

Contemporary German Media and Society
01:470:299:01

Cultural Diversity in the German-speaking World

Spring 2015

Course Index: 00244

Credits: 1.5

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

Meeting Place: Hardenbergh Hall, Room B5

Prerequisites: 01:470:102 or Placement Test

Instructor: Alexander E. Pichugin

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Office Hours: Mondays, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. • Graduate School of Education • Ground Floor Lounge
Thursdays, 1:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. • Graduate School of Education • Ground Floor Lounge
& by appointment
Scheduled meetings are given priority over walk-ins.

Course Description

The main goal of this course is to increase the students' cultural awareness through the study of the various German-speaking countries and regions focusing on the representation of their uniqueness and diversity in the modern media, while furthering the students' German language skills through consistent speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

In this course, we will explore cultural traditions and modern specificities of different regions of Germany, Switzerland, Austria, as well as Luxemburg and Liechtenstein reflected 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 German-speaking Europe 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

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%
 Blog	25%
 Online Discussions (6)	30%
 Group Presentation	15%
 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.

Blog • 25%

Each student will keep a blog on the Sakai Course Website. Blogging is one of the core activities of the course. It will help 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. The blog entries are visible to the student and the instructor only. The blogging entries will mainly consist of:

- Summaries of readings and videos
- Reaction pieces

To create a blog entry:

1. Open the Sakai Course Website
2. In the left pane click **Blogs**
3. Click **My Blog**
4. Click **Add blog entry**
5. In the Title area, write the title of your blog entry starting with appropriate number indicated in the Syllabus, e.g. [02.2 • Interkulturalität \(Video\)](#)
6. Write the text of your blog entry into the main text area
7. Below the text area, choose **Only site administrators and I can see this entry**
8. Click **Publish Entry** (or **Save Draft** or **Cancel**)

If you have not chosen the viewing permissions correctly and/or if you want to change your entry, click **Edit Entry**. All blog assignments must be completed before noon on the dates indicated. For each day that an assignment is overdue 10% of its score will be deducted.

Online Discussions • 30%

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 [Foren](#).
3. Click [Diskussion ##](#).
4. Click [View Full Description](#) and read the discussion question posted by the instructor.
5. To reply to the initial question, click [Einen neuen Thread beginnen](#). 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 [Antworten](#), change the title, if necessary, write your comment, and click [Posten](#). You are required to reply to at least four postings. However, more replies are strongly encouraged.

Group Presentation • 15%

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 chose 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, May 11, from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m., in Hardenbergh Hall, Room 112. The content and format of the examination will be discussed in class.

Recommended Activities

Expert Language Learner Workshop Series

This series of workshops is offered at the Institute for Global Languages to undergraduate and graduate students learning any language. The goal of the series is to help language learners develop and strengthen language learning skills by providing very practical information on language learning strategies and techniques, explaining what usually works and what doesn't, and giving expert advice on an individual basis.

The series consists of five 1-hour workshops conveniently scheduled throughout the Spring Semester 2015. Students may attend all five workshops or just some. Students who attend four out of five workshops will be awarded the *Expert Language Learner Certificate* from the Institute for Global Languages at Rutgers.

The workshops take place in the Institute for Global Languages, College Avenue, 20 Seminary Place, Room 110.

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|----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Acquiring Vocabulary | • Wednesday, February 4, | 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. |
| 2. Mastering Grammar | • Wednesday, February 18, | 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. |
| 3. Developing Reading Competency | • Wednesday, March 4, | 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. |
| 4. Developing Speaking Skills | • Wednesday, March 25, | 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. |
| 5. Online and Mobile Learning | • Wednesday, April 8, | 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. |

Registration is free, but space is limited to 20 participants, so please register early. For further information and registration please contact pichugin@rutgers.edu.

German Movie Nights

All Rutgers students of German are invited to German Movie Nights organized bi-weekly on every other Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the German House Seminar Room at 172 College Avenue. The movies are shown in German with English subtitles. Admission is free.

Communication with the Instructor

@ E-Mail

The best way to contact the instructor outside the classroom is to e-mail pichugin@rutgers.edu. Generally the e-mails are answered within 48 hours. The e-mail subject line should start with **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 formatted differently, 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 or dislike and why. The reports are not graded. They help the instructor better coordinate the students' expectations and progress with the learning goals of the course. The reports have to be sent as *.doc(x) or *.pdf files named **299 – Progress Report [#] – [First_Name].pdf** or **299 – Progress Report [#] – [First_Name].docx**, e.g. **299 – Progress Report – Michael.pdf** and attached to an e-mail message sent to pichugin@rutgers.edu with the subject line starting **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 on the first day of 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 •
  Gruppenreferat •
  Klausur •
  Fortschrittsbericht

Nr.	Datum	Thema	Hausaufgaben • Lernstoff	Klassenarbeit
1	Mo 26.01	Einführung: Kulturelle Vielfalt		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Einführung Kennenlernen Semesterplan  Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zum Thema „Kulturelle Vielfalt“
2	Mo 02.02	Deutschsprachiger Raum	 <i>Interkulturalität</i>  02.1  <i>Deutschsprachige Länder</i>  02.2  <i>Internet-Recherche: Deutschsprachiger Raum</i>  02.3  Online-Diskussion 1 beginnt am 02.02.	 Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zum Thema „Kulturelle und regionale Vielfalt“
3	Mo 09.02	Feste und Traditionen	 ...  03.1  ...  03.2  ...  03.3  Online-Diskussion 1 endet am 15.02.	 Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zum Thema „Feste und Traditionen“
4	Mo 16.02	Kulturelle Vielfalt und Politik	 ...  04.1  ...  04.2  ...  04.3  Online-Diskussion 2 beginnt am 16.02.	 Gruppenreferat 1  Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zum Thema „Kulturelle Vielfalt und Politik“
5	Mo 23.02	Kulturelle Vielfalt und Religion	 ...  05.1  ...  05.1  ...  05.1  Online-Diskussion 2 endet am 01.03.  Fortschrittsbericht 1	 Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zum Thema „Kulturelle Vielfalt und Religion“
6	Mo 02.03		 ...  06.1  ...  06.2  ...  06.3  Online-Diskussion 3 beginnt am 02.03.	 Gruppenreferat 2  Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zu den Deutschland-bezogenen Themen
7	Mo 09.03	Deutschland	 ...  07.1  ...  07.2  ...  07.3  Analytischer Kommentar zum Gruppereferat 1  07.4  Online-Diskussion 3 endet am 15.03.	 Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zu den Deutschland-bezogenen Themen

8	Mo 23.03		<ul style="list-style-type: none">  ...  08.1  ...  08.2  ...  08.3  Online-Diskussion 4 beginnt am 23.03. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Gruppenreferat 3  Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zu Österreich-bezogenen Themen
9	Mo 30.03	Österreich	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  ...  09.1  ...  09.2  ...  09.3  Analytischer Kommentar zum Gruppereferat 2  09.4  Online-Diskussion 4 endet am 05.04. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zu Österreich-bezogenen Themen
10	Mo 06.04		<ul style="list-style-type: none">  ...  10.1  ...  10.2  ...  10.3  Online-Diskussion 5 beginnt am 06.04.  Fortschrittsbericht 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Gruppenreferat 4  Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zu den Schweiz-bezogenen Themen
11	Mi 13.04	Schweiz	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  ...  11.1  ...  11.2  ...  11.3  Analytischer Kommentar zum Gruppereferat 3  11.4  Online-Diskussion 5 endet am 19.04. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zu den Schweiz-bezogenen Themen
12	Mo 20.04	 Luxembourg	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  ...  12.1  ...  12.2  ...  12.3  Online-Diskussion 6 beginnt am 20.04. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Gruppenreferat 5  Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zu den Luxemburg-bezogenen Themen
13	Mo 27.04	 Liechtenstein	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  ...  13.1  ...  13.2  ...  13.3  Analytischer Kommentar zum Gruppereferat 4  13.4  Online-Diskussion 6 endet am 03.05. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Diskussionen und Sprechübungen zu den Liechtenstein-bezogenen Themen
14	Mo 04.05	Zusammenfassung	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  ...  14.1  ...  14.2  ...  14.3  Analytischer Kommentar zum Gruppereferat 5  14.4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Gruppenreferat 6  Abschließende Diskussionen und Sprechübungen
	Mo 11.05	☆ Klausur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiederholung 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☆ Klausur 20.00 – 23.00 Hardenbergh Hall, Room 112