Michigan Technological University: Herbst 2001

Deutsch HU3221

Topics in German Literature
(Sektion R01; MTU #85360)

Kursbeschreibung (Syllabus)

Dozent: Prof. Dr. Dieter Wolfgang Adolphs
Raum: Walker Arts and Humanities Center (Gebäude11), Zimmer 143
Zeit: Mo., Mi., Fr., 14 Uhr 05 bis 14 Uhr 55
Büro: Walker Arts and Humanities Center, Zimmer 340
Telefon: 487-3259 (Büro); 482-3182 (Privat)
E-Mail: adolph@mtu.edu

Sprechstunden: Montag und Freitag 12 Uhr 05 bis 12 Uhr 55; Mittwoch, 10 Uhr 05 bis 10 Uhr 55 (andere Zeiten nach Vereinbarung)

Lehrmaterialien:

Was ist deutsch? Hrsg. von Anne Leblans et al.
Thomas Mann: "Meine Zeit" (handout)
Theodor W. Adorno: "Auf die Frage: Was ist deutsch?"
Friedrich Dürrenmatt: Die Physiker.
Wörterbuch: Deutsch-Englisch/Englisch-Deutsch

Willkommen in Houghton!

I am pleased that you are going to continue your study of German and hope that I can help you achieve a reasonable mastery of German during the short time allotted this term.

Course Goals: Deutsch HU3221 a continuation of your study of German language, literature and culture. The prerequisite for this course is the successful completion of HU2221-2222/5 (old quarter-base course numbers HU281-283/5) or an equivalent knowledge demonstrated by scoring at least 600 points on the German placement test. While this course will not focus on language acquisition it will give you the opportunity to practice and improve your language skills in order to:

- feel comfortable in a German-speaking environment
- read German of an intermediate level of complexity, including a selection of contemporary literature (narrative texts, drama, and poetry)
- participate in discussions and skits
- present your view on subjects of interest
- be more familiar with cultural similarities and differences
- write German texts like a personal letter, a journal, and short compositions.

All work in this course will stress the use of German as a means of communication.
Inhalt und Aufbau des Kurses

The course covers selected parts of *Was ist deutsch?*, a cultural reader that explores contemporary German identity and asks the question: Who or what is German today? This collection of text will be complemented by two essays, Thomas Mann's lecture, "Meine Zeit," held in 1950 at the University of Chicago, and Theodor W. Adorno's essay, "Auf die Frage: Was ist deutsch?" (In addition, we will read the play, *Die Physiker*, by Friedrich Dürrenmatt (1921-1990), a Swiss author of essays, avant-garde plays, and existentialist detective novels. During the entire semester we will also try to apply newly learned skills by working in small groups (AGs= Arbeitsgruppen). There also will be time for regular slide presentations, German voice and music tapes, as well as videos.

There will be four essay assignments, four exams (questions about our readings), and two oral projects for every student ("Sprechsituationen" and "Report"). Grades will be based on written work (30% essays, 30% exams), presentations (20%), and oral participation (20%). Oral participation assumes regular attendance in class (you will only earn participation credits for attending at least two thirds of all class meetings).

You are welcome to discuss with me any matters related to the course and your studies. Alles Gute für dieses Herbstsemester — und viel Spaß!

Orientierungshilfen zum Lernen von Deutsch als Fremdsprache

You will receive a bi-weekly syllabus (Wochenplan) with specific assignments for each class meeting, a general outline of the work to be done in each class and other information that I hope will help you in your work. I suggest that you get a 3-ring binder or a folder to keep your syllabi, corrected written assignments and other materials together.

Language study is different from study in most other academic areas such as engineering. It involves both, the comprehension of ideas and the mastery of practical skills (listening, reading, speaking and writing). The latter requires intensive daily practice. Those of you who have learned to play a musical instrument or become proficient at any sport can appreciate that fact — knowing that one will be rewarded with a great feeling of success! Regular attendance in class and regular active participation is a required part of your work. Preparation of each daily assignment in advance of the class meeting, where you will get structured, guided practice in using German, is necessary for your own success in learning as well as for the success of the entire group's working together.

As a rule you will have homework assigned for every class meeting. Written assignments are to be submitted at the start of the class period for which they are scheduled. Homework submitted after the start of class will be corrected, but only for half credit. Do not skip class because of less than complete preparation. This will deprive you of essential knowledge and experience that can not be made up.

How much time should you spend studying German? The answer to that depends on many variables, e.g., your background, your native ability, but a good rule of thumb is: one hour (or at the most two hours) outside class for every hour in class. If you spend that amount of time each week, spread over the entire week (not all in one
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day or during one night before a test!), actively studying (not just sitting there looking at the book!), you should achieve the goals of this course successfully and also be rewarded with a great feeling of intellectual enrichment. *Viel Spaß beim Lernen!*

**Grading Scale:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92-100%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>72-77.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A/B</td>
<td>88-91.9%</td>
<td>C/D</td>
<td>68-71.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82-87.9%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>62-67.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/C</td>
<td>78-81.9%</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-61.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Exam Dates and Essay Due Dates:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Essay</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>24 September</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>21 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8 October</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5 October</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>2 November</td>
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<td>5 November</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>7 December</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10 December</td>
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</tbody>
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Please note: MTU complies with all federal and state laws regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students (487-2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (487-3310).

Also: Please note that this course description and all schedules are tentative and may be changed. If any such changes are made, you will receive a printed update during our regular class meetings.

**Other opportunities offered by MTU's German Program:**

- **German Club**: The *MTU German Club* is a charter affiliate of the *American Association of Students of German*.
- MTU Certificate in Foreign Language and Area Study
- Advanced Certificate in Foreign Language and Area Study
- Goethe Institute Zertifikat Deutsch als Fremdsprache and Mittelstufenprüfung (next exams: late spring, 2002)
- Graduate Student Exchange with a number of German and Swiss universities
- Summer Internships for juniors and seniors in German companies and universities

*We are in the process of establishing Minors in German*
German Language Studies as Part of MTU’s General Education Requirements

Students who study a language at MTU may satisfy general education requirements, as well as requirements for the Modern Language and Area Study Certificate and the Advanced Modern Language and Area Study Certificate. Depending on the students' previous exposure to a language, there are four different options. Options for students who placed into third-year German are highlighted in bold print.

See your major advisor for further explanation and approval of general education requirements.

1. Instead of taking the regular four-credit-hour World Cultures (UN1002) course, students may take two terms of a modern language with a passing grade during their first three semesters (i.e., their freshman year and/or the fall of their sophomore year). They only need to take the one-hour activity part of World Cultures (UN1003). Students with previous knowledge of a modern language (such as two years of High School German) must take the placement test (prior to their class work) to be eligible for this option, and they will be assigned to the appropriate level of this language. Should they opt to continue with this language, they may count this course work toward the general education distribution requirement (at least nine credit hours, with a maximum of twelve credit hours).

2. Students with previous knowledge of German who place into the transitional first-year course can opt out of UN1002 (four credit hours) by taking UN1003 (one credit hour), one term of Transitional First-Year German (HU1225), and one term of the second-year of this language with a passing grade during their first three semesters (i.e., their freshman year and/or the fall of their sophomore year). They will receive three placement credits (HU1221) after successfully completing HU1225. (Depending on the degree requirements of their major, such placement credit may count as free electives.) Should they opt to continue with this language, they may count this course work toward the general education distribution requirement (at least nine credit hours, with a maximum of twelve credit hours).

3. Students who place into the second year of German will receive six placement credits (HU1221/2) after successfully completing one term of second-year German. (Depending on the degree requirements of their major, such placement credit may count as free electives.) Students who complete the second-year sequence of this language can either count these two courses toward the general education distribution requirement, OR they may take UN1003 (one credit hour) instead of the four-credit-hour World Cultures lecture (UN1002) during their first three semesters (i.e., their freshman year and/or the fall of their sophomore year). Students may continue with third- and fourth year language courses of this language and count this course work toward the general education distribution requirement (i.e., at least nine, and up to twelve credit hours).

4. Students who place into the third year of German will receive twelve placement credits (HU1221/2 and HU2221/2) after successfully completing one term of third-year German. Depending on the degree requirement of their major, six credit hours of such placement credit (HU1221/2) may count as free electives, and the remaining six credit hours (HU2221/2) may count toward the general education distribution requirement. Students who take more than one third- and/or fourth year course of this language may either count these classes (as well as the six placement credits for the second year of this language) toward the general education distribution requirement (i.e., at least nine, and up to twelve credit hours), OR they may take two of these classes during their freshman year and/or the fall of their sophomore year (together with UN1003) instead of World Cultures (UN1002) and count any further course work (as well as the six placement credits for the second year of this language) toward the general education distribution requirement (i.e., at least nine, and up to twelve credit hours).
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