Michigan Technological University: Spring 2009

Deutsch HU 3285 (CRN 13254)
German for Special Purposes

German Film, News, and Media

Kursbeschreibung (Syllabus)

Dozent: Prof. Dr. Dieter Wolfgang Adolphs
Lehrraum: Walker AHC, Zimmer 109
Zeit: Dienstag und Donnerstag, 9 Uhr 35 bis 10 Uhr 50
Büro: Walker Arts and Humanities Center, Zimmer 308
Telefon: 487-3231 (Büro); 482-3182 (privat)
E-Mail: dadolph@mtu.edu; 3285-I@mtu.edu
Sprechstunden: Dienstag und Donnerstag, 11 Uhr 05 bis 11 Uhr 55
(undere Zeiten nach Vereinbarung)

Lehrbücher: Adriana Borra, Ruth Mader-Koltay, German Through Film,
Prisca Augustyn, Nikolaus Euba, Stationen: Ein Kursbuch für die Mittelstufe,
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 HU3285 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 HU3282 or an equivalent knowledge demonstrated by scoring at least 440 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 to advanced 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 is an introduction to German film, news and media. The film part of this course will use the book, *German Through Film*. In addition to viewing and discussing audiovisual and internet materials related to German film, news and media, we'll continue (see HU3284) with selected readings and grammar practices from *Stationen*. During the entire course we will also try to apply newly learned skills by working in small groups (AGs=Arbeitsgruppen).

There will be two essay assignments, three written reviews (related to our readings and viewings), regular homework assignments, and two projects (one "Sprechsituation/Sketch" and one oral report on a film, news or media service). Grades will be based on written work (20% essays, 30% reviews), presentations (20%), and oral participation (30%). 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., 0.5% per hour of lab use, with a 2 hour maximum per week). Oral participation assumes regular attendance in class.

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 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.

An important aid in language learning is the language laboratory. The Modern Language Laboratory is located in 114 Walker (tel. 487-3036; e-mail: llconst@mtu.edu). 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.

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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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92-100%</td>
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<td>A/B</td>
<td>87-91.9%</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>82-86.9%</td>
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<td>B/C</td>
<td>77-81.9%</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>67-71.9%</td>
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<td>62-66.9%</td>
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<td>F</td>
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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 9:35 to 10:50 a.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.

German Language Studies as Part of MTU’s General Education Requirements (for HU3285 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 Level IB are listed in the following paragraph. See your advisor for further explanation and approval of general education requirements.

Students who place into Level III (HU3284 and/or 3285) will receive twelve placement credits (HU2281, 2282, 3281, 3282) 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 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 third- and/or fourth-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.

Other opportunities offered by MTU’s German Program

- German Club: The MTU German Club (presently re-established) 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
- Student Exchange with a number of German and Swiss universities
- Summer Internships for juniors and seniors in German companies and universities