



Elementary German
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
GERM 1134 Section 101/102
Fall 2020

Contact Information:

Instructor: Dr. Kyung Lee Gagum

Office: Bea Wood Hall 110

Office hours: by appointments (face to face), and by appointment via Zoom or Skype

Monday: 12:30pm-1:30pm

Tuesday: 02:00pm - 03:00pm

Wednesday: 12:30pm-1:30pm

Thursday: 02:00pm-03:00pm

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This course has been planned as a fully face-to-face course for Fall 2020. The class will meet in its regularly scheduled room but will utilize social distancing and an assigned seating chart. When the university transitions to fully online after Thanksgiving we will review during the last week of class and hold our finals virtually. I will use D2L for posting syllabi, course communication, course schedule, attendance, and gradebook. There will be some online office hours announced through D2L. You should regularly check D2L and the email hosted via D2L for important course information. In the event of increased incidence and risk of COVID-19 that results in the university moving back to a shelter-in-place mode, the course instruction will transition to fully online. More instructions will be given at that time.

Course Description

The language teaching community agrees that learning language and culture are inextricably connected. Thus, this course focuses on developing students' German-language proficiency through modes of communication that reflect real life communication in the varied cultures of the German-speaking world. By employing interpersonal, interpretive and presentational communicative modes in German, students will explore the ideas, values, beliefs and other cultural aspects in German-speaking countries and how these aspects work together to affect human experience.

Course Goals

German 1134 will get you start developing the four major language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a cultural context. This course will

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provide you with an expanding set of vocabulary and grammar, as well as cultural knowledge, so that you will feel comfortable conversing in German about a wide range of topics, including your family, your studies, your likes and dislikes, your hobbies and even historical events. You will learn to interpret German language texts from a variety of sources and enhance your knowledge of cultural differences and similarities between German-speaking countries and your own.

Required Textbook

Lee Forester et al., *Auf geht's! Beginning German Language and Culture*. 4th ed. Holland, MI: Evia Learning, Inc., 2018. 978-1-886553-72-9.

Your textbook, *Auf geht's*, **must be the fourth edition**. GERM 1134 will cover units 1-4 in the textbook, GERM 1234 will cover units 5-8, and GERM 2133 will cover units 9-12.

Auf geht's is available at the campus bookstore. To purchase the textbook at cost directly from the publisher, please visit <http://www.aufgehts.com>.

For technical problems with the software, visit the "Support" section on the following website: <https://evialearning.freshdesk.com/support/home>

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

For each lesson you can expect approximately **one and a half hours of homework/studying**. Sometimes it is more, sometimes less. Typically, tutoring is also available for free with our departmental tutor and/or with the MSU Tutoring Center (McCullough Hall). As soon as I have information about these tutoring options, I will share them with you.

Student Handbook

Refer to: https://msutexas.edu/student-life/_assets/files/handbook.pdf

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/conduct/>

*** Please know that using Google Translate for homework assignments is considered plagiarism and therefore a violation of the honor code!**

Grading:

Course Grade: The following components make up the course grade. The number of quizzes and graded homework assignments will vary according to the discretion of the instructor.

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Table 1:

Assignments	% of Course Grade
Quizzes	10
Unit Tests	30
Homework	10
Classwork: Participation and Attendance	10
Essays in German	10
Personal Reflection Essay	5
Presentation	10
Comprehensive Final Exam	15

Table 2: Total percentages for final grade

Grade	Percent
A	90 to 100
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	60 to 69
F	Less than 60

Homework

You will be responsible for all material included in the course schedule as well as any additional homework assignments given. Completing the assigned interactive and grammar homework prior to every class will increase your comprehension of the material and leave more time to practice speaking German during class. This regular practice is designed to help prepare you for class and to increase your retention of the culture, vocabulary, and grammar we are covering.

You will be asked to complete four basic types of homework assignments for German 1134.

1. **Auf geht's:** Complete assignments in the book.
2. **Grammar Explanations (GE):** In preparation for class you are responsible for reading grammar explanations in the textbook. These should be completed before class on the day they are listed in the syllabus and you should bring any questions that you have about what you read/watched to class.
3. **Grammar Worksheets (GW):** These must be downloaded from D2L, printed out, and completed by hand. You are expected to correct your own work with a contrasting **ink color** and by using the answer keys provided on D2L. This homework must be turned in during class, as indicated on the syllabus.

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4. **100-Word Essays:** You will be assigned short essays of at least 100 words, which must include the **word count** and be **typed, double-spaced**, and turned in during class as a hard copy, as listed in the syllabus. Essays will be graded for both content and language/grammar.

You may be given other type of homework, such as a **handout**. You are expected to complete all assignments carefully. However, part of learning a language means making mistakes. If you complete your grammar homework and other assigned homework in a timely and conscientious manner you will receive a high homework grade for completion. If you do not understand the expectations for a specific assignment, it is your responsibility to ask for clarification before the due date.

Homework Grading Policy

- Grammar worksheets are graded for completion. If you turn in your homework on time **and** self-corrected using the answer keys on Desire-to-Learn (D2L), you will get a 95. **No self-correction means you will drop a letter grade for that GW-assignment.**
- Essays will be graded according to a rubric that will be uploaded to D2L prior to the due date of the first essay. Please note that you are only required to write 100 words for each essay, even if the assignment in the book suggests that your essay should be longer.

Participation

Participation is based upon your use of German in the face-to-face classroom and/or via recording submitted on D2L. Don't worry about speaking perfect German. Accuracy will come with practice and repetition. I will record points for participation in the face-to-face classroom when you volunteer to answer questions, or you participate in conversations in German with a classmate. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, we won't be moving around the classroom, so these types of face-to-face paired conversations may be limited.

Attendance

Attendance is taken every class meeting. I will be taking attendance using a seating chart and assigned seating as required by the MSU Taskforce to Return to Campus: https://msutexas.edu/return-to-campus/_assets/files/return-to-campus-taskforce-8-4-20.pdf

If you decide to drop the course, you must follow university procedure for dropping a course in order to receive a W. If the instructor drops you, you will receive a WF or F.

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Absences due to official university functions or documented illness will be dealt with on an individual basis and should be discussed with the instructor outside of class time. There are no excused absences from regular class periods. If a student misses an exam, he or she must present documented proof of illness or university activity to the instructor before a make-up exam will be allowed.

Midterm Progress Report

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, the instructor for this class will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should meet with the instructor and/or take advantage of tutoring options.

Quizzes

There will be regular 5 min.-long quizzes, as announced as in the Course Schedule, in which you will show how you have mastered the material of the previous day(s). Quizzes may not be made up, unless students can provide appropriate documentation for their absences (medical or university duty).

Unit Tests

There will be three tests. They will be administered on the dates announced. Tests will cover the material in individual chapters and will build upon previously discussed material. No unit tests will be made up without a valid medical excuse. You must e-mail me before the exam is administered, or at least right after the test. If you miss a test and are not properly excused, your grade is calculated as 0.

Comprehensive Final Exam

The comprehensive final exam covers all materials studied during the course. The exam consists of a multiple choice, matching, and/or true false portion and a written/short answer portion. Each portion is worth approximately 50% of the exam grade. The Final Exam contributes 15% to the final course grade. The Final Exam for this course is scheduled for Saturday, December 5, 2020, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. The Final Exam will be given via D2L Assessment and will be accessible to students for a 24-hour period beginning December 4, 2020 at 11:59 pm and ending December 5, 2020, at 11:59 pm. You will have a 2-hour block in which to complete the exam once you have accessed it.

Presentation

You will need to give a short presentation (3 minutes) primarily in German language. You have the choice of either creating a poster or a PowerPoint. You will present your project during class. Choose a German city and demonstrate that you have engaged with it intensely. Discuss what strikes you most about this city, and

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how it is similar or different from your own city. Introduce some new related German vocabulary on a handout. More detailed requirements will be given in class.

Extra Credit

No extra credit assignments are given to individuals that are not offered to the entire class. All extra credit assignments will be offered at the discretion of the instructor.

Late Work

Late submissions will not be accepted unless due to emergency or university approved absence.

Make Up Work/Tests

Students may make up missed tests, quizzes, and essays only with a valid medical or university excuse within one week of the missed quiz, essay or test. If you know you will miss an exam due to an official university function, please make arrangements with your instructor prior to the absence and as soon as possible. If you are absent from an exam, you must present documented proof of illness or university activity to your instructor before an early or make up exam will be scheduled.

Personal Reflection Essay

The Personal Reflection Essay serves as an assessment of the student's performance of the core curriculum objectives in the specific context of this course. I will provide information concerning the presentation, formatting, and grading of this project later in the semester. The subject of the essay will be a cultural topic or topics assigned by the instructor according to the instructor's preference. The cultural topic will present the student with an ethical dilemma or issue for resolution. Students should demonstrate that they have adequately researched and considered the topic in the framework of the core curriculum objectives.

The core objectives for the Language, Philosophy and Culture Foundational Component Area are addressed in this course according to the following descriptions. A global assessment rubric will be used for measuring students' mastery of these core objectives in the context of the Personal Reflection Essay.

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will demonstrate creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.

Communication Skills: Students will demonstrate effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.

Personal Responsibility: Students will demonstrate the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical-decision making.

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Social Responsibility: Students will demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.

In responding to the topic, students must identify their core beliefs and the origins of those core beliefs, recognize the ethical issue(s) presented and the relationships between issues, state a position on the issue(s) and connect their position to implied actions and consequences¹. In other words, students must answer the following questions in their essays:

- What ethical issue(s) are presented? Identify these.
- What is your opinion or position about the issue(s)?
- How did you come to hold this opinion? Identify your core beliefs and their origin.
- What can/will you do personally concerning the issue?
- What are the implications of your opinion and the consequences of actions that you take or do not take regarding the issue?

Important Dates

Last Day classes will meet face to face: November 24, 2020

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" December 4, 2020

Refer to: <https://msutexas.edu/registrar/assets/files/pdfs/acadcal2021.pdf>

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

¹ Modified from AAC&U Ethical Responsibility VALUE Rubric.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Technology Policy

One of the most important skills in learning a foreign language is the ability to improvise when you cannot remember a specific word or phrase. In order to build this skill and avoid distraction, you are asked to **refrain from using electronic devices during class time**. Unless you have spoken with me about a specific situation regarding the use of technology in the classroom, points will be deducted from your participation grade if your instructor sees you using laptops, cell phones etc. during class. On the rare occasion that such devices are required for class, your instructor will notify you in advance. Instructor Class Policies

Instructor Policy

Please be polite to your instructor and fellow students. Pay attention to the instructor and to your fellow students when they are speaking. Do not engage your classmates in conversation in English during class. No food or drinks, except for water, are allowed in our classrooms.

Email Policy

I will check email daily Monday through Friday and will make every effort to answer you within 24 hours. On the weekend, however, I might not be able to answer as quickly. Please make sure that you adhere to common rules of

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courtesy such as addressing me by name/title (Dr. Gagum), proofing spelling, and signing your name at the end of the email.

Name/Pronoun Policy

Learning a foreign language requires an interactive classroom environment. Therefore, it is important that we strive to make the classroom a respectful and inclusive place. If you feel comfortable doing so, you are encouraged to let me know during the first week of class what name you prefer to be called and if you prefer the use of masculine, feminine, or gender neutral pronouns. These preferences can be applied just to your interactions with me or to all of your in-class interactions with your peers.

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