

GN 201-4A Intermediate German I
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Spring 2005



Instructor: Dr. David Johnson
Class Time and Location: T/Th 3:30pm – 4:45pm, HB 311
Office: Humanities Building 407E
Office Hours: T/Th 2:00 – 3:00
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Course Description

GN 201 is the first semester of the intermediate German sequence at UAB. It builds upon the skills learned in first-year German, with an emphasis on furthering your ability to read, write, speak, and comprehend spoken German. The class will use readings and films in order to provide you the opportunity to engage German in a variety of authentic contexts. These reading and viewing materials address various cultural topics current in German-speaking Europe. Throughout the semester, we will also review German grammar within the context of our discussions of readings and viewings. All materials, discussion, and assignments will be in German.

Note on Syllabus

This syllabus functions as a contract between the professor and the student. If you decide to remain enrolled in the course after you have received and reviewed the syllabus, then you thereby signal your acceptance of course expectations and the policies of the professor, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Likewise, I will abide by the terms herein.

Texts

Jack Moeller, et al. Kaleidoskop: Kultur, Literatur und Grammatik. Sixth Edition
Additional texts will be distributed as handouts.

Learning Outcomes

Successful language learning requires *daily* practice and review. This course's assignments and exams are designed to provide you with tools and strategies for communicating confidently and competently in German in a variety of contexts and to acquaint you further with the everyday culture of German-speaking countries. This semester, you will

- expand your knowledge of German grammar and basic idiomatic expressions
- improve strategies and skills for reading and viewing various types of materials in German
- develop skills for writing and speaking freely and spontaneously
- compose analytical texts of increasing sophistication and style in German on a variety of cultural topics related to class work
- enhance abilities to comprehend short conversations and narratives in German
- exchange opinions and ideas in class conversations on cultural topics
- present information, concepts, and ideas to a classroom audience
- learn more about cultures and life in German-speaking Europe
- examine similarities and differences in languages and cultures
- explore opportunities for using German for professional and/or personal interests

Course Expectations, Assignments, and Exams

Attendance, Preparation, Participation (20 percent of final grade)

Attendance: Regular class attendance is essential for success in this class. Therefore, class attendance is mandatory. Any absence will affect students' class participation and final grade. Class will begin promptly at 3:30pm. More than ten minutes late to class as well as leaving early will be considered absences. If under special circumstances, students need to miss classes, the following attendance policy will be applied: two percent from the FINAL grade is deducted for EACH absence above three. More than seven absences will result in an AUTOMATIC "F".

Preparation: Coming prepared for each class day will greatly assist your learning of German. Although we will frequently review particular passages from the assigned readings and films, class time will not be used for reading of the texts or for viewing of the films. It will be expected that you come to class having read the reading assignment and watched the film *before* class.

Participation: Daily class activities and discussion will provide you with opportunities to improve your communicative abilities in German (reading, speaking, listening, and writing). Your participation will be graded according to the following criteria:

- being well-prepared for each class
- making positive contributions to the class
- using new vocabulary regularly
- recycling vocabulary from previous chapters
- providing grammatically and phonetically correct answers
- volunteering to answer and ask questions
- maintaining a good and positive attitude
- always using German in the classroom

Homework (10 percent of final grade)

For each class, you will have short written homework assignments that will prepare you for class discussions of readings, films, and grammar topics. These assignments, listed below on the semester schedule, will help you review and deepen your knowledge of German grammar. They will also assist you in expanding your communicative abilities in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The assignments will be due at the start of each class day. The instructor will collect the assignments and grade them for their completeness and grammatical accuracy.

Your instructor will set aside ample class time to discuss any questions you may have as well as to go over particularly challenging grammar exercises.

Three Essays (30 percent of final grade).

You will write three essays (Aufsätze) in German. Each essay must be at least 1.5 pages long. All essays must be typed, double spaced, in twelve point Times New Roman font, and have one-inch margins.

You can choose to write on any topic we have discussed so far in class. As you think about possible topics, think about those that you have found most interesting or those that are controversial. Think about why you find the topic interesting or why it is controversial. Before you write, briefly outline the structure of your essay and concentrate on developing an analytical style in German. We will work on this skill during the course of the semester.

Your instructor will read and mark errors in your first draft but will not make any corrections. You will receive a correction guide that will inform you of the types of errors. Although we will only cover the first six grammar chapters in the textbook, the correction guide will address all grammatical points covered in the textbook. You will be expected to use the entire grammar portion of the textbook or another German grammar text in order to correct your errors.

The mandatory second draft for the essay will be due one week after the return of the first draft. Grades for each of the drafts will be averaged to determine the final essay grade. These writing assignments will help you improve your analytical writing abilities in German and knowledge of German grammar.

Referat (10 percent of final grade)

For the *Referat* (oral report), you will sign up for a topic listed below on the semester schedule. For this topic, you will prepare a five-minute long report in German. The report will provide important background information about the topic. This assignment will enable you to learn more about important German cultural figures as well as cultural and social issues in Germany. The *Referat* will also help you develop your ability to present information in German in a compact and analytical manner to a classroom audience.

In preparation for your *Referat*, you must first meet with the instructor to discuss possible approaches to the topic. You must also prepare an outline one week before the presentation and provide this outline to the instructor at this time. You will receive additional information and tips regarding the *Referate* during the second week of the semester.

Three Exams (30 percent of final grade)

There will be three written exams during the semester. These exams will evaluate your knowledge of German vocabulary and grammar, your listening comprehension skills, and your ability to elaborate in writing on particular points related to class work. The dates of the exams are listed on the syllabus. Before each exam, there will be a brief in-class review session.

Grading Scale

A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 0-59

Note on Readings and Viewings

When reading a text in German, first skim the text to get an overview of its content. Then go back and read more carefully, looking up words **only** after you have tried to determine their meaning from the context. It will be helpful to make a few notes or jot down questions for discussion.

Films listed on the syllabus will be available on the server in the FLMS. You will be required to watch the entirety of the film before class discussion dates. There will be homework assignments for each film that will be due on the first day of discussion.

Exam, Late Work, and Classroom Policies

1. Exams are **ONLY** taken on **dates and times indicated on syllabus**. Once the exam has started, students will not be allowed to leave the room unless they have finished and turned the exam in. If in case of **medical emergency** students miss an exam, they need to appeal directly to the instructor no later than one day after having missed the exam in order to be considered eligible for a make-up test (**appropriate medical documentation must be presented**).
2. No credit will be given for homework turned in late.
3. For first and final draft essays, you will lose ten percent off for each day late up to two days. For both first and final draft essays turned in three days late, you will receive no credit for whichever draft is late.
4. There is to be no eating in the classroom.
5. Phones and pagers should be turned off while in class.
6. Students will need to refrain from chewing gum because it interferes with their participation in classroom activities.

University of Alabama at Birmingham Academic Honor Code

The University of Alabama at Birmingham expects all members of its academic community to function according to the highest ethical and professional standards. Students, faculty, and the administration of the institution must be involved to ensure this quality of academic conduct. Academic misconduct undermines the purpose of education. Such behavior is a serious violation of the trust that must exist among faculty and students for a university to nurture intellectual growth and development.

All UAB students are expected to be familiar with the UAB Academic Honor Code as well as any honor codes that are specific to their schools or disciplines. The code represents a commitment to integrity in the academic community and a respect for an individual's educational endeavors.

You can read the entire UAB Academic Honor Code on pages 42 and 43 in the UAB Undergraduate Catalog. You can also access the catalog and academic code at http://www.catalog.uab.edu/UAB-Catalog2004-2006/progress_toward_degree.pdf

Semester Schedule:

Key:

Hausaufgabe (homework)

L: Lesen (reading assignment)

A: Anschauen (viewing assignment)

S: Schreiben (writing assignment)

January 4

Introduction. *Freizeitstudie*

Hausaufgabe für Donnerstag:

L: P. 23-24; 242-248

S: Write your own poem modeled after structure of *Vergnügungen*; P. 244-5A; P. 246B; P. 248D 1-4; P. 248E 1-4

- January 6 *Vergnügungen*; Freizeit
Hausaufgabe für Dienstag:
L: 14-19; 248-253
S: 17 #3; 249F; 251G; 253J
- January 11 *Berlin*
Hausaufgabe für Donnerstag:
L: 24-28; 253-254
S: 27B; 254K, L
- January 13 *Mittagspause*
Hausaufgabe für Dienstag:
L: 72-81; 254-256
S: 256M, N; 79A 1-4
- January 18 *Das Versprechen oder Der lange Atem der Liebe*
Referat: Die Berliner Mauer
Hausaufgabe für Donnerstag:
L: 258-263
S: 262C; 262-3D
- January 20 *Das Versprechen oder Der lange Atem der Liebe*
Hausaufgabe für Dienstag:
A: *Goodbye, Lenin*
L: 263-268
S: 266-7F; 267G
- January 25 *Goodbye, Lenin*
Referat: Die Wende
Hausaufgabe für Donnerstag:
S: Handout
- January 27 *Goodbye, Lenin*
Referat: Ostalgie
Hausaufgabe für Dienstag:
L: 58-60; 269-271
S: 60A 1-5; 269-270K; 271M
- February 1 *Bei den Wessis ist jeder für sich*
Hausaufgabe für Donnerstag:
L: 70-71
- February 3 *Berliner Liedchen*; Wiederholung
First Aufsatz due
Hausaufgabe für Dienstag:
Für die Prüfung lernen!
- February 8 **Test**
Hausaufgabe für Donnerstag:
L: Handout; 274-277
S: Handout; 275A; 276B; 277C
- February 10 Deutsche Nachkriegsgeschichte
First Aufsatz rewrite due
Referat: Das Wirtschaftswunder
Hausaufgabe für Dienstag:
L: 278-280
A: *Das Wunder von Bern*
S: Handout; 279D; 279-280E

- February 15 *Das Wunder von Bern*
Referat: Fußball in Deutschland
Hausaufgabe für Donnerstag:
L: 280-283
S: Handout; 281F; 282-283H
- February 17 *Das Wunder von Bern*
Hausaufgabe für Dienstag:
L: 86-90; 283-285
S: 89A; 284I; 285J
- February 22 *Junge Paare - glückliche Paare?*
Referat: Familienpolitik oder Ehenpolitik
Hausaufgabe für Donnerstag:
L: 91-95; 285-287
S: 93E; 286K 287L Teil I
- February 24 *Ich muss für meinen Sohn nachsitzen*
Hausaufgabe für Dienstag:
L: 100-105; 288-291
S: 103A 1-5; 289-290A; 291B
- March 1 *Die sieben Raben*
Referat: Die Brüder Grimm
Hausaufgabe für Donnerstag:
L: 292-294
S: 105F (1-6); 293D; 294E
- March 3 *Die sieben Raben*
Hausaufgabe für Donnerstag:
L: 168-172; 295-296
S: 172A 1-3; 295-295G
- March 8 *Hunne im Abendland*
Referat: Ausländer in Deutschland I
Hausaufgabe für Dienstag:
L: 160-162; 296-297
S: 162E; 297H
- March 10 *Jetzt kann ich sagen, ich bin schwarz*
Second Aufsatz due
Hausaufgabe für Dienstag:
A: *Im Juli*
L: 297-298
S: Handout; 298I
- March 15 *Im Juli*
Referat: Ausländer in Deutschland II
Hausaufgabe für Donnerstag:
L: 299-300
S: 299-300J; 300K
- March 17 *Im Juli; Wiederholung*
Second Aufsatz rewrite due
Hausaufgabe für Dienstag:
Für die Prüfung lernen!

- March 22 **Test**
Hausaufgabe für Donnerstag:
L: 123-127; 301-302
S: 126A 1, 3, 6; 301L; 302M
- March 24 *Der Erlkönig*
Referat: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
- March 29, 31 **Frühlingsferien. Viel Spass!**
Hausaufgabe für Dienstag, den 5. April:
L: 108-112; 304-310
S: 111A; 306-307A; 307B, C; 310F
- April 5 Clara Schumann
**Referat: Deutscher Komponist / Deutsche
Komponistin _____**
L: 112-115; 310-313
S: 115C; 312G; 313H
- April 7 *Die da!?!; Die fantastischen Vier*
Referat: Die Scorpions
L: 139-141
S: 140 Schule und Beruf
- April 12 *Das Schulsystem in Deutschland*
Referat: Schul- und Unireform in Deutschland
Hausaufgabe für Donnerstag:
L: 143-144; 131-133; 315-319
S: 133A; 318-319A; 319B
- April 14 *Arbeits-los; Ohne die Bereitschaft, sich auf Neues
einzulassen, geht es nicht*
Referat: Der Vaterstaat in Deutschland
Hausaufgabe für Dienstag:
L: 144-151; 319-322
S: 149A; 321D; 322E
- April 19 Christa Wolf
Referat: Frauenpolitik in Deutschland
Third Aufsatz due
Hausaufgabe für Donnerstag:
L: 322-327
S: 322-323F; 326H 1-4; 327J
- April 21 Wiederholung; Semesterschlussfeier
- Donnerstag, den
28. April
16.15 – 18.45 **Test**
Third Aufsatz rewrite due