



Intermediate German
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
GERM 2133 Intermediate German I
Fall 2023

Contact Information:

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Office: Bea Wood Hall 110
Office hours: by appointments and see below
Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays: 10:00am-10:50am
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Course Description

The language teaching community agrees that learning language and culture are inextricably connected. Thus, this course will introduce students to the language and culture of German-speaking countries, using both prepared and authentic materials with theme-related vocabulary and grammatical structures. This course will focus on continuing to develop students' German-language proficiency through modes of communication that reflect real life communication in the varied cultures of the German-speaking world. Students will have the opportunity to practice listening, reading, writing, and speaking in German through in-class activities and homework assignments. 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 Objectives

German 2133 covers the web-based textbook *Deutsch im Blick* chapters 7-9 and other additional learning resources and continues to develop the four major language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a highly authentic cultural context. Continuing from previous courses (GERM 1134/ GERM 1234), this course will resume to provide you with an ever-expanding set of vocabulary (to include more intermediate expansion) 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 and other personal information, travel, cultural information, politics, 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. By the completion of this course, students who have attended classes regularly and successfully completed all listening, written, lab, and computer assignments, as well as all exams (with a minimum grade of B-) should be able to:

- (a) Provide basic information about themselves, their families, interests, likes and dislikes, as well as daily activities in German.
- (b) Understand and participate in a conversation on a variety of everyday topics (e.g. meeting new people, weather, shopping, cultural nuances, etc.).
- (c) Read edited texts on familiar topics, understand the main ideas, and pick out important information from a variety of authentic texts (e.g. menus, signs, train schedules, excerpts from literature, poetry, etc.).
- (d) Fill in forms requesting information, as well as write letters, notes, postcards, or messages providing information.
- (e) Provide general information about German-speaking countries (e.g. culture, geography, weather, formal versus informal addresses, cultural customs and curtesy).
- (f) Improve your ability to engage in conversations on a wider range of topics. Practice speaking with correct pronunciation and fluency.
- (g) Describe and illustrate aspects of the cultures of German-speaking countries and make comparisons between these cultures and his/her own culture using basic linguistic structures and vocabulary in the target language.
- (h) Evaluate his/her own values, behaviors and worldviews on the socio-cultural topics presented and compare these to those of German-speakers.

Required Textbook and Software

No textbook purchase required. Students are required to download the online textbook free of charge: <https://coerll.utexas.edu/dib/index.php>

Excerpts, texts, and other learning resources are located on D2L. Chromebooks are not recommended as they will not work with D2L.

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 at the Office of Tutoring and Academic Support Programs (TASP) located in the Muffet Library.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2023-2024](#)

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.

Assignments	% of the Course Grade
Quizzes	10
Unit Tests	30
Homework	20
Participation and Attendance	10
Essays in German	10
Presentation	5
Comprehensive Final Exam	15

Grade Breakdown

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

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.

Attendance

Attendance is taken every class meeting. 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.

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.

Quizzes

There will be regular 5 -10 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).

Essays and Unit Tests

There will be three (3) essays and three (3) unit tests. Both will be administered on the dates announced in the Course Schedule.

Essays will be written in German language and must contain at least 150 words. For the preparation, it is not necessary to consult other sources than the ones used in class (textbook and workbook). The instructions for the essays will be posted on D2L.

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.

Presentation

You will need to give a short presentation (3-4 minutes) in German language. You will be creating PowerPoint 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. You will present your project during class at the end of the semester. You should choose a topic that really interests you and demonstrates that you have engaged with it intensely.

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 answer portion. The Final Exam contributes 15% to the final course grade. The Final Exam for this course is scheduled for Saturday, December 09th, 2023 at 10:30 am-12:30pm. Location: TBA

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

Change of Schedule and Late Registration: August 28-31

Deadline for December graduates to file for graduation: September 25

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

Refer to: <https://msutexas.edu/registrar/assets/files/pdfs/acadcal2324.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.

Homework

Written homework is due as stated in the schedule located on D2L. Check the D2L schedule to find the corresponding assignments for each class meeting. It is imperative to do your homework every day, because the assignments are specifically designed to practice what has been covered during class and to prepare you for the next class. You will receive a zero for an assignment you do not hand in.

Late Work

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

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) exist 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 MSU TEXAS 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.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled "*Run. Hide. Fight.*" which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: "[Run. Hide. Fight.](#)"

Grade Appeal Process

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

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

Dates	Units	Topics
Week 1- Week 4	Unit 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gesundheit & Fitness
Thursday, September 21, 2023, Exam: Unit 7		
Week 5- Week 8	Unit 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Das Traumleben, Beziehungen, Wohnen und die Karriere
Thursday, October 19, 2023, Exam: Unit 8		
Week 9- Week 15	Unit 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was ist Deutsch
Thursday, November 30, 2022, Exam: Unit 9		
Week 16	Unit 7-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation • Review
Final Comprehensive Exam: Saturday, December 9th, 2023 10:30am-12:30pm Room: TBA		