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?  
(optional -- can be purchased online, see lab explanation for details)

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

Sprechstunden: R. Austin: Montag, Mittwoch, Freitag 11.15-12 Uhr  
und nach Vereinbarung (or by appointment)

S. Austin: Montag, Mittwoch, Freitag 9-11 Uhr

Pluspunktabend im Labor: Montag 18-19.30 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 a 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: 950

I. 400 points of your grade will be based on the written examinations.

II. 205 points 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.

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. 200 points of your grade will be earned from daily homework.

IV. 95 points of your grade will be earned in the lab.

Language Laboratory 114 Walker, Tel. 487-3036, e-mail: rhudson@mtu.edu

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 quiz for some chapters to be completed in the lab by a given deadline. These quizzes may vary in form—online, oral, written, etc. Any time spent taking a lab quiz counts towards lab time. More details will be given each chapter.

There will be three primary resources required for this class available in the Language Lab. The first is online access to QUIA. QUIA is an online workbook which accompanies the textbook, Wie geht's? Access to QUIA is available for purchase online at https://secure.quia.com/servlets/quia.course.ui ersteigung?purchaseCourse?bookId=2437. You will also be able to access this online workbook outside of the Language Lab if you have an internet connection. Handouts explaining how to sign on, along with the course code (FEJH634) for this class are available in the language lab. The second resource is the Arbeitsbuch which accompanies the textbook. You may use the Arbeitsbuch in place of the online workbook if you prefer, but the books (there will be two copies) and the accompanying CDs may not leave the lab. The third resource is German Second and Third Years Workbook, which is organized by grammatical concept and will occasionally be required for homework.

NOTE: Although required homework out of these resources may only be seldom assigned, they are excellent sources of extra practice and review.

V. 50 points of your grade will be a special semester project.

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 beginning of each chapter I will hand out a plan for that chapter. 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.