

## German Conversation

**Course Number:** 01:470:104:01

**Semester:** Fall 2017

**Credits:** 1

**Course time:** W 2:50-4:10

**Course place:** AB 3450

**Instructor:** Eva Erber

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**Office Hours:** T 3:30-4:30 at the TA-office

(German Department, 4th floor of the Academic Building, 15 Seminary Place)

**Office Address:** Department of Germanic, Russian and East European Languages and Literatures RU Academic Building, 17 Seminary Place, New Brunswick, NJ 08003

**Office Phone:** 732.932.7201

**Prerequisites:** This course is designed for beginning students, i.e. those without prior knowledge of German. This course may be taken together with German 101 or 102 or independently.

## Course Description

This course will introduce students to the language and culture of German-speaking countries focusing on the language competencies particularly relevant for oral communication in everyday situations.

The course consists of six thematically connected modules two sessions each:

1. **Hallo! Ich heie...** • In this module, students learn to speak about themselves. They prepare to provide a basic information about themselves and engage in a simple dialog with people they might meet. They learn how to greet people, introduce oneself, and say goodbye.
2. **Meine Familie** • In this module, students learn how to speak about their family members, and ask questions about the family.
3. **Mein Studium** • In this module, students learn how to speak about the university and their studies.
4. **Mein Zimmer** • This module focuses on the inanimate objects around us relevant to our everyday situations, such as house, room, classroom, and the objects in them.
5. **Wie ist das Wetter heute?** • This module focuses on the discussion of weather. Students learn to describe the weather and ask questions about it.
6. **Was machen Sie gern?** In this module, students learn how to express the likes and dislikes as well as basic comparisons.

By the end of the semester students will be able to:

- speak about themselves;
- ask basic questions;
- share basic information about their families and relatives;
- speak about their studies;
- speak about objects relevant to everyday situations;
- speak about the weather;
- express likes and dislikes.

The course is taught in German with some explanation of grammar points and cultural references in English.

## Course Requirements

### Class Participation • 24%

Active class participation is crucial for language learning. The following are the rubrics for participation:

	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.	Student is sometimes attentive.
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.

### Homework Assignments • 36%

• The homework assignments listed in the Syllabus must be completed by the date indicated. Please note that for each day that an assignment is overdue 10% of its score will be deducted. • There will be homework assignments not listed on the Syllabus given by the instructor during class.

### Vocabulary Quizzes • 16%

Learning vocabulary is a crucial part of mastering a language. Each session students will write a 3-minute quiz based on the vocabulary portion learned for that session.

### Oral Tests • 24%

At the end of each module, students will complete a speaking test outside the classroom using the online tool Vocaroo (<http://vocaroo.com>) and send the audio file to the instructor by e-mail. The detailed instructions for each oral test will be uploaded on Sakai. These tasks will allow the students to demonstrate comprehensibility and fluency of their speech, their use of acquired vocabulary and grammar structures.

## Assessment Grade Composition

Aspect	Percentage
Class Participation (12)	24 %
Homework Assignments (6)	36 %
Vocabulary Quizzes (12)	16 %
Oral Tests (6)	24 %

## 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

## Study Materials

1. The course does not require a textbook. All course materials are on Sakai or distributed as handouts.
2. Recommended: Cecile Zorach, Charlotte Melin, Elizabeth A. Kautz. English Grammar for Students of German: The Study Guide for Those Learning German. 6 th ed. Ann Arbor, MI: The Olivia & Hill Press, 2014. ISBN-13: 9780934034432

## Course Website

**Sakai** (<http://sakai.rutgers.edu>) This 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.

## Recommended Activities

### German Movie Nights

All Rutgers students of German are invited to German Movie Nights organized bi- weekly at Bishop Quad, Leupp Hall, Hogwarts Lounge College Avenue. The movies are shown in German with English subtitles. Admission is free. For the exact dates please check the department homepage or ask your instructor.

## Departmental Policies

- 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 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 students who have been absent (for any reason) to find out what they have missed and obtain materials that may have been handed out.

- Cell Phones

Cell phones and all other technological devices (beepers, iPads, tablets, iPods, audio players...) must be turned off during class out of respect for the instructor and fellow students. Please schedule all important phone communications outside of class time.

- 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.

- **Academic Integrity**

Violations of academic integrity are an extremely serious matter, and 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 your own, always acknowledge your sources clearly and completely, whether you are quoting or paraphrasing. Note also that use of online translation services is not permitted as a tool for generating work that you submit for course credit. Please see the University's policies on academic integrity at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>, and discuss with your instructor any questions you may have about this and related issues.

- **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>.

## **Student-Wellness Services**

### **Just In Case Web App**

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

### **Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)**

[\(848\) 932-7884](http://www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/) / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/](http://www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/)  
CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

### **Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)**

[\(848\) 932-1181](http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu/) / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [www.vpva.rutgers.edu/](http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu/)  
The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call [848-932-1181](http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu/).

### **Disability Services**

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

### **Scarlet Listeners**

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counselling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the Syllabus.  
The latest version of this Syllabus is available on Sakai → Syllabus.

## Semesterplan

Legende: W - Wortschatz=Vocabulary

Nr.	Datum	Thema	Hausaufgaben	Arbeit in der Klasse
1	Mi, 06.09	Einführung		Einführung-Kennenlernen- Semesterplan
2	Mi, 13.09	Modul 1 Hallo! Ich heiße...	W 1.1 Hallo! Ich heiße... Aufgabe 1	1. Hallo! Ich heiße ... Greetings in different German-speaking regions Dialoge
3	Mi, 20.09	Modul 1 Hallo! Ich heiße...	W 1.2 Woher kommen Sie? Oral Test 1 vocaroo.com	2. Woher kommen Sie? Nationalities Dialoge
4	Mi, 27.09	Modul 2 Meine Familie	W 2.1 Familie Aufgabe 2	2.1 Familie Dialoge
5	Mi, 04.10.	Modul 2 Meine Familie	W 2.2 Berufe Oral Test 2 vocaroo.com	2.2 Berufe Dialoge
6	Mi, 11.10.	Modul 3 Mein Studium	W 3.1 Universität Aufgabe 3	3.1 Universität Dialoge
7	Mi, 18.10.	Modul 3 Mein Studium	W 3.2 Studienfächer Oral Test 3 vocaroo.com	3.2 Studienfächer Dialoge
8	Mi, 25.10.	Modul 4 Mein Zimmer	W 4.1 Zimmer Aufgabe 4	4.1 Zimmer Dialoge
9	Mi, 01.11.	Modul 4 Mein Zimmer	W 4.2 Gegenstände Oral Test 4 vocaroo.com	4.2 Gegenstände Dialoge
11.	Mi, 08.11.	Modul 5 Wetter	W 5.1 Wetter Aufgabe 5	5.1 Wetter Dialoge
12.	Mi, 05.11.	Modul 5 Wetter	W 5.2 Jahreszeiten Oral Test 5 vocaroo.com	5.2 Jahreszeiten Dialoge
13.	Mi, 29.11.	Modul 6 Was machen Sie gern?	W 6.1 Hobbys Aufgabe 6	6.1 Hobbys Dialoge
14.	Mi, 06.12.	Modul 6 Was machen Sie gern?	W 6.2 Ferien Oral Test 6 vocaroo.com	6.2 Ferien Dialoge
15.	Mi, 13.12.	Abschluss		Zusammenfassung