

GERM 1501

BEGINNING GERMAN I

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Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 12-1

Required Textbooks:

- Widmaier and Widmaier, Treffpunkt Deutsch, 5th edition, Prentice Hall
- Widmaier and Widmaier, Treffpunkt Deutsch, Arbeitsbuch, 5th edition, Prentice Hall
- Widmaier and Widmaier, Treffpunkt Deutsch, Audio CDs, Prentice Hall
- Newton and DiDonato, Fokus Deutsch, Student Viewers Handbook, McGraw-Hill

Recommended Textbook:

- Zorach, English Grammar For Students of German (explains grammatical terms and structures you will encounter in your German textbook and shows how these concepts relate to English grammar)
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

LEARNING OUTCOME: This class is designed to develop speaking, listening, writing, and reading skills in basic German. After completing GER 1501/1502 students will be able to converse with ease and confidence when dealing with most routine tasks and social situations that require an exchange of basic information related to work, school, recreation, particular interests and areas of competence.

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION: Careful preparation of all assignments and active participation in class are crucial for mastering all four language skills: reading, writing, listening comprehension and speaking.

Active participation is essential in this course. This includes arriving at class on time, taking notes, asking thoughtful questions, advancing class discussions, and listening to the ideas of others. Students who are disrespectful of others or disrupt class will receive low participation grades and may have to be dropped from the course. Disruptive behavior also includes the use of cell phones or other electronic devices (sorry, no laptops) and leaving class before it ends. Students who believe they may have a legitimate reason to use an electronic device should contact me to submit a request. For the relevant university regulation, consult the section of the Student Handbook entitled "Disciplinary Code" (p. 68), as well as the section of the on-line undergraduate catalog entitled "Maintaining a Learning Environment."

Homework assignments will cover new vocabulary and grammatical structures, while class periods focus on communicative interaction in German. It is crucial that you complete all assignments before you come to class. The material covered in class will be based on what you have already studied at home. Communicative learning and group work ("Gruppenarbeit") are essential aspects of this course. Coming to class unprepared not only puts you at a disadvantage, it is also unfair to your group work partners.

During the first meetings of this class, your instructor will talk to you about foreign language learning strategies. Of course, you can always see your instructor during office hours should you need further assistance. Your instructor will gladly respond to any questions you may have about this class.

ATTENDANCE: Regular punctual attendance is mandatory for this class. Your instructor has the option of dropping you from this class, should your absences exceed 5 class hours. Since most classes meet for more than one hour, missing one day of classes usually means missing more than one hour of instruction. However, students who plan to drop the class are responsible to notify their instructor so that the proper forms can be processed. (See UH Class Schedule for deadlines!) If your instructor allows you to stay in class although you have missed more than 5 class hours, 1.0 point will be subtracted from your final grade for each additional missed hour of class. In case of medical or other emergencies, contact your instructor as soon as possible and be prepared to provide appropriate documentation, such as a written statement from your doctor. Tardiness may be counted as an absence. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what was covered from other students or from me in office hours or by appointment. I may not respond to emails asking about what was covered in class.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS: Your instructor will write assignments on the board at the beginning or end of each class period. These are due the following class day.

ARBEITSBUCH: It is your responsibility to complete all assigned exercises in the workbook. You will not be able to perform well in class without doing so. Study/review the pertinent grammatical structures and vocabulary first, then work on the exercises. A copy of the answer key will be made available. Compare your answers with the answer key provided and correct all mistakes (use a different color for your corrections). Review structures / vocabulary you were not able to use correctly. Always bring your workbook to class on days quizzes or exams are scheduled. Your instructor will check your workbook and failure to complete and correct all assigned exercises will result in a lowering of your hand-in homework grade by up to two full letter grades.

HAND-IN ASSIGNMENTS: All assignment for which there are no answers provided in the answer key are to be handed in to your instructor. Double-space and use letter size paper. Your instructor will correct these assignments and return them to you.

AUDIO-CDs: As a regular part of your homework assignment, you will be listening to dialogues on the CDs that come with your book and are available on-line through the GERM 1502 WebCT site. These activities are marked with the “Zum Hören” icon in your textbook. Frequently, hand-in homework assignments will be based on these dialogues.

Listening strategies that will help you complete these assignments successfully:

- first look at the introductory remarks in the textbook: what is the situation? what do you expect the dialogue to be about? what type of vocabulary would you expect to be used in that situation?
- listen to the recording – don’t expect to understand every word; concentrate on the main points and key words (who is speaking? what is discussed?)
- listen to the recording at least one more time and try to fill in the details you missed the first time
- proceed to work on the written assignment

VIDEO PROGRAM: The video series Fokus Deutsch is an integral component of this class. Your instructor will assign sections of the tape on a weekly basis and will ask you to complete and hand-in written exercises relating to the video program. You can watch the video at the Language Acquisition Center (AH 311) or online at <http://www.learner.org/resources/series104.html> if you have Windows Media Player installed on your computer. Memorize the key vocabulary for each episode (listed in the handbook) and be prepared to discuss the video in class.

COMPANION WEBSITE: The Treffpunkt Deutsch companion website at <http://www.prenhall.com/treffpunkt/> gives students the opportunity to practice vocabulary and structures. Web-based reading and writing activities and weblinks explore cultural themes. Grammar and vocabulary exercises for each chapter are self-scoring. Frequent use of this important learning tool is highly recommended. You should complete these exercises to get additional practice and to review. The website also contains the vocabulary and *Hörverständnis* segments of the audio program.

Blackboard Vista: Additional course materials will be made available through Blackboard Vista. Here you will find the answer key for the workbook and also a copy of the audio files. Your instructor may also post other materials in the course of the semester.

TESTING:

QUIZZES: Short weekly quizzes cover the class and homework material of that week. These frequent quizzes will help you to track your progress in this course and to evaluate your learning strategies. You will not be able to take any make-up quizzes should you have to miss one. However, the two lowest quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.

MIDTERM: Covers chapters 1-3 of Treffpunkt Deutsch and chapters 1-6 of Fokus Deutsch. The midterm will be held in your assigned classroom.

FINAL: Covers chapters 1-6 of Treffpunkt Deutsch and chapters 1-12 of Fokus Deutsch. All sections: Thursday, December 10, 2009, 2-5 (room to be announced); please note: since this is a multiple section departmental exam (date / time listed in the UH final exam schedule) you may have another exam scheduled for the same time. Please check the final exam schedule for all your classes and alert your instructor as soon as possible should there be a scheduling conflict.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

QUIZZES:	25%
MIDTERM:	20%
FINAL:	20%
VIDEO:	10%
HAND-IN HOMEWORK:	10%
ACTIVE PARTICIPATION:	15%

*Students are expected to be familiar with the **UH Academic Honesty Policy** - any violations will be duly processed. The use of software to check grammar and spelling (such as Duden Korrektor or Microsoft Word - German) is allowed and not considered a violation of these rules. However, it is not acceptable to solicit help from others or to copy material without following the proper procedure for quoting and for documenting sources.*