Michigan Technological University: Fall 2011

Deutsch HU 3282

LEVEL II-B GERMAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Kursbeschreibung (Syllabus)

Instructor: Ms. Janice Cox-Adolphs
Room: Walker Arts and Humanities Center, room 109
Time: M/W/F - 3:05 - 3:55
Office: Walker Arts and Humanities Center, room 335
Telephone: 482-3182 (private)
E-Mail: jecoxado@mtu.edu
Office Hours: M/W/F - 1:30 - 2:00 (and any other time, as requested)

Textbooks:
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 HU3282 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 HU3281 or an equivalent knowledge demonstrated 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.
Content and Structure of the Course

The course covers four topics ("Themen") and up to four grammar ("Kapitel") chapters of Kaleidoskop. If time allows, we might also read an act from a play, such as Bertolt Brecht's "Der Jasager." Throughout the course we will also try to apply newly learned skills by working in small groups. There also will be time for German voice and music tapes, as well as videos.

There will be four 45-minute exams, a variety of quizzes, homework assignments, and one end-of-the-semester project. Grades will be based on written work (40% tests and quizzes, 20% homework), any class presentations (20%), and oral participation (20%). Use of the language lab (Walker HDMZ) is your opportunity for extra credit. Oral participation assumes regular attendance in class.

You are welcome to discuss with me any matters related to the course and your studies.

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.

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't be made up.

How much time should you spend studying German? The answer to that depends on many variables such as your background or your native ability, but a good rule of thumb 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, you should achieve the goals of this course successfully and also be rewarded with a great feeling of intellectual enrichment.

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92-100%</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<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>
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.

Cell Phone Free Environment
This classroom is a "cell phone free environment" from 2:05 to 2:55 p.m. Students who use their cell phones during class will lower their final grade by half a grade.

Please familiarize yourself with the following MTU policies, guidelines, and services:

Academic Integrity:
http://www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic_integrity.html
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.

Affirmative Action: http://www.admin.mtu.edu/aae/

Disability Services/MTU’s Policy on Discrimination and Harassment:
http://www.admin.mtu.edu/urel/studenthandbook/student_services.html#disability

Equal Opportunity Statement:

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.