Michigan Technological University: Fall 2011

Deutsch HU 2281 – Section R01
LEVEL I-A GERMAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE
Kursbeschreibung (Syllabus)

Dozent: Lucy A. Benneck
Lehrraum: Fischer Hall 0125
Zeit: Montag, Mittwoch und Freitag, 13 Uhr 05 bis 13 Uhr 55
Büro: Walker Arts and Humanities Center, Zimmer 331
Telefon: 906-370-8841 (privat) – you are allowed to call up until 10pm
E-Mail: labennec@mtu.edu
Sprechstunden: Montag, Mittwoch, Freitag von 10:05 bis 10:40

Willkommen in Houghton!
Ich freue mich, dass Sie an der Technischen Universität Michigan Deutsch lernen möchten.... I am pleased that you are going to study German at MTU and hope that I can help you achieve a reasonable mastery of German during the time allotted this semester.

Course Goals:
Deutsch HU2281 is an introduction to German language and of representative cultural features of the main German-speaking countries. 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 basic knowledge of German grammar and vocabulary
• read German of a basic level of complexity
• present your view on subjects of interest
• be more familiar with cultural similarities and differences
• write short German texts like introducing yourself and your family

All work in this course will stress the use of German as a means of communication.

Inhalt und Aufbau des Kurses

The course covers four topics (“Them en”) that include four grammar chapters of Deutsch heute. During the entire course we will also try to apply newly learned skills by working in small groups (AGs=Arbeitsgruppen). There will be four 50-minute exams, multiple quizzes and vocabtests, and some assigned homework assigned. Grades will be based on written work (50% exams, tests and quizzes, 25% homework / portfolio, and oral participation 25 %). 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 Wintersemester -- und viel Spaß!

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.

Generally, you will have homework assigned for every class meeting. Written assignments are to be ready 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 or your native ability. A good rule of thumb, however, is one hour 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>82-86.9%</td>
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<td>72-76.9%</td>
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<td>D</td>
<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 miss more than 30% of classes without university-approved excuses. Excessive tardiness will also result in a grade reduction.

Multimedia Free Environment

This class room is a "cell phone free environment" from 1:05 to 1:50, no laptops are allowed to be on unless you are using it to take notes during class (which you will have to prove), mp3 players, ipads, ipods must be switched off.

Eating Habits

You are allowed to drink any non-alcoholic beverages. Sandwiches, salads etc. are allowed to be eaten. Please don’t bring any strongly smelling food into the classroom.

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.