Michigan Technological University: Herbst 2009
Deutsch HU 3284, Sektion R01
Topics in German Literature and Culture

Kursbeschreibung (Syllabus)

Dozent: Frau Prof. Karin B. Schlenker
Lehrraum: Walker Arts and Humanities Center, Zimmer 109
Zeit: Mo., Mi., Fr., 12 Uhr 05 bis 12 Uhr 55
Büro: Walker Arts and Humanities Center, Zimmer 336
Telefon: 487-3242
E-Mail: kbschlen@mtu.edu
Sprechstunden: Dienstag 11:00 Uhr bis 12:00 Uhr, Freitag 15 Uhr 5 bis 16 Uhr 5; andere Zeiten nach Vereinbarung

Lehrmaterialien:

Required:
Stationen, Ein Kursbuch für die Mittelstufe
A good German-English dictionary. I suggest: Oxford Duden

Recommended:
English Grammar for Students of German, 4th edition
501 German Verbs, 4th edition

Willkommen in Houghton!!!

Ich freue mich, dass Sie an der Technischen Universität Michigan Deutsch noch weiter lernen möchten...

Course Goals:

This course will be taught mostly in German. All five language skills (speaking, listening comprehension, reading, writing and culture) will be stressed and by the end of the course, you will be able to use advanced language and structures to communicate.

Throughout the semester, we will be learning about and discussing Germany during World War II and the Holocaust. We will be concentrating mostly on the history and culture during that time. The text is an account of the non-Jewish resistance group “Die weiße Rose” and is told by the surviving sibling of Sophie and Hans Scholl, who were core members of the group. It focuses upon many facets of this particular period of history, but also touches upon other topics such as philosophy, religion, and nature to name a few. An important factor of this text is that most of the members of the group were university students who were brave enough to fight against the Nazis. The text is based on Sophie Scholl's journal and letters.
All work in this course will stress the use of German as a means of communication. The main goal of the class is to read and learn about this period of history and to be able to discuss it through the spoken and written word in German.

Inhalt und Aufbau des Kurses

The prerequisite for this class is six credits of second year German (HU 3281, HU 3282, HU 3283) or a score of 441 or above on the placement test. In this class we will be reading and studying German history, literature and culture, mostly 20th century. We will be concentrating on the Inge Scholl text, but also be reading other texts as well. Mondays and Wednesdays will be used for the Inge Scholl text; Fridays will be reserved for other texts. Fridays may also be used for quizzes. Grammar will not be covered in this class UNLESS I see a need to cover a specific topic.

I will provide words for the „Wortschatz“ and both comprehension and discussion questions for each section of the text we will be studying. You will work with a partner the entire semester so chose somebody who has a similar schedule as yours. There will also be a lot of group work in class. Since the study of language involves using it frequently, class participation will be extremely important.

Since the text we are reading („Die Weiße Rose) is an authentic text with no Wortschatz list, I have chosen words from the text for you to look up and have tried to gear the questions so that it will be easier for you to understand.

I have also placed an abridged copy of the text in the language lab. Please note: The abridged copy will make it easier for you to understand but may also leave out parts of the text that are crucial to our class. You must ask the person behind the desk in the language lab for the abridged text and sign it in and out. You will only be able to use it in the language lab during regular hours. Please do not take it with you.

I have also included “Ihrer Meinung nach…” and “Schauen Sie nach…” questions. These will be discussed in class groups where everybody will share their findings first with their partner, then with group members and the rest of the class.

We will also be watching at least one film outside of class.

Specific Instructions on how to do assignments are attached to this syllabus.

The grade will consist of classwork, homework, quizzes, three Aufsätze and a Referat. There will not be any exams. Quizzes will be Wortschatz quizzes and writing quizzes which will be given approximately every two weeks. I suggest that you get a 3-ring binder or a folder to keep your syllabus, corrected written assignments and other materials together.

Oral participation assumes regular attendance in class.

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 almost 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>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A/B</td>
<td>87-91%</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>82-86%</td>
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<td>B/C</td>
<td>77-81%</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>72-76%</td>
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<td>C/D</td>
<td>67-71%</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>62-66%</td>
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<td>F</td>
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Tentative Quiz, Aufsatz and Referat Schedule:

Quizzes:
- September 18th
- October 2nd
- October 16th

Aufsätze:
- Aufsatz #1 (150 words): September 25th
- Aufsatz #2 (200 words): October 23rd
- Aufsatz #3 (250 words): November 20th

Referat: (finals week)

Grade:

- 6 Quizzes @ 5% each = 30%
- 3 Aufsätze @ 10% each = 30%
- Homework = 10%
- Classwork = 5%
- Referat = 15%
- Participation = 10%

Attendance

Attendance is required. Students who miss more than two classes without university-approved excuses will have points taken off their participation grade. There will be no passing grade for students who miss more than 30% of classes without university-approved excuses. Excessive tardiness will also result in a grade reduction.
Cell Phone and Lap Top Free Environment
This class room is a cell phone and lap top free environment from 12:05 to 12:55 p.m. Students who use their cell phones and/or lap tops 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
Michigan Tech complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office, at 487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head or the Affirmative Action Office, at 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 Language Studies as Part of MTU’s General Education Requirements (for HU3284 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 third-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 third year of German will receive twelve placement credits (HU2281/2, HU3281/2) 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 third- or fourth-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 third-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 (up to twelve credit hours).