

# German 102

Frühlings- Semester 2012

8:00-8:55; 9:10-10:05- Uhr, Montags, Mittwochs und Freitags im 103 Mahar Hall

## Frau Johanna Henry

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Office Hours: Wednesday 11:00-12:00

### Course Textbooks:

- 1) Deutsch heute. Grundstufe. 9<sup>th</sup> ed., by Jack Moeller et al. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2010.
- 2) Deutsch heute. Arbeitsheft. 9<sup>th</sup> ed., by J. Moeller et al. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2010.
- 3) CD-Rom: Each chapter has corresponding exercises available on CD-Rom. If you did not purchase the CD-Rom with the above books, you can purchase it at cost from the Department of Modern Languages & Literatures.

A copy of the textbook is on reserve in the library; copies of the tapes are available in the Language Lab (233 Campus Center).

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](http://www.oswego.edu/academics/colleges_and_departments/departments/modern_languages/index.html)), click on "Faculty & Staff Directory," go to the name of your instructor, 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, etc.

*What if I am sick?* If you are sick, please extend the courtesy of informing us that you will not be coming to class (call or e-mail us). 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 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.)

*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

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

200 points – Homework and quizzes

100 points – Culture & Communication (e.g., International Coffee Hour, movies, concerts, plays, art exhibits, lectures, etc.)

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

1000 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+ = 69-68; D = 67-64; D- =63-60;F = 59-0%.

*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?* Do we ever! First of all, it’s only natural to feel nervous about making mistakes. Moreover, 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 them 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 us 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, we are not likely to correct you unless we 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 it be said that some nervousness is good. It shows you care! Secondly, we will do all we can to minimize your nervousness. Before every exam, you will receive a *Prüfungsvordruck*. The purpose of that handout is to inform 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 feel a bit rusty after the long break between semesters. Any tips or advice?* During the first two weeks of the course we will be reviewing selected communicative and grammatical topics. Since you may know better than we do where your weaknesses lie, use these two weeks to shore up any weaknesses you may have. Getting off to a good start will make the whole course more enjoyable for you, so please make the time to review thoroughly.

*Sometimes German seems fast to me. What can I do?* To begin, this is a clear sign that you simply need to listen to more German. The more you listen to, the less likely it is you will find the speed or pace of spoken German to be fast. You can purchase practice tapes at cost from the department. By listening to the German spoken on those tapes, your listening skills should improve significantly to the point where German will not seem (too) fast anymore.

We hope it’s clear to you that we are glad to have you (back) in this course, and that we want you to do well (again). *Viel Glück* (Good Luck) and *Viel Spass* (Have fun)!

P.S. If you have a disabling condition which may interfere with your ability to complete this course successfully, please inform one of us as soon as possible and contact the Office of Disabled Student Services, 183 Campus Center (phone: 312-3358).

**Johanna Henry - Course Instructor**