

Reading and Culture
German 155
Fall 2007

Wednesday and Friday
8:50-10:00am
Comenius 411

Dr. Hunter Bivens
Office: Comenius 405
Phone: 861-1395
e-mail: bivens@moravian.edu
Office Hours: Wed. 10:00-11:30,
Fri. 10:00-12:50
or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

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 lifestyles.

The primary emphasis is on increasing your reading/listening knowledge, expanding your vocabulary, and improving your writing skills. In addition 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.

TEXTS (available in bookstore):

- **Mitlesen, Mitteilen: Literarische Texte zum Lesen, Sprechen, Schreiben und Hören, 4th ed.** Larry D. Wells and Rosemarie E. Morewedge.
- **30 Stunden Deutschland: Materialien für den Orientierungskurs.**
- **Dictionary:** Please, if you don't already have one, get yourself a **good** dictionary. We usually suggest looking for a dictionary with at least 75,000 entries. Look for Klett, Langenscheidt, Harper-Collins or Webster.

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 15 %
- Participation 20%: Your participation is of utmost necessity to make this course a success. Your participation is of utmost necessity to make this course a success. Participation in a language course means **active participation**. You must speak, not merely listen, and you will be graded not simply for being present, but on your ability to actively contribute to the discussion in class. 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.

POLICIES

- We will be making use of Blackboard in this class, so please sign up for the course on the Blackboard website. The enrollment code is 2007.
- No chewing gum or food! You will need to be able to speak clearly and loudly, free of any interference.
- No pagers and cell phones!
- The primary **language of communication will be German**. German is not simply the object of discussion, it's the vehicle of communication. Your teacher will speak as much German as possible. Please feel free to ask for repetition or clarification when needed. You are expected to reciprocate: You should try to speak as much German as possible, from the beginning. You will learn the necessary classroom and teaching vocabulary first to facilitate this goal. Of course, you can ask your teacher's help in formulating thoughts, questions, etc. and you are not expected to produce language on par with that of a native speaker. Your teacher may also set aside or signal brief periods during which English is permissible. Moreover, you may ask your teacher for permission to speak English when absolutely necessary.
- **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.
- Any student who wishes to disclose a disability and request accommodations under the

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for this course must first meet with either Mrs. Laurie Roth in the Office of Learning Services (for learning disabilities and/or ADD/ADHD) or Dr. Ronald Kline in the Counseling Center (for all other disabilities).

Some Useful Links

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

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

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

LEHRPLAN

Mittwoch, 29.8	Einleitung
Freitag, 31.8	“Mittagspause,” Wolf Wondratschek (MM) <i>30 Stunden Deutschland 6-9</i>
Mittwoch, 5.9	“Imitation,” Gabrielle Wohmann (MM) <i>30 Stunden Deutschland 10-13</i>
Freitag, 7.9	“Familie in Kürze,” Elisabeth Alexander (MM) <i>30 Stunden Deutschland 14-15</i>
Mittwoch, 12.9	“Rotkäppchen ’65,” Anneliese Meinert (MM) <i>30 Stunden Deutschland 16-19</i>
Freitag, 14.9	“San Salvador,” Peter Bichsel (MM) <i>30 Stunden Deutschland 20-23</i>
Mittwoch, 19.9	Bericht: Politik in Deutschland “Ich war ein Kind,” José F.A. Oliver (MM) <i>30 Stunden Deutschland 24-27</i>
Freitag 21.9	“Die Küchenuhr,” Wolfgang Bochert (MM) <i>30 Stunden Deutschland 28-29</i>
Mittwoch, 26.9	“Zeitsätze,” Rudolf Otto Wiemer (MM) <i>30 Stunden Deutschland 30-31</i>
Freitag, 28.9	Bericht: Das Deutsche Kaiserreich “Das Märchen vom kleinen Herrn Moritz, der eine Glatze kreigte,” Wolf Biermann (MM) <i>30 Stunden Deutschland 32-33</i>
Mittwoch, 3.10	Bericht: Die Weimarer Republik “Die Geschichte vom fliegenden Robert,” Heinrich Hoffmann; “Die Geschichte vom fliegenden Robert,” Friedrich Karl Wächter (MM) <i>30 Stunden Deutschland 34-35</i>

Freitag, 5.10	Midterm Exam
Mittwoch, 10.10 Freitag, 12.10	Film: <i>Die Fetten Jahre sind vorbei</i> Filmbesprechung
Mittwoch, 17.10	Bericht: Das dritte Reich "Fritz," Hans Joachim Schädlich (MM) <i>30 Stunden Deutschland</i> 36-37
Freitag, 19.10	Bericht: Der kalte Krieg in Deutschland "Geschichte ohne Moral," Alfred Polgar (MM) <i>30 Stunden Deutschland</i> 38-39
Mittwoch, 24.10	Bericht: Die Wiedervereinigung Fünzig Sprichwörter (MM) <i>30 Stunden Deutschland</i> 40-41
Freitag, 26.10	"Das Ideal," Kurt Tucholsky (MM) <i>30 Stunden Deutschland</i> 42-43
Mittwoch, 31.10	"Der Weltuntergang," Fritz Höhler (MM) <i>30 Stunden Deutschland</i> 44-45
Freitag, 2.11	"Naepal sehen," Kurt Marti (MM) <i>30 Stunden Deutschland</i> 46-47
Mittwoch, 7.11	Bericht: Geschlechterrollen in Deutschland "Bleibe," Dieter Wellershoff (MM) <i>30 Stunden Deutschland</i> 48
Freitag, 9.11	"Eine kaiserliche Botschaft," Franz Kafka (MM) <i>30 Stunden Deutschland</i> 49
Mittwoch, 14.11	Bericht: Multikulturalismus in Deutschland "Helden wie wir," Thomas Brüßig (MM) <i>30 Stunden Deutschland</i> 50
Freitag, 16.11	"Rote Korallen," Judith Hermann (MM) <i>30 Stunden Deutschland</i> 51
Mittwoch, 21.11 Freitag, 23.11	Thanksgiving Thanksgiving
Mittwoch, 28.11 Freitag, 30.11	Film: <i>Sonnenallee</i> Filmbesprechung
Mittwoch, 5.12	"Missverständnis," Erich Fried (MM) <i>30 Stunden Deutschland</i> 52-53
Freitag, 7.12	"Von Muttersprache zur Sprachmutter," Yoko Tawada (MM) <i>30 Stunden Deutschland</i> 54-55

