

GERMAN 112 COURSE DESCRIPTION

Spring 2004

Instructor: Dr. Gamin Bartle

Office Location: Language Resource Center, B.B. Comer Room 252B

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 11:00 noon; 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Office Phone: 348-8472

Email: gbartle@bama.ua.edu

Course Description: This is an accelerated course that meets nine hours a week. Classes are conducted in German as much as possible, with an emphasis on lively, spontaneous oral activity and listening comprehension. There will be a strong technology component, with frequent use of WebCT and the CAN 8 system in the Language Resource Center.

Texts: *Kaleidoskop*, Sixth edition, available in all campus bookstores. **Bring book to class each meeting.**

Educational objectives: This course teaches intermediate level German in one semester. Upon successful completion of the course, students will have an intermediate understanding of German grammar and will have acquired a core vocabulary of approximately 3500 words (approximately 2000 from 111 or its equivalent and half that number for 112). Students will be able to read, write, speak, and understand spoken German at an intermediate level. Students will enhance their cultural awareness of the German-speaking world, and work on individual projects relating to their particular academic and personal interests.

Daily Tutorial Session:

Attendance at a daily tutorial session (Monday - Thursday) is mandatory for the course. You should attend at the same time each day if possible to ensure consistency. Tutorial instructors will take attendance daily.

How GN 112 will meet your individual learning needs:

GN 112 generally attracts students from different German learning backgrounds, and with different goals. Most students come directly from GN 11, others from GN 102, and still others from different institutions and/or after a break from studying German – sometimes a long break! This means that each individual student will have specific needs and objectives for the class. We will take time at

the beginning of the course to assess these needs and design an individual program of study for each student.

The theory behind the portfolio system is based on the idea that on the intermediate level, students will already have a grasp of basic German vocabulary and grammar. Each student will have individual homework assignments, based on their strengths and weaknesses in German. If you already have a good understanding of the accusative case, for example, you will not have to complete potentially redundant exercises in that particular grammar area.

The portfolio listed under grade breakdown below is closely related to your individual program. This is going to be one place where you store all of your work for this course, and the entire portfolio will constitute 40% of your course grade. It will include homework, essays, and any other assignments given throughout the semester. You will be responsible for keeping all of your assignments together throughout the semester, so that we can better assess your progress.

Attendance:

Class attendance is extremely 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.

Attendance in the daily classes and the tutorial sessions is required. **A student who misses five classes/tutorials (or more) will have his/her course grade lowered by one letter grade.** Students who miss 10 classes/tutorials or more cannot receive a grade higher than 'D' for the course (no matter what the test and other grades are). The instructors' records will be the sole authority in determining student attendance and absences. Be sure that you initial the attendance sheet every time you attend class, as this constitutes the instructor's record. If you arrive late to class, please get the attendance sheet quietly without disrupting the class, or wait until the end of class to sign it. 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. See also Dr. Bartle's Internet Policies below.

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. Do not wait until after the first test or later in the semester to notify Dr. Bartle of any diagnosed learning disabilities or about any other accommodations needed.

Homework: Expect to spend up to two hours on homework outside of class for every one hour you are in (the main 11:00) 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 or watch for postings about free tutoring from the Department of Modern Languages and Classics.

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

Dr. Bartle's Internet Policy

There are many valuable resources on the Internet for language study. I encourage you to surf around for information, help with German, etc. I do not, however, accept any web-translations **at all** or any texts borrowed/copied from the Internet without proper citation. Any text that falls under one of these two categories handed in as homework will receive an automatic F and no make-up work will be accepted. Two submission of such "work" will result in an F for the entire homework portion of the final course grade.

Preparation: It is essential that for every class meeting you spend at least the same amount of time out of class preparing assignments, learning vocabulary,

listening to materials in the LRC or at home, reviewing previous materials, reading, practicing phrases, and so forth. In German 112 we do the work of German 201 and 202 in one semester, and the pace will be fast!

Language Resource Center: During the course, the class will spend time -- usually during tutorial section meetings-- in the LRC to work on lab assignments or other computer-based activities. Since your instructor is the LRC Coordinator, your class may be "testers" for new programs. As noted above, please be sure to bring your *Übungsbuch* to each class meeting so that you are prepared in case class goes to the lab.

Quizzes: Announced vocabulary and grammar quizzes will be given at the instructor's discretion. These will sometimes be administered on CAN 8 and will be available for limited times, so be sure to pay attention to when they will take place.

Tests: Unlike GN 111, we will not have Chapter Tests in GN 112. Instead, we will have grammar quizzes as necessary and periodical in-person check-ins (more on this in class). If it seems that we need chapter tests after the first couple of chapters, they can and will be at the instructor's discretion.

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 in class. 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:

- 10% Participation and attendance in main class
- 5% Participation and attendance in tutorial sessions
- 10% Vocabulary Quizzes
- 15% Grammatik Quizzes
- 40% Portfolio
- 20% 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.

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).

To be signed by each student and returned to the instructor.

I have carefully read the course information for German 112 (Spring 2004) and am aware of what is expected of me.

Print

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____