Michigan Technological University: Fall 2011

Deutsch HU 4281
Modern Language Seminar: German
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; 4281-I@mtu.edu
Sprechstunden: Dienstag und Donnerstag, 11 Uhr 00 bis 11 Uhr 30
(andere Zeiten nach Vereinbarung)

Bücher:
Johann Wolfgang Goethe: Faust (ISBN: 3140223609),
Thomas Mann: Novellen
  Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1988

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 and Objectives:
Deutsch HU4281 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 HU3284 or HU3285.

"Language and Power" is a critical study of the representation of politics, economies, and social institutions in literature, film, and authentic documents from German language communities. Students read texts in German, and some (essays by Christa Wolf) in English translation. In the seminar we will consider such topics as family and education, and identity and alienation. We will also examine problems and resolutions arising from different historical perspectives, class formations and struggles, private as opposed to societal conventions, and freedoms and interests.

The primary goals for this course are:
• To deepen our understanding of culture and society through literature and film selected from German language communities
• To develop analytical and comparative skills
• To develop an understanding of relationships between literature, film and other selected arts.

With regard to your command of German, the language specific goals of this course are:
• read German of an advanced level of complexity
• feel comfortable in a German-speaking environment
• participate in discussions and skits
• present your view on subjects of interest, and give oral reports
• be more familiar with cultural similarities and differences
• write German texts like a personal letter, a journal, and short compositions
• write a term paper (in English with a German abstract)

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 literature. 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 literary work or author. Grades will be based on written work (20% essays, 30% reviews), presentations (20%), and oral participation (30%). 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 Herbstsemester - 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.

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>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A/B</td>
<td>87-91.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82-86.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B/C</td>
<td>77-81.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>72-76.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>C/D</td>
<td>67-71.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>62-66.9%</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>0-61.95</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.

Cell Phone Free Environment

This class room is a "cell phone free environment" from 9:35 to 10:50 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 the Dean of Students Office (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.