

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
FALL 2020

COURSE TITLE: GERM*2490 Intermediate German (0.5cr)

Instructor: Paola Mayer

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COURSE OUTLINE

Course objectives:

This is an intermediate course in German, which introduces all remaining grammar concepts. Students will continue practicing and refining all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing). They will also learn about different aspects of German culture.

Learning outcomes:

Given that students will invest the time and effort necessary, at the end of this course they should

- Be conversant with all basic German grammatical concepts.
- Be able to discuss various aspects of everyday life and culture in German-speaking countries.
- Be able to demonstrate a level of proficiency at what the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages calls “Basic User” (A2), according to the following standards:
 - Listening: understand phrases and high-frequency vocabulary on topics of immediate personal relevance (e.g. situations of everyday life); understand the main point in short, simple messages and announcements.
 - Speaking: engage in simple and direct exchanges of information on familiar topics and activities; handle short social exchanges.
 - Reading: understand short texts of moderate complexity and find specific information in everyday materials (e.g. advertisements, personal letters, timetables).
 - Writing: write short connected texts on familiar topics, applying grammar learned during the course, and thus involving some complex sentences.

Prerequisites:

GERM*1110 or permission of instructor

Text:

Required: Sevin and Sevin, *Wie geht's*. 10th edition.

Method of Presentation:

Online, mainly asynchronous.

Synchronous components: interaction with fellow students in order to work on group projects; one-on-one interaction with a German student from the University of Konstanz, end of term interview with the instructor. There will be question and answer sessions via Teams once per module, but these are optional.

Coursework will take place via Courselink, some materials the students will need to access are on the internet, and assignments will be submitted through Dropbox. It is thus essential that students have internet access and access to Courselink.

Office Hour

will be via Teams, by appointment. The regular office hour slot will be Monday 3:30-4:30, but other times can be arranged.

Method of Evaluation:

Homework, group work on textbook exercises and class discussion of such exercises – 20%

Schreibaufgaben – 15%

Aural comprehension activities based on assigned videos – 5%

Group presentation – 10%

Exchanges with German student and audio/video reports on these – 15%

End-of-semester interview – 5%

Quizzes – 10%

Final Exam – 20%

Policy on late term work:

discussion topics (for group and class work) will be open for a specific window of time; once the topic is locked students cannot receive credit for that activity.

For written assignments 5% per day of lateness will be subtracted from the grade.

Policy on missed quizzes:

Quizzes will be online and available for 5 business days. There will be no make-up quizzes under any circumstances whatsoever. The lowest 1 out of 4 quizzes will be discounted.

Policy on group presentation:

the presentations can either be a video (either a live video or a powerpoint with voiceover) or an audio recording and must be posted on Courselink by the due date. After that, a penalty of 5% per day late will apply.

Academic Misconduct

Note: all work submitted must be entirely the work of the student. You may not use Google Translate or any other translation program. You may use an online dictionary for Schreibaufgaben or other graded work, but only for looking up individual words, not for whole phrases or sentences.

For online quizzes and the final exam, you must turn off your spell check and you may not consult any resources – that includes the textbook, online translation tools and online dictionaries.

Schreibaufgaben:

There will be 4 compositions (150-200 words), double spaced, submitted through Dropbox. there will be two submissions for each: your initial composition, *which must be entirely your own unaided work (see above under Academic Misconduct)*, and a second submission involving error correction and explanation of your decisions. It is expected that your first submission will include errors; the instructor will point these out and ask you to explain what the error is as well

as correct it in your second submission. If your first submission contains none or very few errors, the feedback will ask you to explain some of your grammatical or vocabulary choices (i.e. why a certain grammatical structure is correct and how you arrived at it). The grade you receive for the assignment will be based on: the number of errors in your first submission, how well you apply the vocabulary and grammar learned in this course, the quality of your analysis and error correction in the second submission. Each of these rubrics will have equal weight.

Please write the word count on your composition.

Please be sure to hand in the original version with my corrections along with the final one.

Homework from the textbook will be assigned regularly; students will work in groups on the exercises (via Discussions on Courselink); they will then post sample answers for the class to correct collectively. Answer keys will be posted subsequently. Note: collective correction and discussion is a key element of the learning process – a substantial portion of your grade will be based on your active contribution to this activity.

Aural comprehension activities: there will be 2 of these. A video, or link to a video, or an audio activity will be posted on Courselink, together with questions or other written activity. Students must watch/listen to the material, complete the written assignment and submit it for grading.

Group presentation. (see above). Topics will be posted on Courselink. As a first stage, students must submit the script of their presentation to the instructor. After receiving feedback on their script, students will correct it and record/film their presentation, then post it on Courselink. As part of their Classwork grade, students must post a question or comment to their classmates' presentations. The presenters will then respond with brief answers. Presentations will be graded according to the following rubrics: 1. how well new vocabulary and grammar from the course are applied (note: there is no benefit to using vocabulary or grammar structures not included in the textbook; the emphasis is on applying what you are learning); 2. accuracy of grammar; 3. pronunciation and clarity of diction; 4. quality of content; 5. engagement with classmates' responses.

Exchanges with German student and written reports on these. Students will be paired with a German student from our partner institution (Universität Konstanz). They will then be responsible for contacting their partner and arranging online sessions, using whatever platform suits them and their partners. Note: the exchanges must be oral, they may not be e-mails or text messages, though you will need these to set up the meetings. There will be 4 such sessions, two conducted in German, and 2 in English. Before the sessions in German, students will draw up questions in order to interview their partners, submitting the script to the instructor. After each session, students will write a news report of the interview, then record themselves reading it. Your grade will be based on these reports.

Note: the German students will be graded on their work in the two sessions in English. Failure on your part to participate in those would thus adversely affect them and will be penalized by up to 20% of your grade for this activity. Please be responsible and collegial.

End-of-semester Interviews. Will be conducted via Teams and will be 10 minutes in length. They will take place during the final week of classes.

Final Exam. Will be online using Respondus and will take place on Dec. 17, 2020, 8:30-10:30.

Syllabus

Please note: Modules (one per textbook chapter) are set up on Courselink; each contains detailed instructions and “finish by” dates for each module and submodule. Please be sure to observe these deadlines or you will adversely affect your fellow students.

Chapter 11 – Sept. 11-30
Chapter 12 – Sept. 30-Oct. 18
Chapter 13 – Oct. 18-Nov. 4
Chapter 14 – Nov. 4-Nov. 20
Chapter 15 – Nov. 20-Dec. 4

Deadlines

Schreibaufgaben

#1 – Oct. 2
#2 – Oct. 21
#3 – Nov. 6
#4 – Nov. 25

Quizzes

See Courselink under Quizzes tab

Presentation

Post by Oct. 31

Coursework and smaller assignments

See Courselink, the instructions in each module

University Statements

Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community-faculty, staff, and students-to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that encourages academic integrity. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students

from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>

Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

Illness

The University will not require verification of illness (doctor's notes) for the fall 2020 or winter 2021 semesters.