serves as preparation for class discussions. Completing homework assignments helps the students work with the course material in a systematic fashion, be prepared for each session, as well as express their personal views and opinions on the topics covered. While preparing homework students will work with different sources. Typically, a week's assignment includes work with one short video, one audio file and one text. The homework includes completing assignments on the assignment sheet placed on [Sakai](#) → [Assignments 2](#). All written assignments must be completed before 7 p.m. on the date indicated. For each day that an assignment is overdue 10% of its score will be deducted. The assignments have to be sent as a *.pdf attachment to an e-mail to pichugin@rutgers.edu with the subject line [299 – Aufgabe \[##\] – \[First_Name\]](#), e.g., [299 – Aufgabe 02 – Michael](#). A hard copy of the assignment should be brought to class on the due date; the pages should be printed on one side only and stapled.

Quizzes • 18%

There will be six 15-minute pen-and-paper tests with questions addressing the completed topic. The quizzes will be administered at the beginning of the class session.

Online Discussions • 18%

In order to practice asynchronous communication skills and facilitate the class discussion, students will participate in online discussions. As a minimum requirement, students are expected to:

- answer to the initial question by Thursday of the first week of the discussion and
- reply to at least four postings by his/her fellow students by the end of the discussion.

The discussions start on Monday every other week and are closed on Sunday of the following week. After the discussion is closed, posting messages is no longer possible.

To participate in the online discussion:

1. Open the Sakai Course Website.
2. In the left pane click [Forums](#).
3. Click [Discussion ##](#).
4. Click [View Full Description](#) and read the discussion question posted by the instructor.
5. To reply to the initial question, click [Start a New Conversation](#). You have to do so by Thursday of the first week of the discussion to allow your fellow students enough time to read your post and reply.
6. To reply to your fellow students' postings, click on the corresponding comment, click [Reply](#), change the title, if necessary, write your comment, and click [Post](#). You are required to reply to at least four postings. However, more replies are strongly encouraged.

Group Presentation • 10%

Students will work in small groups (2 or 3 students) in order to make a presentation (*Gruppenreferat*) on one of the topics covered in class. While the general topic is given, students will choose their own particular subject and create their own content. The sign-up list with topics and dates will be discussed in class. It is expected that students meet outside of class to prepare the presentation. The presentation consists of a 15-minute talk followed by a 15-minute question-and-answer session. The use of multimedia is required. It is important that the presenters speak and not read; therefore students should take time to practice their presenting skills. By 6 p.m. on the day of the presentation the group of presenters submits the outline of the presentation (e.g., the PowerPoint file) as an e-mail attachment with the subject line *299 – Gruppenreferat [#] – [First_Name_of_Presenter_1], [First_Name_of_Presenter_2]*, e.g. *299 – Gruppenreferat 3 – Michael, Maria*. By the session following the presentation all other students submit a critical comment on the presentation they heard, providing its summary and sharing their own thoughts on the topic. This assignment will be graded as part of the week's homework assignment.

Final Examination • 15%

The final examination will take place on Monday, December 15, from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m., in Murray Hall, Room 112.

Communication with the Instructor

E-Mail

The best way to contact the instructor outside the classroom is to email pichugin@rutgers.edu. Generally the e-mails are answered within 48 hours. The subject line should include *299 – [First_Name]*, e.g. *299 – Michael – Question re....* This will help direct the message to the correct folder for quick processing. If the subject line is not formatted this way, the message may be read with delay.

Progress Reports

On the dates indicated in the Syllabus, students will write short progress reports, where they reflect upon the course and their individual progress. They will describe what they have learned, what more they would like to learn, what aspects of the course they like and dislike and why. The reports are not graded. They will help the instructor better coordinate the students' expectations and progress with the learning goals of the course. The reports have to be sent as e-mail attachments to the e-mail pichugin@rutgers.edu with the Subject Line *299 – [First_Name] – Progress Report [#]*, e.g. *299 – Michael – Progress Report 2*.

Mandatory Office Hours

The students will be required to attend two mandatory office hours (students are always welcome during regular office hours). This will give the students an opportunity to work with the instructor on individual language and skill needs and discuss individual questions and concerns. The sign-up sheet for the first round of mandatory office hours will be circulated in class.

Department and School Policies

Academic Integrity

Violation of academic integrity is an extremely serious matter; it can lead to a student's failing the course and being referred to the University's Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action. When referring to ideas other than their own, students should always acknowledge their sources clearly and completely, whether they are quoting or paraphrasing. Note also that use of online translation services is not permitted as a tool for generating work submitted for course credit. Please see the University's policies on academic integrity at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu> and discuss with the instructor any questions about this and related issues.

Attendance

All students must attend regularly and arrive prepared. If a student expects to miss one or two classes, he/she should use the University Self-Reporting Absence website (<https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra>) to indicate the date and the reason for the absence. An e-mail notification is automatically sent to the instructor. Those who miss more than two class sessions without a compelling excuse should expect a one-step reduction in the course grade (i.e. an A becomes a B+, a B+ becomes a B). Every additional three absences may entail a further one-step grade-reduction. Three late arrivals count as one absence.

Note: It is the responsibility of the student who has been absent (for any reason) to find out what he/she has missed and obtain materials that may have been handed out.

Cell Phones

Cell phones and all other technological devices (beepers, iPods, audio players, etc.) must be turned off during class out of respect for fellow students and the instructor.

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 the instructor about these issues at the beginning of the term. All such conversations will be kept strictly confidential.

Additional Assistance


































Students are encouraged to come to their instructor's office hours with any questions and problems pertaining to class. Any student who needs additional help should contact the 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 Student Center. Check the Department website for further details: <http://german.rutgers.edu>.




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

The latest version of this Syllabus is available on [Sakai](#) → [Syllabus](#).

Semesterplan

 Klassendiskussion •
  Kommentar •
  Video •
  Audio •
  Text •
  Online-Diskussion •
  Quiz •
  Gruppenreferat •
  Klausur •
  Fortschrittsbericht

Nr.	Datum	Thema	Hausaufgaben • Lernstoff	Klassenarbeit
1	Mo 08.09	Einführung: Medien und Gesellschaft		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Einführung Kennenlernen Semesterplan  Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zum Thema „Medien und Gesellschaft“
2	Mo 15.09	 Buch	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Johannes Gutenberg und der Buchdruck</i>  <i>Die Mutter aller Buchmessen</i>  <i>Der Mann des Jahrtausends</i>  Online-Diskussion 1 beginnt am 08.09.	 Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zum Thema „Buch“
3	Mo 22.09		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Digitale Konkurrenz für das gedruckte Buch</i>  <i>Lesen im digitalen Zeitalter</i>  <i>Bücher zu Buchen</i>  Online-Diskussion 1 endet am 28.09.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quiz 1  Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zum Thema „Buch“
4	Mo 29.09	 Presse	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Deutsche Presse gestern und heute</i>  <i>Deutsche Zeitungen und Zeitschriften</i>  <i>Deutsche Tageszeitungen</i>  Online-Diskussion 2 beginnt am 29.09.  Fortschrittsbericht 1	 Gruppenreferat 1  Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zum Thema „Presse“
5	Mo 06.10		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Die Spiegel-Affäre und die Pressefreiheit gestern und heute</i>  <i>Die Presse ist frei</i>  <i>Spiegel-Affäre</i>  Analytischer Kommentar zum Gruppereferat 1  Online-Diskussion 2 endet am 12.10.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quiz 2  Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zum Thema „Presse“
6	Mo 13.10	 Film	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Im Filmmuseum</i>  <i>Aus der Filmgeschichte</i>  <i>Wie ein Spielfilm gedreht wird</i>  Online-Diskussion 3 beginnt am 13.10.	 Gruppenreferat 2  Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zum Thema „Film“
7	Mo 20.10		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Multikulturalität im deutschen Kino</i>  <i>In Deutschlands Kinos lacht man wieder öfter</i>  <i>IMAX</i>  Online-Diskussion 3 endet am 26.10.  Analytischer Kommentar zum Gruppereferat 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quiz 3  Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zum Thema „Film“

8	Mo 27.10	 Radio	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Ausbildung im Hessischen Rundfunk</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Radiosender in Deutschland</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Geschichte des Radios</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Online-Diskussion 4 beginnt am 27.10. <input type="checkbox"/> Fortschrittsbericht 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Gruppenreferat 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zum Thema „Radio“
9	Mo 03.11		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Die Haushaltsabgabe aus der Sicht der TV-Sender</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>„Fernsehrebellen“ gegen Haushaltsabgabe</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Die Haushaltsabgabe</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Online-Diskussion 4 endet am 09.11. <input type="checkbox"/> Analytischer Kommentar zum Gruppereferat 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quiz 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zum Thema „Radio“
10	Mo 10.11	 Fernsehen	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Das Fernsehen</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Das Fernsehen</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Geschichte des Fernsehens in Deutschland</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Online-Diskussion 5 beginnt am 10.11.	<input type="checkbox"/> Gruppenreferat 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zum Thema „Fernsehen“
11	Mi 17.11		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Das Fernsehen in Deutschland</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Deutschland sieht fern</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Big Brother lebenslang: Reality-Formate auf dem Vormarsch</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Online-Diskussion 5 endet am 23.11. <input type="checkbox"/> Analytischer Kommentar zum Gruppereferat 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quiz 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zum Thema „Fernsehen“
12	Mo 24.11	 Neueste Medien	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Die vernetzte Jugend</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Soziale Netzwerke in Deutschland</i> <input type="checkbox"/> [...]	<input type="checkbox"/> Gruppenreferat 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zum Thema „Neueste Medien“
13	Mo 01.12		<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Facebook-Freunde</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Das Internet der Zukunft</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Internet – die neue Droge?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Online-Diskussion 6 endet am 07.12. <input type="checkbox"/> Analytischer Kommentar zum Gruppereferat 5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quiz 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zum Thema „Neueste Medien“
14	Mo 08.12	Zusammenfassung	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Wirkungsweise der Medien und Probleme der Mediennutzung</i> <input type="checkbox"/> [...]	<input type="checkbox"/> Gruppenreferat 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Abschließende Diskussionen und Sprechübungen
15	Mo 15.12	★ Klausur	<input type="checkbox"/> Analytischer Kommentar zum Gruppereferat 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wiederholung 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Klausur 8.00 – 11.00 (a.m.) Murray Hall, Room 112