Michigan Technological University: Herbst 2008
Deutsch HU 3281 (R01)

LEVEL II-A GERMAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Kursbeschreibung (Syllabus)

Dozent: Prof. Dr. Dieter Wolfgang Adolphs
Lehrraum: Walker AHC, Zimmer 109
Zeit: Mo., Mi., Fr., 14 Uhr 05 bis 14 Uhr 55
Büro: Walker Arts and Humanities Center, Zimmer 308
Telefon: 487-3231 (Büro); 482-3182 (privat)
E-Mail: dadolph@mtu.edu; 32811-4@mtu.edu
Sprechstunden: Mo., 16 Uhr 05 bis 16 Uhr 50, Mi., 11 Uhr 05 bis 11 Uhr 50, Fr., 13 Uhr 05 bis 13 Uhr 50 Uhr (andere Zeiten nach Vereinbarung)

Lehrbücher:


English-German/German-English dictionary

Willkommen in Houghton!

Ich freue mich, dass Sie an der Technischen Universität Michigan weiter Deutsch lernen möchten... 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 time allotted this semester.

Course Goals:

Deutsch HU3281 is a continuation of your study of German language and of representative cultural features of the main German-speaking countries. The prerequisite for this course is the successful completion of HU2282 or an equivalent knowledge demonstrated by scoring at least 340 points on the German placement test. By the end of the entire academic year you should have improved your skills in order to:

- feel comfortable in a German-speaking environment
- have a thorough knowledge of German grammar and vocabulary
- read German of an intermediate level of complexity
- 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 three topic ("Themen") and up to four grammar ("Kapitel") chapters of Kaleidoskop. During the entire course 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 as videos.

There will be three 45-minute exams, three 20-minute practice quizzes, homework assigned, and two projects ("Sprechsituationen" and "Report"). Grades will be based on written work (40% tests and quizzes, 20% homework), presentations (10% oral report or "Referat," 10% skits or "Sketche"), and oral participation (20%). The regular use of the language laboratory (Walker A&HC, room 114) can earn you bonus points (up to a total of 5%, i.e., 0.4% per hour of lab use, with a 2 hour maximum per week). 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 Frühlingssemester -- und viel Spaß!

Orientierungshilfen zum Lernen von Deutsch als Fremdsprache

You will receive a 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.

An important aid in language learning is the language laboratory. The Modern Language Laboratory is located in 114 Walker (tel. 487-3036; e-mail: flconst@mtu.edu). You will be expected to work there each week, using your text-book (and the lab manual) as well as the cassettes, computer programs, and videos that are available there. You should spend between 30 and 45 minutes there each week. Of course, you do not have to do it all in one sitting. In fact, going there several times will be much better. The material available in the language laboratory corresponding to our work-book (Übungsbuch) will be indicated in your weekly syllabi.

The Kaleidoskop web site at http://college.tmsc.com provides web search activities for each Thema and lists additional information about the Thema.

How to Succeed in Learning German

Learning a language is different from study in most other academic areas such as sciences and 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 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.

Grading Scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A/B</td>
<td>87-91.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82-86.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/C</td>
<td>77-81.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>72-76.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C/D</td>
<td>67-71.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>62-66.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-61.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tentative Quiz and Test Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quiz/Test</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
<td>26 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>6 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz 2</td>
<td>20 October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test 2</td>
<td>29 October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz 3</td>
<td>17 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 3</td>
<td>3 December</td>
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</tbody>
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Attendance

Attendance is required. Students who miss more than two classes without university-approved excuses will lower their final grade by half a grade; those who miss more than three will lower their grade by a full grade. There will be no passing grade for students who more than 30% of classes without university-approved excuses. Excessive tardiness will also result in a grade reduction.

Cell Phone Free Environment

This class room is a “cell phone free environment” from 12:05 to 12:55 p.m. Students who use their cell phones during class will lower their final grade by half a grade.

Academic Integrity

MTU’s Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “knowingly copying another’s work and calling it one’s own or not giving proper credit or citation.” The penalties for plagiarism or other forms of cheating range from receiving a failure grade on work in question to expulsion from the
university. Students who have any questions about the issue, or who have questions about whether they have cited their sources properly, should consult the instructor or a coach in the Writing Center.

MTU's Policy on Discrimination and Harassment
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).

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** (presently being reactivated) is a charter affiliate of the **American Association of Students of German**.
MTU Minor in German
MTU International Minor in German
MTU Certificate in Foreign Language and Area Study
Advanced Certificate in Foreign Language and Area Study
Summer Internships for juniors and seniors in German companies and universities
Graduate Student Exchange with a number of German and Swiss universities

German Language Studies as Part of MTU's General Education Requirements (for HU3281 Students)

Students who study a language at MTU may satisfy general education requirements, as well as requirements for the Minor and International Minor in German, 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 second-year German are listed in the following paragraph. See your advisor for further explanation and approval of general education requirements.

Students who place into the second year of German will receive six placement credits (HU2281/2) after completing (with a grade of C or better) one term of third-year German. (Depending on the degree requirements of their major, such placement credit may count as free electives.) Students who complete six credits of second/ or third-year German 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), and count one of the second-year language courses toward the general education distribution requirement. Students may continue with third- and fourth year courses of this language and count this course work toward the general education distribution requirement.