Syllabus for GERMAN – HU 2281 . . . Fall Semester 2005, 3 credits

Professor: Barbara Lide, Ph.D.
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Home phone: 482-8051. Do not hesitate to call me at home to make an appointment.

Textbook: Seven and Seven, *Wie geht's? An Introductory German Course*
(An audio CD is included with the textbook package.)
Please note: Each student is required to have his or her own book and to bring it to every class meeting!

Course description and purpose: This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the language, history, and culture of German-speaking countries. While we shall be taking a four-skills approach (listening, speaking, reading, and writing), we shall concentrate mainly on the first three, learning proper pronunciation, basic vocabulary, and reading skills that will enable students to get along in a German-speaking country. We shall also learn basic German grammar, which, as I have observed, also helps students to understand English grammar, so that while learning a foreign language they also are enriching their knowledge of their own. While students will be expected to be able to write clear German sentences, or even short paragraphs, there will be no lengthy writing assignments.

Quizzes will be given at approximately the end of every chapter. Before each quiz, you will be given a Quiz Coverage Sheet that will tell you what material to review, as well as a one-page Review Sheet. Your exam grade average will count for 65% of your grade.

Class Participation: Class participation has several dimensions: Attendance (both physical and mental), preparation, and active participation. Each student begins with a class grade of 97.5 and is allowed two unexcused absences over the entire semester. After that, 5 points are deducted from the class grade for each additional unexcused absence. (Extraordinarily good performance in class can also bring your participation grade up.) If you are unprepared for class – either without textbook or without having done the homework, 2.5 points will be subtracted from your class grade. I check preparation by going around the classroom to see if you have written out your homework exercises.

Grading system: Quiz (written test) average: 65%. Oral exam – at the end of the semester: 10%. Attendance and participation: 25%. PLEASE NOTE: students who fail all the exams will also fail the class, regardless of attendance and participation.
What should go without saying (Some of Professor Lide's rules for basic classroom etiquette):

1) No gum chewing or smokeless tobacco in class! Also, the classroom is not a lunchroom! Please finish the food or libation of your choice before entering the classroom. I particularly dislike baseball caps worn in class, especially when they are pulled down over the eyes (eye contact is very important for communication in a classroom): therefore, baseball caps or other hats definitely will not be allowed in this class. You do not need to have your head covered when you are inside a warm classroom.

2) If you carry a cellular phone, make sure that it is turned off in the classroom! Your classmates do not need to be interrupted by your telephone ringing.

3) Computer games are not allowed in class. You are expected to devote your attention to what is going on in class, not to what is happening on a little screen that you hold in your hand.

Please read – and heed – the following paragraph from a letter to the faculty from the former Dean of Students, dated August 28, 1995: “Classroom etiquette: There have been reports from faculty of gradual deterioration of student conduct in class. We will discuss expectations of classroom behavior with entering students. Specifically, we will inform students that they are expected to arrive on time; to remain seated throughout the class period unless moving about is part of the professor’s plan for the day; and to refrain from talking, reading newspapers, kissing, or sleeping in class! Please hold students to these expectations. Students will also be informed that faculty have the authority to remove students from courses in their conduct seriously interfered with academic work.”

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus is subject to revision, if necessary, for the purpose of serving instructional needs.