

German 101

Spring Semester 2012

1130-1225 a.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in 242 Campus Center

Professor John F. Lalande II

Office Location: 245 Campus CenterHall

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Office Hours: Mondays, 330-430 and Fridays, 9-10

Course Materials:

- 1) Deutsch heute. Grundstufe. 9th edition, by Jack Moeller et al. Boston: Heinle/Cengage Learning, 2010. (This will be our basic text.)
- 2) Deutsch heute. Student Activities Manual, 9th edition, by Jack Moeller et al. Boston: Heinle/Cengage Learning, 2010.
- 3) Language Tapes and CD-Rom: Each chapter has corresponding exercises available on CD-Rom or language tapes. If you did not purchase the CD-Rom with the above books, you can purchase tapes or a CD from the Department of Modern Languages & Literatures for a modest fee.

Course Syllabus – The full course syllabus is available at the department's webpage: (http://www.oswego.edu/academics/colleges_and_departments/departments/modern_languages/index.html), click on "Faculty & Staff Directory," go to my name, and you will be able to download the course syllabus and this document.

Attendance, Participation and Practice – Good attendance and participation are vital to your success in almost any course on campus, but *especially* in a skills-course, such as German. Note that a large portion of your grade rewards you for your attendance and participation. To receive full credit for attendance and participation, you must arrive on time.

Learning a second language is like learning any skill (such as playing a musical instrument or a sport). The only way you will get better is through practice, practice, practice. Practice or study every day frequently for short periods of time (15-20 minutes). Take advantage of times you might normally waste to be thinking and speaking to yourself in German: while you're sitting and waiting for class to start, as you're walking on campus between classes, etc.

How will my grade for the course be determined? Once again, please note that your course grade will be based on *more than* just exam grades.

300 points – Attendance *and* Participation

300 points – Chapter Examinations (There will be four, but the exam grade for the worst one, or for the one which you missed, will be dropped. Unless you are ill, you are expected to take all exams.)

200 points – Homework and Quizzes

100 points – Culture & Communication Outside of Class (e.g., International Coffee Hour, relevant films, lectures, plays, concerts, etc.)

200 points – Oral Final (75 pts.) and Written Final (125 pts.)

1100 points = total (A= 100-94%; A- = 93-90; B+ = 89-97; B = 86-84; B- = 83-80;

C+ = 79-77; C = 76-74; C- = 73-70; D+ = 69-67; D = 66-64; D- = 63-60; F = 59-0%.

What if I am sick? If you are sick, please extend the courtesy of informing me that you will not be coming to class (call or e-mail me). Check with a fellow student to see what you may have missed and/or what assignments are due. If you miss class more than once or twice, bring a note from a doctor or the Health Center verifying that you were sick. In this way, you will not lose credit for having missed class. If you are sick for an exam, no makeup exams are administered, but take heart: the score for that exam will be the one to be dropped. (See the discussion below about grading.)

What does "participation" in class mean? How can I get a good grade for that? First of all, it means coming prepared to class and being attentive so that you can join in conversational activities with your fellow students. It means completing and submitting homework assignments on time. And, finally, it means asking and answering questions posed by fellow students and by me.

I'm nervous about speaking up in class and making mistakes. Do you have any advice for me? Yes! First of all, it's only natural to feel nervous about making mistakes. You won't get better in German or any other foreign language unless you are willing to stick your neck out and make mistakes. Your fellow students will be making them, too, so don't worry about mistakes to the point that you become tongue-tied. Just learn from your mistakes. Making mistakes in your spoken German during class will *not* adversely affect your grade. What's important to me is that you are making the effort to communicate, and that you eventually learn from your mistakes.

When you make an error in your spoken German, I am not likely to correct you unless I feel that a native speaker would either not understand or misunderstand you.

Of course, whenever you write something in German, that is a different matter. In that instance all errors will be brought to your attention.

I'm also nervous about taking tests in German. What can I do about that? First of all, let me say that some nervousness is good. It shows you care! Secondly, I will do all I can to minimize your nervousness. Before every exam, you will receive from me a handout which informs you roughly what will be on the exam, how the exam will be constructed, and how much weighting is accorded to each section. It will also contain sample questions and answers. If you come to all classes, complete your assignments (well and on time), and participate regularly, you should receive a very good grade.

I hope it's clear to you that I am glad to have you in this course, and that I want you to do well. Viel Glück (Good Luck) and Viel Spass (Have Fun)!

Prof. John F. Lalande II.

P.S. If you have a disabling condition which may interfere with your ability to complete this course successfully, please inform me as soon as possible and contact the Office of Disabled Student Services (phone: 312-3358).