



Elementary German

Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences

GERM 1234 Section 201- 09:00am – 09:50 am (PY 204)

GERM 1234 Section 202- 11:00 am – 11:50 am (CO 111)

Spring 2024

Contact Information:

Instructor: Dr. Kyung Lee Gagum

Office: Bea Wood Hall 110

Office hours: Mondays-Thursdays: 10 am- 10:50 am, Wednesdays: 2pm-3pm,
and by appointment

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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 covers the web-based textbook *Deutsch im Blick* chapters 4-6 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. 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.

Culmination of First Semester Knowledge:

- Review and reinforce material covered in the first semester to ensure a solid foundation for more advanced language skills.

Expanding Vocabulary:

- Introduce and reinforce a broader range of vocabulary related to daily life, travel, and various topics of interest.

Grammar Application:

- Deepen understanding of basic grammar concepts, including verb conjugations, noun cases, adjective endings, and sentence structure.

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- Introduce more complex grammatical structures, such as subordinate clauses and different tenses.

Reading Comprehension:

- Introduce more authentic reading materials, such as short stories, articles, or excerpts from German literature.

- Develop reading comprehension skills and the ability to extract information from written texts.

Writing Proficiency:

- Strengthen writing skills by composing short essays, letters, or paragraphs on familiar topics.
- Focus on proper sentence structure, vocabulary usage, and overall coherence.

Listening Skills:

- Improve listening comprehension through exposure to a variety of spoken German, including conversations, interviews, and audio materials.

- Develop the ability to understand spoken language in different accents and speeds.

Communication Skills:

- Enhance oral communication skills through dialogues, role-playing, and interactive exercises.
- Practice expressing opinions, giving directions, and engaging in more extended conversations.

Cultural Awareness:

- Explore cultural aspects of German-speaking countries, including traditions, customs, and social norms.

- Discuss contemporary issues and events in the German-speaking world.

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, grades, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage.

Core Curriculum Assessment

Essay questions will serve as an assessment of the student's performance of the core curriculum objectives in the specific context of this course. The essay answers will be based upon a film or article(s) that I will assign around the middle of the semester. The film or article(s) will present the student with an ethical dilemma or issue for resolution. In their responses, 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:

- **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.
- **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.

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.

NOTE: As per The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR Title 34, Part 600.2), “a credit hour is an amount of work [...that] reasonably approximates not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester.”

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2023-24](#)

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 (3)	30
Homework, Core Curriculum Assessment	20
Attendance, Participation	10

¹ Modified from AAC&U Ethical Responsibility VALUE Rubric.

Essays (3) and Oral Presentation in German	15
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 online course schedule (D2L) as well as any additional homework assignments given. Completing the assigned reading, activities, 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 five basic types of homework assignments for German 1234 all located on D2L:

1. **Lesen (Read):** In preparation for class, you are responsible for reading assignments on D2L. These should be completed before class on the day, and you should bring any questions that you have about what you read/watched to class.
2. **Lernen (Study):** Study the required materials before class.
3. **Schreiben (Write):** Complete and write assignments from D2L on a separate paper and submit the paper in class.
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 course schedule. Essays will be graded for both content and language/grammar.

You may be given other types 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 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.

Attendance

You are required to be in the classroom for the entire 50-minute period. Arrive on time. You may be counted absent if you are more than 10 minutes late for class or if you leave class early.

This syllabus serves as notice that you may be dropped from the class without further notification if you are absent more than six times. A Conduct and Attendance Referral may be sent to the Dean of Students upon the fourth absence. If you decide to drop the course, you must follow university

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

Participation

The participation grade contributes 5% to your course grade. The participation grade is based upon your use of German in the face-to-face classroom and/or via chats with classmates. Don't worry about speaking perfect German. Accuracy will come with practice and repetition.

Quizzes

There will be regular 5-10 min.-long quizzes, as announced, 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 answer portion. The Final Exam contributes 15% to the final course grade. The Final Exam for this course is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 7, 2024 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Location: TBA

Presentation

You will need to give a short presentation (2-3 minutes) in the German language. You will create PowerPoint slides to accompany your oral presentation. Presentations will be held during the end of the semester.

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

Change of Schedule and Late Registration: **January 16 – 19, 2024**

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" April 24, 2024 (4 pm)

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Final Exam: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 (10:30 am – 12:30 pm)

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

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 an 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.

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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

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.

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Course Schedule

Dates		Chapter	Topics
Week 1- Week 5		Chapter 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Freizeit und Ausgehen ● Aufsatz 1
Thursday, February 15, 2024 Exam: Kapitel 4			
Week 6- Week 10		Chapter 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Familie, Feste und Feiertagen ● Aufsatz 2
Thursday, March 21, 2024 Exam: Kapitel 5			
Week 11- Week 15		Chapter 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Durch Deutschland und die Welt reisen ● Aufsatz 3
Thursday, April 25, 2024 Exam: Kapitel 6			
Week 16		Chapter 4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation ● Review
Final Comprehensive Exam: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 10:30am-12:30pm Room: TBA			

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