Michigan Technological University: Fall 2012

Deutsch HU4282
Modern Language Seminar: German
Kursbeschreibung (Syllabus)

Dozent: Prof. Dr. Dieter Wolfgang Adolphs
Lehrraum: Walker AHC, Zimmer 109
Zeit: Montag, Mittwoch und Freitag, 15 Uhr 05 bis 15 Uhr 55
Büro: Walker Arts and Humanities Center, Zimmer 308
Telefon: 487-3231 (Büro), 370-2042 (privat)
E-Mail: dadolph@mtu.edu; 4282-I@mtu.edu
Sprechstunden: Montag und Mittwoch, 16 Uhr 05 bis 16 Uhr 30;
Freitag, 13 Uhr 30 bis 13 Uhr 55 (andere Zeiten nach Vereinbarung)

Bücher:
- Friedrich Durrenmatt, Der Besuch der alten Dame, ISBN 3-257-23045-1
- Thomas Mann, Tonio Kröger/Mario und der Zauberer, ISBN 3-596-21381-9
- Christ Wolf, Mit anderem Blick, ISBN 3-518-45827-2
- 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 and Objectives:
Deutsch HU4282 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.

"Technology in Literature and Film" is a critical study of the representation of technology and nature in literature, film, and authentic documents from German language communities. Students read texts in German (English translations are available for self-study). In the seminar we will consider such topics as politics, education, 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

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 and film. During the entire course we will also try to apply newly learned skills by working in small groups (AGs = Arbeitsgruppen). There will also be time for regular audiovisual sources and recordings of productions of the two plays.

There will be three exams (with questions about our readings), three essay assignments, regular homework assignments, and two projects ("Sprechsituationen" and "Report"). Grades will be based on exams, written homework, presentations, and oral participation. Regular attendance in class is required.

You are welcome to discuss with me any matters related to the course and your studies. Alles Gute für dieses Herbstsemester—und viel Spaß!

Orientierungshilfen zum Lernen von Deutsch als Fremdsprache

You will receive a bi-weekly schedule (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 Humanities Digital Media Zone (HDMZ, next to our classroom). We have advance students and native German speakers who can help you with assignments and other questions at certain hours. I also will leave materials there such as English translations of some of ours readings.

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>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<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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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-61.9</td>
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</tbody>
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Tentative Exam and Essay Schedule:

- Exam 1: 3 October
- Essay 1: 11 October
- Exam 2: 24 October
- Essay 2: 29 October
- Exam 3: 30 November
- Essay 3: 7 December

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 3:05 to 3:55 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

Affirmative Action:

http://www.mtu.edu/aapf/

Disability Services/MTU’s Policy on Discrimination and Harassment:

http://www.mtu.edu/urefl/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.

Other opportunities offered by MTU’s German Program

- German Club
- MTU Minor in German
- MTU International Minor in German
- MTU Certificate in Foreign Language and Area Study
- Summer Internships for juniors and seniors in German companies and universities
- Undergraduate and Graduate Student Exchange with a number of German universities
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, and the 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 nine placement credits (HU3280, HU3281, and HU3282) after completing (with a grade of B 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).