HU 2281  German Language and Culture 1a

Lehrbuch:  Wie geht's?
An Introductory German Course. Seventh Edition
Dieter Sevin and Ingrid Sevin
Thomson/Heinle

QUIA Online Activities Passcard to accompany Wie geht's?
(comes bundled with new texts; can be purchased online if using a used text)

Lehrer:  Rebecca Hudson Austin
Büro:  331 Walker Arts and Humanities Center
Labor:  114 Walker Arts and Humanities Center

Sprechstunden: Office hours are subject to change.
R. Austin: TBA
und nach Vereinbarung (or by appointment)
S. Austin: Montag und Mittwoch 11-12 Uhr
Donnerstag 10-11 Uhr

Telefon:  487-3251 (Büro); 487-3036 (Labor)
e-mail: rhudson@mtu.edu

The primary goal of this course is to provide opportunities for students to develop proficiency in communicative skills. Students will learn to speak German, understand what is said, read authentic texts and materials and learn to write in German. By the end of the academic year, students should have acquired a degree of competence in the four language skills and familiarized themselves with many aspects of German culture.

1. Aural Comprehension
Students should feel comfortable in a German-speaking environment and be able to understand German that is spoken at moderate conversational speed and that deals with everyday topics.

2. Reading
Students should be able to read non-technical German of basic complexity on various aspects of German culture and life.

3. Speaking
Students should be able to participate in discussions and skits and converse with speakers of German in everyday situations.

4. Writing
Students should be able to write German texts such as short letters, a journal or basic compositions on topics presented in the textbook.

5. Cultural Insights
Students should acquire basic knowledge about the countries where German is spoken and become familiar with cultural similarities and differences between these countries and the United States.
Grading Policy: I DO NOT GRADE ON A CURVE!!!

Total points to be earned: approx. 1000

I. 40% of your grade will be based on the written examinations. This term we will cover Schritte through Kapitel 7 in the textbook. There will be a test on each chapter. The tests will be worth varying numbers of points (25, 50, 75 or 100).

II. 25% of your grade will be earned through active participation. Active participation is defined as being in class, asking questions, answering questions, and being a valuable contributor to the class environment. Attendance is essential!!!

I will accept up to 5 absences per semester. Every subsequent absence will result in the loss of 5 points (beyond those points not earned for participation or homework). It is the student’s responsibility to explain special circumstances to me – preferably BEFORE the absence.

III. 20-25% of your grade will be earned from daily homework. If you know that you are going to miss this class either hand it in during an earlier class or put the completed assignment in my box (Walker 3rd floor).

IV. 10-15% of your grade will be earned in the lab and doing QUIA online work. Language Laboratory 114 Walker, Tel. 487-3036, e-mail: rhudson@mtu.edu

The QUIA Online Activities Passcard that accompanies Wie geht's? is designed to help students improve their listening and speaking skills; the exercises and activities correlate with the textbook. The website to accompany the textbook (http://wiegheis.heinle.com) contains multiple links to real German web pages and closely follow the thematic, grammatical, and cultural concepts in each chapter.

In addition to doing assigned homework, students in my class are expected to spend at least two hours per week practicing German (audio program, software, on-line activities, videos, German language tutors, etc.) in the language lab (or at home if doing QUIA work – be sure to fill out and turn in logsheets in order to get credit for this time).

There will also be a short lab quizzes for some chapters to be completed in the lab by a given deadline. These quizzes may vary in form – online, oral, written, etc. More details will be given each chapter.

Final grades will be determined according to the following percentages:

100-90=A 89-85=AB 84-80=B 79-75=BC 74-70=C 69-65=CD 64-60=D

We will move through the chapters fairly quickly. If you’re having trouble, come see me or email me. I’m flexible and more than willing to give extra help outside of class. There are also other tutors available in the language lab. See the posted lab schedule for the times they work.

**At the end of each week I will hand out a plan for the following week. I reserve the right to change that plan or the syllabus if the instructional needs of the class require it.

NOTE: MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations 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 and services at MTU, please call Associate Dean of Students Gloria Melton at 487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, the department head/chair, or the Affirmative Action Office at 487-3310.

If anyone in this class has a disability that requires an accommodation under the ADA, please see me as soon as possible so that we may address the situation.