Intermediate German – GER2320-01 Fall 2004
MWF 13:00-13:50
OM 210

Professor Rita Abercrombie
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www.baylor.edu/German

Office hours: MW 9-10am and 2-3pm; TR 10:00-noon, and always by appointment.

Final Exam time: December 9 from 4:30-6:30

Get names, phone numbers, email of at least two other students in the class.

Required Course Materials: Fokus Deutsch, TEXT (Di Donato et al. 2000), and NeueKommunikative Grammatik (John Klapper and Trudi McMAhon)

Course Description: Further development of communicative skills and knowledge of culture. Prerequisites: GER 2310, or consent of the division director. Meets three days a week. (3 credit hours).

About This Course: This course will continue your study of the German language and the culture of German-speaking people. The emphasis of the class will be on interaction and communication. Your course materials and the professor will be using a teaching approach that is both student-centered and communicative. The intent is to allow students to “communicate in German in meaningful contexts, as they learn about and develop an understanding of German-speaking cultures.” (Di Donato xix) This approach will give you the opportunity to understand and produce “everyday German.” You will get to know the German-speaking world through the language itself, as well as readings, photos, discussions, activities, and your own exploration.

The primary aim of this course is to allow you to enjoy and experience (hear, see, read, understand, and write) as much German and German culture as possible and to become more sophisticated in those skills. In order to achieve this goal, classes will be conducted mostly in German—you and the professor will speak German.

You are not expected to speak perfect German in this class. You are required to TRY HARD, participate, and prepare for each class.

Use the Language Acquisition Center (LAC) Draper third floor for additional practice.

Summary of Course Workload: Students in the course will be expected to attend class, and complete homework assignments and readings by the assigned dates. A Lehrplan for each

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chapter will guide you through these exercises and requirements for the course. Students must also participate in class activities and complete all examinations.

We will work through chapters 31-36 of the Fokus Deutsch text and specified chapters of the Neue kommunikative Grammatik to review the structures and skills introduced in the first year of language study. Students will also experience various cultural products such as poetry, video, dialogue, songs, etc.

**Goals of the Course:**
1.) To become more acquainted with the culture of Germany and the German-speaking world.
2.) To become more familiar and comfortable with the sounds of the German language.
3.) To acquire intermediate-mid to intermediate-high proficiency in speaking, listening, writing and reading German. These skills will allow you to function comfortably in everyday situations using authentic and culturally appropriate language and to make great strides in your language study with practice and repetition.

After this semester of German, you should be able to respond to more complex questions on the common features of daily life. You should be able to describe events in the present, past and future and to speak about concepts beyond your everyday life. These skills should allow you to satisfy immediate needs in German and communicate with German speakers.

**Instructional Methods:** This course is conducted mostly in German. It is preparation-intensive and requires approximately 2 hours of study between classes. You will receive a Lehrplan to accompany each chapter. In order to be successful learning a language you must consistently spend time previewing and reviewing material. The in-class time will be spend practicing communication skills such as listening, speaking, viewing video, discussing, reading and writing. We will often use group work, pair work, games, discussions, listening, dictation, and writing exercises to learn German.

Respect is an important factor in any class. In this particular class, each student will sometimes be outside of her/his comfort zone because we are trying to communicate with one another in German. All students will be afforded respect by the teacher and the other students for their efforts and diligence.

**Expectations:** Please work together in and outside of class to help each other to learn German and to succeed in this class. HOWEVER, academic dishonesty will not be tolerated—do not cheat, copy or “share” your work. Work (tests, homework, papers, etc) that you do for this course must be your own. You should be familiar with the guidelines of the Honor Code in the Student Handbook. Please see the instructor with any additional questions.

If you have a disability that may require assistance or accommodations, or if you have questions related to any accommodations for testing, note taking, reading, etc., please speak with me as soon as possible. Students also may call the Office of Access and Learning Accommodation (OALA) at (710-3605) for information about services available at Baylor University.

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Finally, I ask that you take hats off and turn beepers, phones etc. off during class. If you finish an activity, you may work ahead or review material we have already covered—as long as it is German. The more time you spend doing German, the more you will succeed in this class. Please be prompt; I record tardiness as well as absences.

Course Requirements and Grading:

- **Attendance (5%)** Attendance will be taken daily. According to departmental regulations you must attend at least 80% of all classes in order to receive credit for this course. This means that any more than 9 absences will result in an automatic course grade of F. I will deduct 4 points for each absence.

- **Participation (5%)** Every class both reviews and introduces material. This class is a participatory experience that involves the skills of listening, reading, writing, and speaking German. “Research…provides compelling evidence linking students’ involvement in their [foreign language] classroom interaction to their communicative development.” (Joan Kelly Hall, “The Communication Standards” 1999). Therefore I will deduct 2 points for each absence. Your contribution to the class will be graded during and after EACH class. Factors that adversely affect your learning are habitual lateness, lack of attention, or unwillingness to work with your peers. Periodically, we will discuss your participation privately so that you will know how you are doing. If you miss a class meeting or want to review material, you may speak with a classmate, arrange a study group, and/or work with a tutor. I will not “make up” class time in my office. After you have attempted the material, feel free to bring questions to me. In case of illness, emergency etc., inform your professor; you may need to provide written proof. You are responsible for work missed.

- **Portfolio (writing) (10%)** In this class you will do thinking, reading and writing on a variety of German-related subjects. The portfolio will allow you to see your writing more objectively and assess your strength and weaknesses, as well as your progress. Topics and guidelines for the portfolios are listed at the end of this syllabus. At the end of the semester, you will assemble all your portfolio work (including drafts, pictures, notes, etc), prepare a table of contents and reflect on and summarize your progress.

- **Homework Assignments (10%)** Students should come to class with the two copies (double spaced) of the written assignment; you may also note any difficulties or questions that you had with the assignment or the previous day’s class at the end of the assignment. Please place one copy of the assignment on the teacher’s desk at the beginning of class, the other copy is yours to refer to during class, take notes, better the assignment, and for later review of the material. Put your name, the date and the title (Hausaufgabe or Portfolio #) of the assignment on all homework pages. *Neue kommunikative Grammatik* will be graded for specific assignments during the semester; do not tear pages out of the book. The teacher will assume that you have learned the vocabulary of the material covered so make lists for your folder (or flashcards) and learn die Vokabeln!
Chapter Tests (30%) – Vocabulary and other Quizzes (10%) Periodic quizzes and vocabulary and dictation activities will ensure that you are learning the material as you go. These short quizzes and dictations will usually be announced on the Lehrplan for the chapter. Unannounced quizzes will be necessary ONLY if students consistently do not prepare for or attend class. There will be a test after every chapter. Any of these assessment activities may be replaced by other appropriate learning experiences if the professor is confident that the class has mastered the material. As a general rule, there are no make-ups. In case of an emergency, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor before the class begins.

Written Final Examination (20%) - The written examination is comprehensive through chapter 36 and may include other topics discussed in class (not in the book). It will focus on listening comprehension, reading comprehension, vocabulary, writing and grammar. You will receive a study outline approximately two weeks prior to the final examination.

Final Oral Examination (10%) Mündliche Prüfung - To improve your oral proficiency in German, you should speak and listen to as much German as possible and practice what has been done in class. Remember that you cannot cram for an oral exam; only steady practice will make you proficient. This examination will be held in my office and will be 10-15 minutes long. It will be scheduled between midterm and the end of classes (not during finals week).

Grading Scale: Your letter grade will be based on the following scale:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>86-89</td>
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<tr>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Less than 60%</td>
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<td>More than 9 classes missed</td>
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Themen für die Portfolios:

#1 Arbeit und Freizeit
Kann man eigentlich Freizeit und Arbeit verbinden? Was ist ihre Meinung?

#2 Urlaub oder Ferien
Hatten Sie schon einmal einen besonderen Urlaub oder Erlebnis? Was ist passiert? beschreiben Sie es im Detail.

#3 Gruppenarbeit
Arbeiten Sie in einer Kleingruppe und bereiten Sie einen Bericht zum Thema Kur vor. stellen Sie Ihren Bericht der Klasse vor.

#4 Nationalität / Nationalismus
Describe either US or German situations, z.b. die Nationalfahne, Nationalhymne, usw.

#5 Skit – Gruppe (Theme from any chapter in Focus)
Schreiben Sie einen Skit – lustig oder nicht – und führen Sie ihn der Klasse vor. (minimum zwei Seiten)

#6 Zusammenfassung: Portfolio #6: Zusammenfassung: Lesen Sie Ihre Portfolio Einträge. Was haben Sie beim Schreiben gelernt? Wie haben Sie Ihr Schreiben verbessert? Was für eine Note würden Sie sich für das Portfolio geben? Warum? You are encouraged to may write this portfolio in English. Here are the steps:
1. Assemble your portfolios, drafts and notes from this semester.
2. Prepare a table of contents page with the title of the portfolio, draft number and grade for each entry.
3. Read through your portfolio drafts and assess them for commonly made errors and skills you practiced.
4. Write an assessment of your writing this semester(portfolio #6): talk about what has improved, what still needs work, which portfolio topic you found most satisfying and why. Answer the question: How has my German improved through this process?
5. Looking at all your drafts, grades and personal assessment--assign yourself a fair grade (the grade you earned) for your portfolio based on your overall achievement of the writing goals. Justify the grade you give yourself with specific examples of your success. Remember that the portfolio is worth 10% of your final grade. Final tip: do not say "I spent alot of time on it" or "I really tried" as justification --this grade is about achieving and demonstrating German writing skills.
6. I will take into consideration your self-assessment and the grade you believe you earned. I may or may not agree, but it will help me to learn about your skills and about the ability of the writing assignments to help you "teach" yourself.

August
Montag, den 23. August Willkommen/ vorstellen / Fragen / Syllabus
Mittwoch, den 25. August Wiederholung / Aufsatz
Freitag, den 27. August Wiederholung / erzählen / video

A detailed Lehrplan will be given at the beginning of each chapter

Kapitel 33 1. Okt. – 18. Okt. (test Kap. 33)
Kapitel 34 20. Okt. – 1. Nov. (test Kap. 34)

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