

**MORAVIAN COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

**GM 230: German Grammar and Composition
Spring 2006**

TTH: 12:50-2:00
Comenius 304

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Office Hours: TTH 10:30-12:00
Also by appointment and e-mail.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

German 230 is designed to review all the major features of German grammar and to continue with the acquisition of advanced grammatical concepts in order to help students to become independent, proficient writers of German. Substantive, authentic reading models and focused writing tasks will lead students to a more sophisticated understanding of content, style, audience and organization of texts. Throughout this course the emphasis will be on the process through which a writer creates and produces written work in order to achieve the true purpose of writing: expressing one's own ideas as convincingly as possible.

Required Texts

- ◆ Larry D. Wells. *Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik*. 4th ed.
- ◆ Friedrich Duerrenmatt. *Der Besuch der alten Dame*

Additional handouts and on-line resources (poems, short prose text, newspaper, etc.) will provide students with an additional opportunity to fine-tune their skills in a meaningful and communicative environment.

I suggest strongly that you also purchase a good German-English, English-German dictionary--larger than pocket size!

Assessment:

Final	20 %
5 Tests	50 %
Participation/Homework	20 %
Two presentations	10 %

Tests

Tests are all pre-announced. Tests missed without due reason are graded as failures (zero points).

Homework

Apart from general chapter preparation, students will have to do twelve short written assignments with re-writes. These assignments will be collected and graded four times during the semester.

Participation

Participation will be weighted according to the level of your enthusiasm and quality of contribution to class work and discussions. Homework/preparation for each class meeting is of utmost importance and will be noted in the determining of the participation grade.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory and will be taken at each class meeting. If you miss more than two classes without a valid, documented excuse, your final grade will be lowered by one grade degree for each absence (for example, B+ to B). *Six unexcused absences is an automatic fail for the course.* No make-up exams will be given for unexcused absences. If you must miss a class, whether for family emergency, illness, or religious holidays, please notify me in advance by phone or email. Medical excuses must be documented. You are still responsible for the material covered in class when you do not attend.

Classroom 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!

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge Outcomes:

Students will.

- know basic and advanced rules of German grammar.
- know about a representative selection of cultural and social topics in their historical as well as in their contemporary context.
- know about basic ethnic and socio-cultural features of German-speaking countries.

- be familiar with some culturally conditioned behavioral norms and customs as they affect daily life in the German-speaking world.

Performance Outcomes:

Students will

- read the selections in the textbook and other texts with reasonably authentic inflection and accuracy.
- apply appropriate German grammar rules when responding, orally and in writing, to the questions based on dialogues and reading.
- sustain appropriately complex conversations in the target language
- comment appropriately on cultural information gained from the textbook, the instructor or other media about the German way of life.
- compare German and English grammatical structure and vocabulary.

Disposition Outcomes:

Students will

- appreciate the important aspects of geography, history, political systems and socio-economic conditions in the target countries.
- appreciate the cultural diversity as evidenced in the difference between German and American values, conventions, and life styles.

Teaching Methods:

- Practice in writing and rewriting
- Vocabulary study
- Comparing German grammar rules with English grammar
- Reading texts for comprehension
- Drills and exercises provided by the textbook and on-line resources
- Discussion of cultural information presented by various media and by your instructor
- Practice in using the Internet as a means of studying German and gathering information on German-speaking countries
- Group and partner work, role-playing, singing
- The use of dictionaries and other reference materials.
- Quick writing exercises to help students develop writing fluency and reduce fear of error.
- Partner work and group work in order to encourage collaboration and consultation with peers.

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 gute Zusammenarbeit im neuen Semester!