

READING AND CULTURE
German 155
Spring 2006 – TTH 2:20 – 3:30
Comenius 304

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Office Hours: TTH : 10:30 – 12:00 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course seeks to improve your German language skills in the areas of reading and writing at the intermediate level and to ease your transition to more advanced coursework on literature and culture. Throughout this semester you will gain familiarity with various aspects of history and culture of contemporary life in German-speaking countries, while at the same time achieve a deeper cross-cultural understanding and appreciation of the cultural diversity as evidenced in the difference between German and American values, conventions, and life styles.

I strongly encourage use of my virtual office (website, e-mail) any time of day or night.

Goals

The primary emphasis is on increasing your reading/listening knowledge, expanding your vocabulary, and improving your writing skills. Apart from the textbooks *Mitteilen*, *Mitlesen*, and *30 Stunden Deutschland*, major resources for this course include the videos, Internet links, current news from various media, handouts, and materials on reserve in the library. Through watching videos, reading selected texts, using relevant Internet resources, and participating in class discussions, you'll become more familiar with modern German culture, while improving your writing skills in a variety of writing assignments, e.g. summary, comment, text interpretations, descriptions, definition, report, and strategies of argumentation. Grammar will be reviewed as needed.

Evaluation

Your grade is based on your participation, portfolio, your midterm and final exams.

- Portfolio: 16 written assignments with rewrites; assignments will be collected and graded 4 x during the semester. 40%;
- 1 presentation 5 %
- Midterm 15 %
- Final Exam 20 %
- Participation 20 %

Class Format

We will read texts, discuss comprehension strategies, and watch videos, present reports, sing songs, and engage in role playing.

Attendance

Your participation is of utmost necessity to make this course a success. Attendance is mandatory and will be noted in each class. You will be allowed two absences with no questions asked. Each unexcused absence (beyond the second) will affect your participation grade. Students with more than four unexcused absences will automatically fail this class. If you must be absent, notify me ahead of time. Obtain the assignment from me or from a classmate, so that you can hand it in on time. Some form of documentation will be required for excused absences such as illness, family emergencies, and academic obligations, or any College-sponsored extra-curricular event such as varsity sports. It is your responsibility to inform me in advance of any scheduled events.

Regardless of your reason for missing class, you will want to keep up with your work.

Some Useful Links

<http://www.inter-nationes.de/d/frames/gaz/zeitgeschehen.html>

<http://www.goethe.de/uk/ney/deindex.htm>

<http://home.moravian.edu/users/frlang/mejkg01/>

<http://dw-world.de/>

Class Room Etiquette

- ◆ No chewing gum, food, or beverages! You will need to be able to speak clearly and loudly, free of any interference.
- ◆ No ball caps!
- ◆ No pagers and cell phones!

Plagiarism and cheating will be handled according to the Student Code outlined in the current Student Handbook and in the statement on Academic Honesty at Moravian College.

Note: I reserve the right to make appropriate changes to this syllabus whenever necessary.

Viel Erfolg und auf gute Zusammenarbeit im neuen Semester!