

GM 150: Conversation and Contemporary Life
Comenius 411 – WF 8:50 – 10:00
Spring 2007

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Office Hours:
MW: 12: 450 – 1:45 F: 11:30-12:30
or by appointment

You can also reach me at any time in my virtual office: I will respond to your e-mails as promptly as possible.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to develop oral proficiency and to practice spoken German in a variety of everyday situations at the intermediate level as defined by ACTFL. We will discuss films, perform short skits, sing songs, and discuss contemporary issues through the use of various texts (incl. Internet resources, newspapers).

Grammar, not the focus of this course, will be reviewed as necessary.

No Required Texts

Strongly Recommended:

A good English/German dictionary such as HarperCollins .

Evaluation

- Participation (30%) Your participation is of utmost necessity to make this course a success. Attendance will be noted in each class. Each unexcused absence beyond the second will be punished by lowering your participation grade, e.g. 3 missed classes mean that a B becomes a C. 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 any varsity sports team. 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.
- 3 Oral interviews with partner (15 %)
- Homework and preparation (20 %). You are expected to do all your assignments in a timely fashion and be well prepared for each individual class. In addition, you are required to keep a personal notebook or *Vokabelheft*, which will become your personal glossary consisting of words and phrases you think will improve your conversational skills. Each week you should list 12 words and phrases with definitions, an example in German, and pertinent information, such as gender, singular or plural forms, stem changes etc.: 3 verbs, 3 nouns, 3 adjectives, 3 idiomatic phrases. Your *Vokabelheft* may also be in electronic form, and it must be handed in or submitted via e-mail every second week.
- Ten listening comprehension assignments and short written summaries (10 %). Each student will present orally twice, followed by brief discussion. (10%)
- Vocabulary quizzes (6 x 25 points = 150) (15 %)

Academic Honesty:

All work that you submit for credit must be your own. I adhere to the policy on academic honesty found in the *Moravian College Catalog*. Consult the Writing Center for help with plagiarism and citations issues.

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!

Knowledge Outcomes:

Students will

- understand various authentic media.
- know strategies how to initiate and sustain conversation at the intermediate to high-intermediate level.
- know selected events and developments in the recent history of German-speaking countries.
- know about selected ethnic and sociocultural 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

- speak with reasonably authentic inflection and idiomatic accuracy.
- apply appropriate German grammar rules when responding to the questions based on dialogues and reading.
- sustain appropriately complex conversations in the target language.
- comment appropriately on cultural information gained from various media or the instructor about the German way of life.

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 reading texts and dialogues
- Build vocabulary using paraphrasing and other vocabulary exercises
- Role-plays of dialogues
- Use of videos
- Discussion of cultural information presented by various media and by your instructor
- Discussion of current events
- Practice in using the Internet as a means of gathering information on German-speaking countries
- Group discussions & partner work
- Oral reports by individuals
- Singing of German songs

