

GERMAN 102 COURSE SYLLABUS

Fall 2003

Instructor: _____
Office Location _____
Office Hours: _____
Office Phone: _____
Email: _____

Prerequisites: German 101 with a grade of C or higher, or department approval.

Texts: *Treffpunkt Deutsch* and *Arbeitsbuch*, fourth edition, Widmaier and Widmaier, available in all campus bookstores. Bring both books to class each meeting. The class covers Chapters 7-12 in the textbook and workbook. The objectives of each chapter cover communication, language structure, and culture. There is also the *Graded German Reader* to accompany the main text.

Educational objectives: Upon successful completion of the course, students will have a basic understanding of German grammar and will have acquired a solid core vocabulary. Students will be able to read, write, speak, and understand spoken German at a simple level pertaining to everyday situations. Students will gain cultural awareness of the German-speaking world. Successful completion of GN 101 and 102 fulfills the foreign language requirement of the core curriculum.

Learning a foreign language, and about the culture(s) associated with the language, can dramatically open up awareness of the world. It gives the students access to different perspectives and traditions that they would otherwise not have. It opens up a mode of meaningful communication with others from across the globe. It allows students to better understand their own culture and language in contrast with that being learned. It helps us to have a better understanding and respect for the phenomenon of language, a faculty that sets us apart from all other species, and thus teaches us something about what it is to be human.

Attendance: class attendance is important and therefore reflected in the final course grade. Students are responsible for obtaining information about work missed during absences. It is highly recommended that students exchange phone numbers in class for this purpose.

Extended absences of more than two consecutive class meeting should be reported to the instructor by phone, email, or by leaving a written message in the instructor's box in B.B. Comer Room 200. Students with an excused absence are

allowed to make up the missed work. Medical or other official documentation is typically required to establish an excused absence.

Any absences beyond 4 (2 for evening course) results in the lowering of the class grade. Each absence will reflect a 10% grade reduction for the attendance portion of the semester. A student who misses class too often disrupts the course. As such, those missing a total of 10 (5 for evening) classes cannot receive higher than a grade of "D" for the total course (no matter what the other grade components are). The instructor's records are the sole authority in determining student attendance. If you arrive late to class, please let the instructor know at the end of class. If the instructor deems being late or leaving early as disruptive, these instances will be considered the same as absences.

Student conduct: Cheating is not tolerated. Cheating on an assignment will result in an "F" for the assignment grade, and the student may be suspended from class. Disruption of class for any reason is also not tolerated. If you disrupt the class you may be asked to leave.

Disabilities: Please notify your instructor immediately if special accommodations are necessary for your success in the classroom.

Mechanics of the course

Homework: Homework is assigned each class meeting, and will not be accepted late. The homework assignments are noted on the board each class meeting. Expect to spend up to two hours on homework outside of class for every one hour you are in class. Be prepared to respond orally about homework in class. Please check over your returned homework. Errors may have been marked, but not corrected for you. It is your responsibility to come up with the correct answers. It is a good idea to monitor your own work after you have completed it to the best of your ability. If you need extra help, please stop by your instructor's office hours.

If you have specific questions about homework, please indicate them clearly on your homework papers. They will either be addressed in class (if several students ask similar questions), or individually on the homework when it is returned.

Language Resource Center (BB Comer 252): Students are responsible for going to the LRC to do the lab exercises in the workbook. It is best to break up the

work assigned into several lab visits, since cramming too much at one time is not beneficial. These exercises will be taken up and graded at the end of each chapter section.

Text Website: Students are encouraged to explore the website at www.prenhall.com/treffpunkt for activities and information to enhance their learning of German.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given at the instructor's discretion.

Tests: A test will be given upon completion of chapters 7-11 in *Treffpunkt Deutsch*. It will cover work done in class as well as homework. Make-up exams will not be given; however, the lowest test grade may be dropped in figuring the final course grade.

Test dates: day/night

Chapter 7: Sep 5/Sep 8	Chapter 8: Sep 23/Sep 24	Chapter 9: Oct 9/Oct 13	Chapter 10: Oct 28/Oct 29	Chapter 11: Nov 13/Nov12
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Chapter 12 will be partially included in a pre-Thanksgiving quiz Nov. 25/Nov 24.

Final Exam: This is required for the course. There should be no surprises in it. It is comprehensive, covering all materials in the course. It contains an oral component worth 10% of the whole exam. The oral section will be given at a time TBA. The written exam is administered during the time noted in the official schedule of classes. **THE FINAL MUST BE TAKEN AT THE SCHEDULED TIME.**

Grade Breakdown:

- 15% Lab work and homework
- 20% Participation and attendance
- 10% Quizzes
- 30% Chapter tests
- 25% Final exam

Scale: 100-97 A+, 96-93 A, 92-90 A-, 89-87 B+, and so forth. Contact the instructor ahead of time about an excused absence or to make arrangements if a test is planned.

Students must pass GN 102 with a grade of "C-" or better to be able to enroll in GN 201.

The class routine:

The instructor will speak German in class. At times you will not understand every word. Do not be distressed by this. It is normal. Simply keep listening for words that you recognize. Most of the time these words will provide you with the cues you need to understand what is going on. Gradually you will understand more and more, especially if you make the effort to listen carefully. A good language learner is a willing guesser who accepts the uncertainty of not knowing every single word.

The activities in the classroom are mainly concerned with the acquisition of active communication skills. Students are therefore encouraged to prepare oral assignments carefully in order to be able to participate freely in discussions. In addition, it is a good idea to try out newly-learned phrases on classmates or other German-speaking acquaintances. You should bear in mind that even the most conscientious learning of all grammar concepts and vocabulary, which is also important, will not suffice; meaningful practice (i.e. real communicative situations - like the weekly *Stammtisch*, time and place TBA) is of major importance. Consequently, working regularly with a partner is very helpful -- and can be enjoyable.

Aside from the regular written material/books you have, you are responsible for the words and phrases your instructor puts on the board. You should have a vocabulary notebook that you review on a regular basis (especially helpful in preparation for vocabulary quizzes). Some students even find it useful to highlight German nouns of different genders in different colors, or to use index cards as flashcards with German on one side and English on the other side to help with memorization. One of the greatest keys to acquiring a foreign language is to make it a habit. Make your vocabulary review a somewhat brief but frequent habit.

Of course there are many other ways to immerse yourself in German. A good place to start on the Internet is www.yahoo.de, which is the Web address of yahoo in German(y).

Willkommen in Deutsch 102!

