



Elementary German
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
GERM 1234 Section 101/102
Spring 2020

Contact Information:

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Office hours: by appointments and see below
Monday: 09:00am -10:00am and 12:30pm-1:30pm
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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 1234 continues to develop the four major language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a highly authentic cultural context. This course will provide you with an ever-expanding set of vocabulary and grammar rules, as well as cultural knowledge, so that you will feel comfortable conversing in German about a wide range of topics. These topics include, but are not limited to your family, your studies, your likes and dislikes, your hobbies, and important historical events. You will learn to interpret German texts from a variety of sources and media and enhance your knowledge of cultural differences and similarities between German-speaking countries and your own.

Core Objectives and Assessment

Core objectives for the Language, Philosophy and Culture Foundational Component Area are addressed in this course according to the following descriptions. A global assessment tool that incorporates all required core objectives is used for assessment rather than objective specific assessment tools. This global assessment tool is called a Personal Reflection Essay for

Assessment of Core Curriculum Objectives and will be written by students at the end of the course. Core objectives:

Critical Thinking:

Students will respond in the target language orally and in writing to questions and/or topics based upon in-class readings, presentations, and/or out-of-class assignments that require students to extract information, analyze and evaluate information, draw conclusions, and/or form opinions on the topic. Students will inquire, analyze, evaluate and synthesize information from various resources available in the target language on a cultural topic of his/her choosing to be presented in a variety of modes to the instructor and/or class (e.g. art work, presentations, theatrical works, essays, music)

Communication Skills:

Students will demonstrate ability to effectively use memorized vocabulary, high-frequency expressions, accurate grammatical usage and idiomatic expressions in the target language to effectively develop, interpret and express ideas orally and in writing with culturally appropriate sensitivity. Students will demonstrate effective interpretation of memorized vocabulary, high-frequency expressions, grammatical usage and idiomatic expression in the target language both aurally and in print through the use of culturally-bound print and multi-media.

Personal Responsibility:

Students will demonstrate the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical-decision making by writing a personal reflection essay on a specific cultural topic that presents an ethical dilemma or issue for resolution. In their personal reflection essay, students will identify their core beliefs and the origins of those core beliefs, recognize complex ethical issues and relationships between issues, state a position on an ethical issue and connect their position to implied actions and consequences.

Social Responsibility:

Students will demonstrate intercultural competence and knowledge of civic responsibility as demonstrated in the connections or comparisons made by the student between his/her own culture and the target culture. Students are encouraged to demonstrate intercultural competence and knowledge of civic responsibility by volunteering in the local, regional, national or global German-speaking community through the service projects of the MSU German Club, the German-American Club of Wichita Falls, and/or another campus or community organization.

Required Textbook and Software

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** and must include both the 430-page textbook and **the code for accessing the interactive software**. 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. German tutoring is available in McCullough Hall.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2019-20](#)

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. [Office of Student 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.

Table 1:

Assignments	% of Course Grade
Quizzes	10
Unit Tests	30
Homework	10
Classwork: Participation and Attendance	10
Personal Reflective Essay	5
Essays in German	10
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 1234.

1. **Interactive Software:** In these assignments you will have to work through different modules containing grammar, vocabulary, and listening comprehension exercises. For example, you may be asked to listen to an audio interview and respond to questions about what you heard. Your IS account will be linked to that of your instructor (via a code provided on D2L) so that your instructor will be able to review your progress.
2. **Grammar Explanations:** 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:** 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.
4. **125-Word Essays:** You will be assigned short essays of at least 125 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 interactive and grammar 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

- Interactive exercises will be graded online for completion (95 for a fully completed assignment) and grades will be posted in the Gradebook on D2L by the end of the unit.
- 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 required to write 125 words for each essay, even if the assignment in the book suggests that your essay should be shorter/longer.

Participation and Attendance

Attendance is taken every class meeting. Students are required to be in class for the entire 50-minute period. Students may be counted absent if arriving more than 10 minutes late or leaving class early. This syllabus serves as notice that a student may be dropped from the class without further notification if absent more than four times.

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.

Students will be expected to come to class prepared to participate actively in all discussions and activities. Participation grades will be given daily on a 0 to 10 scale based on both quality and quantity of your contributions, according to the following criteria:

Table 3: Participation Grades

0	is absent
7	is minimal (student is present, but does not contribute)
8	is fair (student contributes once)
9	is good participation (student contributes twice)
10	is very good participation (student contributes three times or more)

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 listening comprehension, fill in the blanks, and/or true false portion and a written/short answer portion. The Final Exam contributes 15% to the final course grade. The Final Exam for this course is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2020 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Location: TBA

Presentation

You will need to give a short presentation (5-7 minutes) primarily in German language. You have the choice of either creating a poster, a PowerPoint, or a video to accompany your oral presentation. Discuss what strikes you most about this piece of culture from a German-speaking country, and how it is similar or different from your own culture. Introduce some new related German vocabulary on a handout. You will present your project during class at the end of the semester. Choose a topic that really interests you and demonstrates that you have engaged with it intensely. Presentations will be held during the last week of classes of the semester.

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

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.

Important Schedule Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: January 21-23

Deadline for May graduates to file for graduation: February 17

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" March 30

Refer to: <https://msutexas.edu/registrar/calendars.php>

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.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

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](#).

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 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.

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule Important Dates

Exams

Unit 5: Tuesday, February 11

Unit 6: Thursday, March 05

Unit 7: Thursday, April 16

Final Exam: Tuesday, May 12 at 10:30am – 12:30pm (TBA)

Essays

Essay 1: Wednesday, February 05

Rewrite 1: Monday, February 10

Essay 2: Thursday, February 27

Rewrite 2: Wednesday, March 3

Essay 3: Thursday, April 02

Rewrite 3: Tuesday, April 07

Personal Reflective Essay: Thursday, March 26

Dates	Exams	Unit	Topics
Week 1: 01/20 – 01/24		Unit 5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Culture: Northern Germany• Vocabulary: Describing landscapes• Grammar: war & hatte
Week 2: 01/27- 01/31		Unit 5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Culture: Personal information• Vocabulary: Counting to 20• Grammar: Nouns and gender

Dates	Exams	Unit	Topics
Week 3: 02/03- 02/07		Unit 5.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture: Southern Germany • Vocabulary: Travel & tourism • Grammar: Conversational past • Essay 1 (02/05)
Week 4: 02/10 – 02/11		Unit 5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture: Western Germany • Vocabulary: Describing the past • Grammar: Coordinating conjunctions • Rewrite Essay 1 (02/10)
02/11	Exam 1	Unit 5	
Week 4: cont. 02/12- 02/14		Unit 6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture: Getting around town • Vocabulary: Transportation • Grammar: Wo vs. wohin
Week 5: 02/17 – 02/21		Unit 6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture: Driving in Germany • Vocabulary: Car & driver terms • Grammar: Two-way prepositions (motion)
Week 6: 02/24 – 02/28		Unit 6.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture: Shopping • Vocabulary: Fruits, vegetables, <i>Drogerie & Apotheke</i> • Grammar: Verb-preposition combinations • Essay 2 (02/27)
Week 7: 03/02 – 03/06		Unit 6.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture: City layout • Vocabulary: Directions and travel • Grammar: Subordinating conjunctions • Rewrite Essay 2 (03/03)
03/05	Exam 2	Unit 6	
Week 8: 03/09 – 03/13		Personal Reflection Essay Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation preparation • Watch "Kirchblüten" • Movie discussion • Presentation
03/14	Spring Break begins 5:00pm (March 16-21)		
Week 9: 03/23 – 03/27		Unit 7.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture: Elementary school • Vocabulary: School terms • Grammar: Narrative past • Personal Reflective Essay submitted on D2L (03/26)
Week 10: 03/30 – 04/03		Unit 7.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture: High school & <i>Gymnasium</i> • Vocabulary: School subjects & phrases

Dates	Exams	Unit	Topics
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar: Modals in narrative past • Essay 3 (04/02)
Week 11: 04/06 – 04/10		Unit 7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture: German universities • Vocabulary: University vocabulary • Grammar: Narrative vs. conversational past • Rewrite Essay 3 (04/07)
04/08	Holiday Break begins at 10:00pm		
Week 12: 04/13 – 04/17		Unit 7.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture: Work and <i>Ausbildung</i> • Vocabulary: Professions • Grammar: Imperative
04/16	Exam 3	Unit 7	
Week 13: 04/20– 04/24		Unit 8.1 Unit 8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture: Germany’s Neighbors • Vocabulary: European countries • Grammar: Superlatives
Week 14: 04/27 – 05/01		Unit 8.2 Unit 8.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture: Germany and the EU • Vocabulary: More country names • Grammar: <i>wissen</i> vs. <i>kennen</i>
Week 15: 05/04 – 05/08		Unit 8.3 Unit 8.4 cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture: Austria • Vocabulary: Austrian history & geography • Grammar: Genitive case
Tuesday 05/12 10:30 am – 12:30pm	Final Exam	Unit 5-8	