

German 301-302: Advanced Conversation and Composition I & II

Textbook: *Kaleidoscope, 7th Ed.* Moeller, Adolph, Mabee, Berger

301- Germany and Its People: Chapters 1 - 5

302 – Current Topics in German Society: Chapters 6 -10

Course Emphasis and Goals

301-302 emphasizes the fluent use of German in a variety of formats, bringing together topically focused expression in writing and speaking. Grammatical expertise is broadened through a review targeting functional understanding and the nuanced application of familiar constructions. As in previous semesters, simultaneous development of reading, writing, speaking and listening is a priority. Class discussion is based on a variety of texts, both spoken and written.

301-302 furthers the student's familiarity with personal narrative, public and editorial text, and various media. Identification of textual features and analysis of narrative style are a primary focus in class discussions and written assignments.

Course Components and Assessment

Homework – 25%: Written work outside of class is a major aspect of language learning, and much of the real work is accomplished through individual study time. For this reason, homework is assigned daily. It is to be completed before class and turned in at the beginning of the class hour. Each assignment must be self-corrected using a different color pen. Full credit is given only when the instructor sees that the assignment is on time, self-corrected, and complete. NO late assignments will be accepted for a grade.

Homework is graded as follows: 5 points for a (-), 7 points for a (√), 10 points for a (+) - . Please check Blackboard daily for homework updates – not all assignments are listed in the syllabus. You are responsible for staying up-to-date on every assignment.

Your instructor will also be giving you lab assignments to go with the chapter's written work. Listening skill is considered an integral part of your progress, so these assignments are also collected and graded.

Your instructor may also assign journal writing and/or vocabulary sheets, to be figured into the 25% allotment for homework.

All written work is evaluated for language and style, as well as organizational (discourse-level) accuracy and coherence. Longer assignments may include rewrites. As tests and quizzes are generally designed to follow homework activities, it is to your benefit to complete these assignments carefully and consistently.

Class participation: 10%

Attendance, thorough preparation, and active participation are critical to developing

interactive skills in German. Your progress depends on your consistent participation and effort. For this reason, only 2 absences will be excused during the semester with no questions asked. Beginning with the third absence, a portion of your participation grade will be deducted per absence. Attendance is taken daily, and any chronic tardiness will also be noted. If you come more than 10 min. after the hour, your tardiness will count as an absence. If you are absent, you are responsible for getting missed information, quiz announcements, homework assignments, etc.

Chapter Exams – 30%: A comprehensive exam will follow every chapter, incorporating grammar, vocabulary and cultural content. Each exam will balance written skill with some listening and/or reading. Exams are only to be given at the appointed time and place. Any possible make-ups are up to the instructor if s/he determines that the student has been working in good faith, the reasons are legitimate, and the circumstances are discussed in advance of the test.

Semester Project: 10%

Each student will prepare a semester project – a culture portfolio - to be presented to the class at the end of the semester (about 10 minutes' length) on a topic of current or historical interest in German language literature, or culture. There will be periodic assignments during the semester to help you formulate ideas and develop research. Each project should incorporate media (audio, visual) and a variety of text types as sources. No formal reading is allowed during the presentation itself.

Oral Interview – 5%: You will have an interview at the end of the semester with an instructor from another section of your course. The format and content will be discussed with you, and will be a reflection of the kinds of conversations you have had in class throughout the semester.

Final exam (20%)

This comprehensive exam will include short answer and essay formats, covering grammar and the chapter themes, as well as extra reading selections. Heavy emphasis will be placed on the last chapter covered in the course (for which there was not a separate exam).

NB: The date of the final is listed on your syllabus and in testudo. NO alternate arrangements will be made to accommodate your travel, so please plan accordingly!

Course Expectations

- ✚ **Communication is Key:** Students should not expect to spend the class period discussing grammar – this is a communicatively-oriented class. In order to use class time effectively, students are expected to read the assigned lesson in their textbooks prior to the class period, complete all homework assigned for that segment, and be prepared to ask questions in class. During class time, the instructor will provide *brief* explanations of the target structures, then move to applied exercises that emphasize language use, not discussion *about* the language.

Please let your instructor know if you do not understand the material, or if you are struggling with any aspect of the course!

- ✚ **Religious Observance:** Students must notify the instructor at the beginning of the semester regarding planned absences due to religious observances, and make arrangements with the instructor to make up the work. Further information on University policies on religious observances can be found at <<http://www.faculty.umd.edu/teach/InstructionalGuide.htm>>
- ✚ **Learning Disabilities, etc:** The Department of Germanic Studies is committed to assisting students with disabilities. If you have a documented learning disability or special circumstance, please let your instructor know in the first week of class so that accommodations may be made.
- ✚ **Learning Assistance:** If you experience difficulties keeping up with the academic demands of this course, please contact the Learning Assistance Service, 2201 Shoemaker Bldg, 301-314-7693. Their educational counselors can help with time management, reading, note-taking and exam preparation skills. If you feel you are struggling in the course, please see your instructor as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made. Your instructor cannot be expected to assist you if s/he does not hear anything until time for the final exam!
- ✚ Students are expected to remain in the classroom for 15 minutes in the unlikely event that an instructor should be late. After 15 minutes, it can be assumed that class will not be held.

Grading Scale: The Dept. of Germanic Studies language program adheres to the following scale for +/-:

A+ = 98 and above	B+ =88 and above	C+ =78 and above
A = 93-97	B =83-87	C =73-77
A- = 90-92	B- =80-82	C- =70-72 etc...

All courses adhere to the Code and Procedure of Academic Integrity at the University of Maryland. See Appendix F in your undergraduate catalog for this resolution.

As of Fall 2001, every exam or paper shall include the following pledge, written and signed by the student: "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this examination or assignment."

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On collaboration with native speakers:

Native German speakers constitute a valuable educational resource, and the Department of Germanic Studies encourages students to seek out native speakers in order to improve

linguistic competence. However, when related to written work, the Department does not accept work that has been the product of collaboration between a student and native speaker other than the course instructor, unless previous authorization has been granted by the instructor. In this manner, the authenticity of the work is maintained within the framework of academic honesty.

Possibility for research study participation

Please be aware that you may be asked to participate in research studies conducted by graduate students in collaboration with faculty members. Involvement in these studies is completely voluntary and independent from the course itself. Students who willingly choose to participate in such research will receive no special treatment, nor will their participation affect their grade in this course. Under all circumstances, the volunteers' identities will be kept confidential and anonymous according to the rules on human subjects at the university. Subjects reserve the right to ask questions and withdraw from the study at any time and without penalty.

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