

News and Views: German Media Workshop

Taught in German
Spring 2012

GERM 470:391 (3 Credits) [index 74178]
Spring 2012
T, Th 6th period, 4:30-5:50 pm
GH (German House) 102, 172 College Ave.
(CAC)

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 3-4 pm, and by
appointment

Course Description

The goal of this class is to engage with and comment upon contemporary German-language cultures through the lens of news and entertainment media. The course is organized around multi-media projects that provide students with the opportunity to produce their own news segments (including video and radio reporting) in addition to examining a wide range of newspaper, magazine, TV and radio broadcasts. Students will also be responsible for designing, editing, and publishing on a German "News and Views" blog, which will provide a forum for us to express our own views about contemporary German-language cultures. This course is a hands-on workshop that promotes cross-cultural interaction and awareness of the German language through the media we watch, read, and listen to. In using the same tools ourselves, we inhabit the roles of citizen-journalists, ourselves informing the news and public opinion. Toward these goals, we will also address the development of the concept of the "news," its role in society, and the way in which changing media technologies affect our interaction with culture and language.

Taught in German.

Prerequisite

German 232 or placement or special permission.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will:

- be able to discuss and analyze current issues in German culture: EU and the Euro zone, environmentalism, and political structure and parties are some examples.
- be able to discuss and compare German-language media (newspapers, radio, television, internet resources) and major media outlets.
- be able to understand and reproduce vocabulary associated with contemporary media and texts
- be able to produce major genres of journalistic writing and presentation: report, review, commentary/op-ed, and interview

Requirements and Grading

In addition to brief written homework exercises, students will produce 1-3 page written assignments in various journalistic genres and will be graded on content (critical engagement with the relevant themes), vocabulary, grammar. We will also work in groups to write scripts for reports and segments to be filmed and discussed. These productions will be graded on content, vocabulary, and performance. Scripts will be worked on during class and finished as homework and performed the

next day. Students will also produce a short final presentation at the end of the semester.

Attendance and active class participation: 10%

Textbook Exercises: 10%

Weekly Writing/Video Assignments: 60%

Final Presentation: 20%

Grade distribution

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

Cell Phones

Cell phones and all other technological devices (beepers, iPods, MP3players...) 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.

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). 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.

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.

Photocopies

Department photocopying fees add up quickly and impressively; we will therefore need to collect from each student 5 cents per page toward the cost of handouts other than the syllabus, quizzes and tests.

Texts

Bettina Schardt and Friedel Schardt. *Training Deutsch. Realschule Training – Journalistische Texte lesen, auswerten, schreiben*. Freising: Stark, 2006. ISBN: 3-89449-645-2. \$27.95

A good-size dictionary, such as the New College German Dictionary (Langenscheidt).

Good online dictionaries include: <http://dict.leo.org>, <http://dict.tu-chemnitz.de/>,
and <http://www.dict.cc/>

Kierkegaard, *The Present Age*

Resources:

A list of online and paper resources from which we will work will be distributed via email.

Daily Plan:

Jan. 17	Einführung ins Thema	
Jan. 19	Die Nachricht des Tages Thema:	Aktuelle Video-clips, Deutsche Welle - Lehrbuchaufgabe
Jan. 24		Zeitungen aus Deutschland - mit Amerikanischen Zeitungen vergleichen - Schreibaufgabe: Bericht (Due: Jan. 31)
Jan. 26	Die Nachricht des Tages Thema: Politik (die EU und der Euro, Immigration)	Video-clips, Deutsche Welle, Tagesschau, Zeitungen - Schreibaufgabe: Bericht für Tagesschau schreiben (Video-Text für nächste Sitzung)
Jan. 31		Video-clips, Deutsche Welle, Tagesschau - mit CNBS, Fox News, usw. vergleichen - Bericht-Video machen
Feb. 2	Schützt unsere Umwelt!	Zeitungsartikel und Kommentar zum Thema, - Schreibaufgabe: Kommentar (Due: Feb. 7)

		- mit Blog anfangen
Feb. 7		BPB Themenblatt: „Mobilität und Umwelt“ - Schreibaufgabe: Infographik (Due: Feb. 14)
Feb. 9	Hör zu! : Aktuelle Musik	spex.de, youtube.de, Musikseite, Zeitschrift (noch festzulegen) - Lehrbuchaufgabe
Feb. 14		- Schreibaufgabe: Musikrezension (Due: Feb. 16)
Feb. 16		spex.de, youtube.de, Musikseite, Zeitschrift (noch festzulegen) - Schreibaufgabe: Lieblings deutsche Band finden und Interview mit dem/r Leadsänger/in schreiben (Video-Text für nächste Sitzung)
Feb. 21		- Interview-Video machen - in Blog posten
Feb. 23	Hinter den Kulissen	Film (noch festzulegen) - Lehrbuchaufgabe
Feb. 28		Film (noch festzulegen) - Schreibaufgabe: Filmrezension (Due: Mar. 1)
Mar. 1		Film (noch festzulegen) - Schreibaufgabe: Filmrezension “Ebert & Roper” schreiben (Video-Text für nächste Sitzung)
Mar. 6		- Filmrezension “Ebert & Roper”

		- in Blog posten
Mar. 8	Deutschland—Funk	Deutschlandfunk, rbb, usw. - zuhören und Aktuelles diskutieren

Spring Break

Mar. 20	Sportschau!	Sportseite aus Zeitungen, Sportschau, kicker.de - Schreibaufgabe: “Sportcenter” (Video-Text für nächste Sitzung)
Mar. 22		- “Sportcenter” Video machen
Mar. 27	<i>Der Spiegel</i>	Der Spiegel - Lehrbuchaufgabe
Mar. 29		Der Spiegel - Schreibaufgabe: Kritik/Kommentar (Due: Apr. 5)
Apr. 3		Der Spiegel - Lehrbuchaufgabe
Apr. 5	Controversen der Neuen Medien: Surfen, Downloaden, und Twittern	„Facebook, Twitter & Co.“ und Kierkegaard, <i>The Present Age</i>
Apr. 10		„Der Fall Hegemann - war Plagiat gestern?“ - Lehrbuchaufgabe
Apr. 12		Interview mit Helene Hegemann „Ich beraube schonungslos meine Freunde und mich selbst“ - Schreibaufgabe: Kommentar (Due: Apr. 12)

Apr. 17	Medien und die Gesellschaft	<p>"Im Internet hat jeder Redefreiheit," Redefreiheit US-Bundesrichter erlaubt bedrohliche Tweets</p> <p>- Schreibaufgabe: Kommentar zum Thema</p>
Apr. 19	Student Presentations (Final Presentations Due)	- Präsentationen & Diskussion
Apr. 24		- Präsentationen & Diskussion
Apr. 26	Wrap-up	