

**GERM401**

# **Advanced Conversation**

**Fall 2008**

Professor: Dr. Gabriele Strauch  
Office: 3225 Jimenez  
Office Hours: M 4:30-5:30  
W 12-1 and by appointment  
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Class Meetings: MWF 11-12

**Prerequisites:** *GERM302 or equivalent*

**Language of instruction:** German

**Course Goals:** Development of fluency in spoken German. Discussion of contemporary issues related to Germany in the context of Europe. Thus, the goal of the course is to significantly improve students' German conversational skills by reading and discussing current events in politics, culture, sports and entertainment as presented through a variety of virtual or hard copy texts as well as videos and music.

**Discussion/Reading Materials:**

1. AMERIKA WOCHEN, bi-weekly German newspaper  
Call toll-free 1-888-819-0501 for subscription – Call TODAY!  
3 months \$27.95  
info@AmerikaWoche.com

2. On-line journals, newsletters and/or magazines to which students must subscribe (free of charge) include:

Deutsche Welle - <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/0,2142,265,00.html>  
<http://www.magazine-deutschland.de/>  
Deutschland Nachrichten [info@germany.info](mailto:info@germany.info)

3. In addition to the daily readings, the course requires periodic grammar reviews. **german in review** by Kimberly Sparks/Van Horn Vail (ISBN 0-8384-6066-6) is the preferred review grammar text but students may rely on grammar books they already own.

## Daily Preparation:

1. For each class session one reading will be selected either by the instructor or students. Students are responsible for
  - a. reading the assignment
  - b. memorizing new vocabulary on worksheet
  - e. completing worksheets
  - f. writing a short summary of article (about 5 sentences)
  - g. preparing two questions for discussion.
- 2) Grammar assignments will be made according to need
- 3) Systematic memorization of strong verbs (to be assigned daily)

## Grading:

**40% Attendance, participation and homework** - Attendance is mandatory for the successful completion of this course. Written homework assignments will be graded and must be handed in before class and placed on the instructor's desk. **No late assignments** will be accepted. Students will be asked to lead discussions on assigned readings and prepare a special topic for presentation and discussion.

**30% Quizzes** covering vocabulary, dictation, grammar, readings, strong verbs will be un/announced. **No make-up quizzes.**

**30% Final** – The final consists of two parts, a 15 minute Oral Interview (15%) to be scheduled individually during exam week and a Written Exam (15%), **Wednesday, December 17, 8:00am-10:00am**

## Policies:

1. Students with disabilities should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to discuss any accommodation for this course.
2. The University has approved a **Code of Academic Integrity** which prohibits students from cheating on exams, plagiarizing papers, submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without authorization, buying papers, submitting fraudulent documents, and forging signatures. Plagiarism policy: all quotations taken from other authors, including from the Internet, must be indicated by quotation marks and referenced. Paraphrasing must be referenced as well. The following University of Maryland **Honor Pledge** has been proposed by the Council and approved by the University Senate: "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination." This pledge should be handwritten and signed on the front page of all papers, projects or other academic assignments submitted for evaluation in this course.
3. Religious observance: Please inform your instructor of any intended absences for religious observance in advance.
4. This syllabus may be subject to change. Students will be notified in advance of important changes that could affect grading, assignments, etc.
5. Unless otherwise directed, students are expected to remain in the classroom for 15 minutes in the unlikely event that the instructor should not arrive on time. After 15 minutes, it may be assumed that class will not be held.

