

German Conversation

Course Number: 01:470:104:01

Semester: Spring 2017

Course Index: 18707

Credits: 1

Meetings: Thursdays, 1:10–2:30 Scott Hall 201

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.

Instructor: Janine Wahrendorf

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

E-mail address: Janine.wahrendorf@rutgers.edu

Office Hours: New Academic Building, West Wing, 4th Floor, Room 4100 T 4:45pm – 5:45

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 heiße...** • 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:

	Exceeds expectations (100 – 90%)	Meets expectations (89 – 80%)	Meets expectations (79 - 70%)	Below expectations (69 – 65%)
Attentiveness	Student is always attentive.	Student is attentive most of the time.	Student is sometimes attentive.	Student is barely attentive.
Contribution	Student is always eager to contribute to class, pair and group work and ask questions. Student always volunteers answers.	Student is eager to contribute to class, pair and group work and occasionally asks questions. Student volunteers answers most of the time.	Student is occasionally eager to contribute to class, pair and group work and asks questions some of the time. Student volunteers answers some of the time.	Student almost never contributes to class, pair and group work, never asks questions and volunteers answers.
Use of German	Student only speaks German during class.	Student tries only to speak German during class.	Student speaks German most of the time during class, but still switches to English frequently.	Student speaks German some of the time during class, but prefers to speak 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	Below 65

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>) 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 and assignments.

Recommended Activity

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.; location TBA. The movies are shown in German with English subtitles. Admission is free.

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.

Electronic Devices

Cell phones and all other electronic devices (iPods, iPads, tablets, 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 are 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>.

Communication with the Instructor

@ E-Mail

The best way to contact the instructor outside the classroom is to e-mail janine.wahrendorf@rutgers.edu. The e-mail subject line should start with 104 – FirstName, e.g. 104 – 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.

Semesterplan

Legende: W – Wortschatz=Vocabulary

Nr.	Datum	Thema	Hausaufgaben	Arbeit in der Klasse
1	Di 17.02	Einführung		Einführung- Kennenlernen- Semesterplan
2	Di, 24.01	Modul 1 Hallo! Ich heiße...	W 1.1 Hallo! Ich heiße... Aufgabe 1	1.1 Hallo! Ich heiße... Greetings in different German-speaking regions Dialoge
3	Di, 31.01	Modul 1 Hallo! Ich heiße...	W 1.2 Woher kommen Sie? Oral Test 1 vocaroo.com	1.2 Woher kommen Sie? Nationalities Dialoge
4	Di, 07.02	Modul 2 Meine Familie	W 2.1 Familie Aufgabe 2	2.1 Familie Dialoge
5	Di, 14.02	Modul 2 Meine Familie	W 2.2 Berufe Oral Test 2 vocaroo.com	2.2 Berufe Dialoge
6	Di, 21.02	Modul 3 Mein Studium	W 3.1 Universität Aufgabe 3	3.1 Universität Dialoge
7	Di, 28.02	Modul 3 Mein Studium	W 3.2 Studienfächer Oral Test 3 vocaroo.com	3.2 Studienfächer Dialoge
8	Di, 07.03	Modul 4 Mein Zimmer	W 4.1 Zimmer Aufgabe 4	4.1 Zimmer Dialoge
		SPRING	BREAK	
9	Di, 21.03	Modul 4 Mein Zimmer	W 4.2 Gegenstände Oral Test 4 vocaroo.com	4.2 Gegenstände Dialoge
11.	Di, 28.03	Modul 5 Wetter	W 5.1 Wetter Aufgabe 5	5.1 Wetter Dialoge
12.	Di, 04.04	Modul 5 Wetter	W 5.2 Jahreszeiten Oral Test 5 vocaroo.com	5.2 Jahreszeiten Dialoge
13.	Di, 11.04	Modul 6 Was machen Sie gern?	W 6.1 Hobbys Aufgabe 6	6.1 Hobbys Dialoge
14.	Di, 18.04	Modul 6 Was machen Sie gern?	W 6.2 Ferien Oral Test 6 vocaroo.com	6.2 Ferien Dialoge