

Advanced German Composition

Course Designation: GER (400-level)

Credit Hours: 3

Semester/Term:

Meeting Days/Time/Location:

Instructor Information

Instructor: Katherine Kerschen

Email:

Office Phone:

Office:

Office Hours:

Course Description

GER 401 is the writing across the curriculum component of the German language sequence. Successful completion of this course also meets the University's graduation requirements for "International Cultures (IL)" and "Writing Across the Curriculum." This course is designed for students who have successfully completed GER 301 and GER 302. It expands on grammatical structures and offers you the opportunity to increase the sophistication of your written German, while improving listening, speaking, and reading skills. Engaging with German culture on a daily basis will support your language study. By exploring an assortment of authentic newspaper articles, essays, STEM texts and journals, television clips, movies, fictional texts, and poems, we will look closely at a variety of genres to increase your linguistic register. Throughout the semester you will build your vocabulary, including idiomatic expression, and expand your ability to use German grammar flexibly and accurately.

A main focus of the course will be producing a variety of meaningful texts in different genres that you can continue to develop as you further pursue German Studies in the U.S. or abroad. Therefore, the course will be divided into three parts: the first will deal with practical texts needed for job applications, such as developing a resumé, cover letter, and various types of formal e-mails. The second part focuses on critically engaging with the genres mentioned above, where the emphasis will be on analysis and interpretation. In the third section you develop a research topic and practice scientific and critical writing. You will use these skills to draft an abstract and a short scholarly paper that you will present at the end of the semester. A final important aspect of the course is the development and implementation of peer review strategies, an essential skill that you will need in and outside of academia.

Prerequisites: GER 301, GER 302

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- discuss and analyze texts, articles, films and other materials in German;
- compose short written essays in German with high degree of grammatical accuracy, a varied vocabulary, and in a formal register;
- articulate your thoughts clearly and compellingly in several different genres of written German from letter to five-page critical/evaluative essay;
- recognize and implement idiomatic expression in written German;
- formulate and express coherent arguments about both literary texts and ethical issues;
- write and present a short research paper in German, demonstrating original research and thinking, in a mock conference setting.

Required Materials

There is not textbook for this course, however readings and supplemental materials will be distributed via email or our LMS course page. You are required to bring all materials with you to class. Please be sure to check your emails daily.

A quality German grammar reference book is an essential tool to review and improve your grammar knowledge and will be helpful not just in this course, but in all your future German courses. I recommend *Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik* (Rankin & Wells, 6th Ed., ISBN: 978-1305078840) as the explanations are in English and it has a lot of practice activities.

Classroom Language

Die Unterrichtssprache in diesem Kurs ist Deutsch. Bitte sprechen Sie sowohl mit mir als auch mit Ihren Kommilitonen Deutsch. Dies gilt auch für schriftliche Kommunikation (E-Mail) und Smalltalk.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Active Participation – 15%

Attendance and participation in this class is very important because learning happens during in-class discussions and presentations and peer-to-peer discussions as well as through your assigned readings and writing assignments. When you come to class and participate actively, you will know, understand, and appreciate the material thoroughly.

Participation will be assessed through your oral participation in partner, group, and class discussions, questions you ask, comments you have, or any other productive way you can contribute to the material. During each session (2 per week), I will take notes about your participation—see guidelines below. Based on these observations, you will receive a weekly

participation grade throughout the semester (starting in Week 2) that will make up the average of your final participation grade. These weekly participation grades will be posted at the end of every week on the LMS. Your own writing benefits from discussing the material with your fellow students, in class, and even beyond class. There are no good or bad answers, no stupid or dumb questions. All contributions are valuable.

Attendance and Punctuality: "Pünktlichkeit ist eine Tugend." Arriving late not only disrespects my time, but also your classmates' time if I have to interrupt the lesson in order to give you instructions or catch you up on what you're doing. Therefore, if you arrive late, you will be marked tardy. Three "tardies" will result in an absence in your attendance record. If you are more than 15 minutes late you will be marked absent. The policy for absences is that if you miss more than three class-sessions, your overall course grade will be reduced by 1% for each additional absence. That means, if, by the end of the semester, you missed ten sessions, your final grade will be reduced by 7%. If you see a 93% in the gradebook, please note that you will have a final grade of 86%. I will keep attendance on the LMS and it is your responsibility to check that regularly to make sure you aren't missing too many classes. If you have a good reason for your absence (religious, academic, etc.), please contact me beforehand.

General Evaluation Guidelines for Participation

90-100% You are well prepared, as demonstrated by your critical response papers and comments made in class; you are interested in and respect others' opinions; you ask and respond to questions; demonstrate knowledge of course materials; foster a vibrant intellectual community. You are genuinely engaged with the class.

80-89% You are generally prepared, you make an effort to refer to readings and course topics; you are willing to participate in discussions in class.

70-79% You only reluctantly participate in class activities and you are often unprepared; rarely practice critical thinking; do not demonstrate sufficient knowledge of course materials.

60-69% You are not willing to participate in class activities and are unable to ask or answer questions; you are generally unprepared; demonstrate little knowledge of course materials.

0-59% You are absent (physically or mentally), unprepared, or disruptive in class. [Emailing, messaging, or spending time on Facebook in class counts as being mentally absent.]

Homework and Quizzes – 30%

Throughout the course, you will have to complete homework assignments that pertain to the topics that are discussed in class. Some of these assignments will be writing-based; for

example, there will be six “Free-writes” throughout the semester, meant to get you writing and to start thinking about new writing assignments. There will also be several journal (“Tagebücher”) assignments. A significant portion of the homework assignments will consist of grammar exercises and quizzes completed on the LMS. The goal is for you to practice the necessary grammatical structures to become a fluent writer. As long as you achieve an 80% or higher, you will receive full credit. Another core component of the homework will be the creation of a “personalized dictionary,” i.e., a list of at least 80 new words (5 per week) that you collect during the course of the semester. Possible formats for the dictionary will be discussed in class. **Late homework assignments will not be accepted unless previously discussed with the instructor!**

Writing Assignments – 30%

The core of this course are the four major writing assignments (five including the conference paper—see below) that will cover different genres of writing styles. These texts will increase in length and complexity over the course of the semester, but will generally be 3-5 pages long. All writing assignments should be typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins all around (unless otherwise specified for a particular assignment). More detailed information about the content and structure of each assignment will be discussed in class and posted to the LMS course page.

Since writing is a process, you will not simply hand in the assignment and be finished with it. Rather, we will work on drafts of the texts together in class and you will learn peer-review strategies to help you improve your texts and your classmates’. You will write at minimum one draft of each essay before you write the final version. You must bring a printed-out version of the draft with you on peer revision days. The draft (or drafts) will count for 25% of your grade for that writing assignment and participating in the peer review workshop and providing quality feedback to your classmates will count for a further 25%.

Conference Research Paper – 15%

This is the final written assignment for the course. You will write an original research paper that will then be presented at a mock conference at the end of the semester. In addition to presenting your own paper at the conference, you will moderate discussion questions for your peers’ papers. Specific guidelines and exact due dates will be discussed in class and posted on to the LMS course page later in the semester.

Portfolio – 10%

The purpose of this assignment is to have you revisit your completed assignments, reflect on your progress as well as your writing process throughout the semester. By doing this, you should gain some insight into your development throughout the course of the semester, and

discover what you still need to work on for the future. Additionally, you should consider how you will be able to use these assignments in your future academic or professional career.

You will select a minimum of two of the major writing assignments from the semester to include in the portfolio. You will describe each piece of material, state your criteria for selection, analyze and present evidence of your writing process (i.e., by looking at drafts and peer reviews), assess your learning outcomes, and reflect on the process. The original works along with your analysis, evaluation, and reflection should be presented as an ePortfolio using an online platform such as Google Sites, Weebly, etc.

Course Schedule

Dates and assignments are subject to change. Check the LMS course page for updates.

Woche	Datum	Grammatik/ Redemittel	Thema / Genre	Schreibaufgabe fällig
TEIL 1 Schreiben für den Beruf: professionell schreiben				
1			Einführung, Kennenlernen, Free-Write #1 Was ist Schreiben? Persönliches Wörterbuch, Free-Write #2 (Autobiografie)	
2		Beschreibungen, Präteritum Präsens, Futur	Der Schreibprozess, Brainstorming für Lebensläufe Wie benutzt man ein Wörterbuch richtig? Lebensläufe	Tagebücher Teil I Tagebücher Teil II
3		Konjunktionen, Adverbien Übergänge, Anreden und Grüße	Beginnt mit der Jobsuche, Free-Write #3 (Traumberuf) Anschreiben, Career Coaching	1. Fassung Lebenslauf

4		Um-zu, Infinitive mit zu Da- und Wo-Komposita	Peer-Reviews von Lebensläufen, Anschreiben formelle Email-Verkehr	1. Fassung Anschreiben
5		kein Quiz!	Bewerbungsgespräche	
TEIL 2 Analysieren und Interpretieren: Informationen wiedergeben und Argumente entwickeln				
5		kein Quiz!	Zeitungen in DE, Schlagzeile schreiben Beginnt mit dem "Zeitungstagebuch" zum Thema Umwelt	2. Fassung Bewerbungsmappe
6		Passiv, Tatsachen wiedergeben Indirekte Rede	Berichte, Nachrichtenartikel, den ökologischen Fußabdruck kalkulieren der Kommentar, Free-Write #4 (der Umwelt zuliebe-Video)	Zeitungstagebuch
7		kein Quiz! Redemittel: Meinungen äußern	Peer-Reviews vom Kommentar Blogs	1. Fassung Kommentar
8		kein Quiz! Relativpronomen	Was ist Literatur? Texte annotieren, Free-Write #5 (Literatur) eine Zusammenfassung schreiben, Close-Reading Tipps	2. Fassung Kommentar
9		Alternativen zum Passiv Partizip Präsens	Literatur interpretieren, Kurzgeschichten und Novellen Peer-Reviews von der Literaturanalyse	1. Fassung Literaturanalyse

10		Adjektivendungen Präpositionalverben	Einführung in die Filmanalyse, Free-Write #6 (Inhaltsangabe von einem Film) die Filmrezension	2. Fassung Literaturanalyse
11		Nominalisierung von Verben kein Quiz!	Bildszenen interpretieren Peer-Reviews von der Filmrezension Einführung in das wissenschaftliche Schreiben	1. Fassung Filmrezension
TEIL 3 Kritische Analyse: ein Thema recherchieren und erörtern				
12		Konnektoren kein Quiz!	<i>Library Information Session:</i> Literatursuche <i>Workshop:</i> Abstracts für Conference Paper, Gliederungen schreiben	2. Fassung Filmrezension
13		<i>Erntedankfest – kein Unterricht</i>		
14		kein Quiz! kein Quiz!	<i>Workshop:</i> Thesenformulierung, Argumentation Zitierweise, Vorbereitung auf die Präsentationen	
15			"1. Tagung des Vereins der Deutschlernenden" "1. Tagung des Vereins der Deutschlernenden"	1. Fassung vom Conference Paper + Präsentation Präsentation
Das Portfolio und die 2. Fassung vom Conference Paper sind fällig				