Course Syllabus: GER 2201, Fall 2007

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In case of questionable weather, be sure to call my phone and listen for a cancellation message. If there is no message by 7:30 a.m., you can assume we have class. I will also post course cancellations on the university website.

Office Hours: Mon 13:00-15:00, Wed 13:00-14:00, Thurs 8:30-9:30 and 11:30-12:30, or by appointment. I am usually available at many other times than the office hours listed, but you need to set up the meeting with me.

Holtman’s home page: http://faculty.mansfield.edu/bholtman/index.htm

Passwort Deutsch Website: http://www.passerwort-deutsch.de/lernen/index.htm

Virtual Language Lab: http://www.mansfield.edu/languagelab There are a number of language resources available through the language lab site. Check it out! At some point you will be asked to sign in to my.mansfield by using your usual e-mail name and password.

Textbooks:


Overview of Course:

Intermediate German is a continuation of first-year or introductory courses, whether you have taken them here at MU or elsewhere. Since people come into this course from a wide variety of backgrounds, a systematic and thorough grammar review is undertaken, with additional topics being introduced and practiced. The first semester of Intermediate German in particular focuses on solidifying sentence structure and building vocabulary and reading ability, with plenty of attention to speaking, listening, and writing skills as well. The grammar topics are built into Passwort Deutsch, our main textbook, and these are constantly reviewed and spiraled back in so that you eventually will come to master them. The Passwort Deutsch website has a number of online reading and listening drills for additional practice. These also include cultural excursions onto websites related to our chapters.

At the same time, vocabulary and structure skills are increased by reading and hearing authentic German texts and by means of class discussions about them. The Passwort Deutsch book is designed to be a bridge from lower-level material into "real" German, that is, language that is intended for consumption by native speakers. You will also gain a lot of exposure to many different native speakers of German from audio materials in each chapter. These will not only help you understand spoken German at a normal rate of speech, but also give you valuable “insider’s” information about the ways German speakers live, about German history, about the many facets of German culture and about the contributions of German thinkers to many fields of human endeavor.

The intermediate level is a challenge, since the students' backgrounds vary and since for many it may have been a year or more since their last German course. Intermediate-level texts may especially at first seem to be a huge leap,
especially in vocabulary and at the same time also in structure. Nonetheless, it is a hill one must climb before reaching true usable competence in German. And the good news is—it’s entirely possible! Remember that regular and steady work is necessary for any skill-building process, and a language is a perfect example of this. If you let yourself slide, you will not continue to make good progress and may even find yourself in difficulty. On the other hand, you will be fine if you KEEP UP. If you are prepared for class every day, you will feel more sure of yourself and have positive experiences with the language. Students who take 2201 and then 2202 find especially in 2202 that things begin to fall into place and that German becomes more and more enjoyable as their competence—and confidence—continue to increase.

By the end of 2201 and certainly 2202, students should be able to hold their own in a German conversation, understand the majority of what is being said to them, decipher a text meant for native speakers, and compose texts in German so that a native speaker can understand them. This is not to say there will be no errors, but students completing 2202 can generally be assured of being basically functional in German. You will have a new tool that will serve you in personal communications, travel, academic research, browsing the Internet, and many other uses. In addition, you will have trained your mind to begin thinking in another system, giving you flexibility in conceptual thinking, problem-solving and interpersonal capabilities. The many cultural insights you will have acquired should also serve you well in life, since you will understand well that there are many ways to look at the same topic or problem and correspondingly many interpretations and solutions. In short, you will be on your way to becoming a global citizen armed with a diverse palette of skills. In today’s interconnected world, we must all be aware that we are part of the whole human community and not just our own back yard. The question is not if, but when we will have contact with people from all over the world—and much of this contact is almost certain to occur in your future work environment, if current trends continue. And German, spoken natively by over 100 million people and as a second language by millions more, is a key language in the business world and is also vital for travel and other human interactions in central and eastern Europe and in many other countries.

After this course, a **minor in German is within easy grasp** for students who have another few semesters on campus. All you need is three advanced-level courses beyond 2202! And you may wish to consider very seriously the possibility of **studying in Jena** at the Friedrich-Schiller-Universität, on MU’s exchange program. You may even be able to complete a major in German if you study in Jena. MU is also a member of ISEP, which enables one to study at any of several German-speaking institutions.

**Timetable:**

The following is a general outline of material to be covered, subject to adjustment as needed. Specific weekly and daily assignments will be given in class and/or on my web site.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Material to be covered</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 29, 31</td>
<td>Course intro; Lektion 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 4, 5, 7 (NB: Tue on Mon sched.)</td>
<td>Lektion 13 (no class on Monday, Sept 3: Labor Day; come Tuesday instead)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 10, 12, 14</td>
<td>Lektion 13; Quiz 13; Lektion 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 17, 19, 21</td>
<td>Lektion 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 24, 26, 28</td>
<td>Lektion 14; Quiz 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 1, 3, 5</td>
<td>Lektion 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 8, 10, 12</td>
<td>Lektion 15; Quiz 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Oct 15-16)</td>
<td>Fall Holiday—no classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 17, 19</td>
<td>Lektion 16</td>
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Approximate grade breakdown:

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classroom attendance (mandatory) &amp; oral participation (includes class presentations):</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online exercises, Passwort Deutsch website:</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other homework, including Kurs- und Übungsbuch self-correcting exercises:</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vocab quizzes (including listening and speaking):</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter quizzes (including listening and speaking)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam (comprehensive, but focusing on later chapters):</td>
<td>20%</td>
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The final exam is optional if 93% or better is maintained throughout semester.

General hints:

Attendance: You are expected to attend ALL class sessions and participate actively. Only serious illness or grave situations should prevent your attendance in class. You are responsible for discussing absences with me and for obtaining makeup assignments. Call or e-mail BEFORE class is missed if at all possible. Take seriously the absolute necessity for thorough preparation outside of class. You need to set up a disciplined, daily study schedule in order to keep up with the work. If you practice material in a regular fashion, you should manage well. Just promise yourself now that you will not get behind! It is highly advisable to do as students in Germany do: form an Arbeitsgruppe with others from your class, and/or meet regularly with a native speaker or more advanced student.

Resources: We are fortunate this semester in having on campus two Austrian students through the ISEP program, Roland Habersack and Stephanie Peterseil. We also have two German students from MU’s exchange program with the Friedrich-Schiller-Universität (www.uni-jena.de) in Jena, Maria Reich (here last year, now a regular MU student and the tutor for German) and Nancy Bechmann. And guess what? YOU can be one of the illustrious MU students to study in Germany on this exchange! You need to have at least 2202 level--basic functional competence--to go on the program. Stefanie Bova, an MU German BSE major, is also a native speaker. There may be other native speakers on campus whom I don’t know, plus more advanced Americans. Meet them all, take advantage of German Club and other opportunities to use the language. If you get involved with German, it will become a part of you.

Course Materials: The Kurs- und Übungsbuch contains the core texts and exercises we will use in the course. Each unit consists of 12 pages of reading and listening material, along with comprehension, structure and vocabulary activities. Each activity is clearly marked as to what skill(s) one is practicing with it. We will do many of these together in class, or at least discuss them. Beginning on p. 82 are the Übungen (exercises) to help you practice material in the chapter. Each exercise is keyed to the appropriate section of the chapter. You will be assigned these exercises
to do outside of class. Do them carefully, thinking about the rules and principles that are being emphasized. ONLY THEN will you consult the Lösungen (answers) beginning on p. 180. Carefully check your work and indicate corrections in a way that shows me you did not simply copy the correct answers in. Obviously, you will not learn the material if you do not spend time grappling with it. Do not abuse the answer key! Following the Lösungen is a reference grammar section with useful tables and other info; a list of irregular verbs follows on pp. 209-211, and finally there is an alphabetical word list.

You will note that the word list does not include English translations. This book was published in Germany and is intended for learners of all nationalities, not just English speakers. You will be surprised that you indeed can (and should!) learn German vocabulary directly in German, without the intermediary of English. This is important if you wish to speak and understand German—no time to “translate” everything via English! You will learn to think directly in German by regular and careful vocab practice. The all-German setup of the course materials should encourage you to limit recourse to English. However, I provide chapter word lists (German-English) plus a master word list on my website for your use. The master list is color-coded by chapter so that you know which words appeared when. I will also give you a number of vocabulary exercises each chapter to help you learn new words and review those you already know. Also: the LEO online German dictionary (dict.leo.org) is excellent for quick lookups if your computer is handy. The link is also on my website.

The Kurs-CD is needed in order to do listening exercises in your textbook. You must build time into your schedule for this and other regular listening practice. Since much of the audio material from this CD is included in the online exercises of the Passwort Deutsch website (passport-deutsch.de/lernen/index.htm), I am not requiring you to purchase it. However, it is recommended, since you need the audio files to do some of the exercises in your book. Perhaps you can even share with another student and split the cost. The exercises on the website are part of your grade in the course, so you are expected to do them online. I will explain in class how to report results to me.

Work on your listening comprehension in other ways as well. For instance, you can visit the Deutsche Welle (www.dw-world.de/german) site regularly and follow the news auf Deutsch. There are a number of cool features offered there for learners of German. One is “langsamm gesprochene Nachrichten” which also come with a transcript. You can really train your ears and learn new vocabulary about current topics in the news. Check out their other offerings under “Deutschkurse.” Some supplementary computer exercises are available to you on my web site as well. Approach your online as an exciting opportunity to listen to authentic German and thereby develop your listening and vocabulary skills.

Sites of Interest: Check out the home page of MU's Foreign Languages section in the Dept. of Languages and Literature (http://www.mnsfl.edu/depts/forlangu) as a good starting point for web surfing. You will find a collection of links that point you to huge collections of foreign language sites.

Above all, enjoy interacting with other people in German! That’s what it’s really all about.
General Education, Global Awareness

The General Education outcomes include Thinking Skills (critical thinking, problem solving, and analysis) and Communication. These are defined and illustrated in the MU Undergraduate Catalog. Virtually all written compositions and oral presentations in this course would be acceptable artifacts for Communication in the Language & Literature block. Depending on the specific assignment, any of the three thinking skills might be an appropriate outcome as well. For example, quizzes and tests are likely to test one or more of the three thinking skills and could thus be used as artifacts. See your instructor for help on selecting and classifying artifacts.

All language courses, including this one, count as G courses (Global Awareness), of which you need 3 in order to graduate. This course does not count as an I (information literacy) or W (writing across the curriculum).

PDE Standards Information for Prospective Teachers of German

This course is not included in the German BSE, although it is closely related to GER 2202, which is officially included in the BSE major. GER 2201-2202 offer instruction that helps prepare students for all of the PDE content standards, as listed below. Particular emphasis is on 1.A, I.B, and I.E. Although not at the advanced level, preparatory level work for I.C and I.D is offered. Finally, I.F is addressed by the curriculum of Passwort Deutsch series at a level appropriate to students’ linguistic preparation at this stage.

Standard I.A. Interpersonal communication (speaking and writing) in the target language at the advanced level including:

- Engaging in formal and informal conversations
- Providing and obtaining information,
- Expressing feelings and emotions,
- Exchanging opinions

Standard I.B. Interpretive communication (listening, reading, viewing) at the advanced level including:

- Written, spoken, and visual language on a variety of topics and in authentic texts,
- Main ideas and important details,
- Using comprehension and interpretation strategies,
- Socio-cultural nuances

Standard I.C. Presentational communication (speaking and writing) at the advanced level including presenting information, concepts and ideas to an audience of listeners of readers on a variety of topics, using the target language

Standard I.D. Structure of the language including demonstrating knowledge of advanced grammar and the linguistic aspects of the target language, including phonology, morphology, semantics and syntax. Candidates in classical languages will, in addition, demonstrate knowledge of dialectology / sociolinguistics and etymology

Standard I.E. Culture including the relationship between the perspectives (value systems, attitudes, and beliefs of people from a target culture), products (things, both tangible and intangible, that are produced by members of a culture — e.g., tools, foods, literature, laws, music, systems of education) and practices (patterns of social interaction — e.g., what to do, when, where and how) of the target culture(s) studied

Standard I.F. Immersion including the major developments and characteristics of a selected country(ies) where the target Language is the official language including:
- Geography, history, and economics,
- Religious and political systems,
- Literature, fine arts and other cultural symbols

MU Policy for Excused Absences

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected. Documented excuses because of illness, serious mitigating circumstances, or absences because of official university representation will be accepted by all faculty, thus permitting you to make-up missed tests and/or assignments in a reasonable manner at the instructor’s discretion.

In courses where classroom participation is an integral component, your attendance is essential and may influence your final grade. If applicable to your course, the instructor will explain that relationship when giving criteria for evaluation during the first week of class.

Academic Integrity Policy

Students are expected to do their own academic work, and dishonesty in academic work in any of its forms, including cheating, academic misconduct, fabrication, plagiarism, is unacceptable. Faculty are expected to instruct students in ways of avoiding these forms of academic dishonesty. Faculty are also responsible for assessing and reporting all charges of academic dishonesty to the provost. (See Procedure in Mountie Manual.)

Procedures faculty will use to initiate disciplinary action in cases of academic dishonesty are outlined in the Mountie Manual, from which much of the information on this page is taken.

Special factors that may affect your learning

Any students with documented psychological or learning disorders or other significant medical conditions that may affect their learning should work through Mr. William Chabala in our Counseling Center (South Hall 216, Phone: 662-4798; e-mail wchabala@mnsfld.edu) to provide me with the appropriate letter so that I may serve their particular needs more effectively. If you have an exceptionality that requires classroom or testing accommodations, Mr. Chabala will work with us to identify and implement appropriate interventions.