

German 365
Advanced Conversation
Fall 2007
Comenius 411
Monday / Wednesday 2:20-3:30

Professor: Hunter Bivens
E-mail: bivens@moravian.edu
Office hours: Wed. 10-11:30 am
Fri. 10:12:50 pm

Telephone: (610) 861-1395
Office: Comenius 405

Textbooks:

- **Anders Gedacht: Text and Context in the German Speaking World.** Irene Motyl-Mudretzkyj and Michaela Späinghaus. Houghton Mifflin 2006
- **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.

Course description and goals: This is an intensive German conversational practice course to develop an advanced level of proficiency. Special attention will be paid to functional communication in educated native-like situations, and expressing opinions on daily life and current issues. It is expected at the end of the semester that students will be able to:

- Describe and narrate in major time frames
- Get through complicated tasks or social situations
- Participate actively in conversations on concrete topics, in most informal and some formal settings
- Sustain communication by using connected discourse of paragraph length and substance with suitable accuracy and some confidence
- Satisfy the demands of work and/or schools situations
- Develop an extensive vocabulary appropriate to the formal discourse

Course procedure: Given that this is a conversation class, it is expected that students speak in German as frequently as possible in class and out of the classroom. *A most effective way to improve your language skills is through intensive practice on speaking and reading.* Therefore, the preparation for the conversations in the classroom will require the careful reading of materials in German on the issues at hand, taking special care of specialized vocabulary and lower frequency words. The assigned materials from the textbooks, as well as other sources from the media and the Internet will enrich the vocabulary and stimulate some ideas for conversation. Lack of preparation will be immediately noticeable. As a rule for this class ***no English will be accepted.*** If a student cannot express an idea, he/she can paraphrase or try again ***in German only.*** Dictionaries are accepted, but at no time (even in whispers) should students use English. This practice will help them to find ways to express themselves in German.

Besides the readings, it is expected that students speak German out of class. It is recommended that students spend at least 3 hours per week out of class in conversation on issues associated with the materials under discussion in class, and with a variety of projects for the class. The best recommendation is to find a German native speaker for practice, but a classmate is also acceptable.

Audiovisual Material: Students are encouraged to watch films and listen to the German radio via internet. The professor will provide information in class about media resources. In addition, 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.

Class attendance: Faithful attendance is expected, since continuous practice is needed in order to learn a language.

Every student will be allowed to miss up to **three (3) classes** without losing points off their final grade; however, remember that your class participation grade will suffer beginning with the first absence (regardless of the reason for it) and class participation makes up a large percentage of the final grade in this class (40%).

Every absence beyond three will result in a **deduction of 1 point off the final grade for the class**. It is the responsibility of the student to reserve his/her 3 absences for those circumstances when missing class is unavoidable (i.e. illnesses, field trips, participation in sporting events, etc.) and to inform the professor as soon as possible about the reason for the absence. Absences due to employment will never be excused.

In case of extended absences the student should talk to Students Services or the Academic Dean who will contact the professor. Only if the Dean justifies the absences, they will be excused (and points will not be taken off).

Remember: Requests to excuse absences at the end of the semester will not be considered. Students have the responsibility of keeping track of their own absences. No reminders will be given.

Three (3) late arrivals to class (10 minutes or more) will be the equivalent of one absence and students will lose 1 point off their final grade. Please, be respectful to other students and the professor, late arrivals are disrupting.

Cell phones and other communication devices: Through the entire class period, all cellphones and other communication devices will be turned off (not just put into "silent/vibrate" mode). If you need your device for emergency purposes, you need to inform the instructor before class begins. Please, no sending messages during the class.

Extra credit: Students without a single absence throughout the semester will receive two extra points in their final grade.

Academic integrity: academic dishonesty, that is, **cheating** on exams and any other type of class exercise/assignment, and **plagiarism** (using another person's words and passing them off as your own) is a serious offense and will be handled according to the Moravian policy on Academic Honesty (please, see the Student Hand book). Make sure you cite ALL the sources you use for your work. It is your responsibility to avoid dishonest behavior. Penalties will range from an F in the exam/assignment to failure in the course.

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).

EVALUATION FOR THE FINAL GRADE:

1. **Daily class preparation and participation (40%):** Students are expected to come to class having prepared the readings and exercises assigned by the professor (see "Kursplan"). In class, students must participate **actively** speaking in group activities and class general discussions. Monthly, the professor will assign a grade according to the level of preparation and participation of each student.

Attendance, preparation and **active** class participation are necessary to succeed in this class. The professor will assign a weekly grade for the level of preparation and participation of each

student.

The weekly class grades will be as follows:

A=95 Excellent participation (the student answers questions and offers interesting comments without the need of the professor or the debate leader calling on him/her. The comments and answers show that the student has thoroughly prepared the assigned material and has done the necessary background research to understand it well).

B= 85 Good participation (the student answers questions and offers interesting comments whenever the professor or debate leader calls on him/her. Sometimes, the student participates without being asked. The comments and answers show that the student has prepared the assigned material and has done the necessary background research to understand it quite well).

C=75 Fair participation (the student answers questions and offers comments only when the professor or debate leader calls on him/her. The comments and answers show that the student has prepared the assigned material, but has not done the entire necessary background research to understand it).

D=65 Poor participation (the student answers questions and offers very brief comments only when the professor or debate leader calls on him/her. The comments and answers show that the student has a poor preparation of the assigned material and has not done the necessary background research to understand it).

F=55 Lack of participation (the student does not answer questions and does not offer any comments in the class or group discussion. The lack of comments and answers, as well as incorrect answers, show that the student has not prepared the assigned material or, if he/she has prepared it, it has been in a careless or incomplete way).

No attendance, no participation at all: When a student is not in class, he/she gets a zero for that day regardless of the reason for that absence. That zero adds to the weekly participation grade average.

- Dossier (10%):** Throughout the semester, students will develop a dossier of the materials collected during the semester regarding the topics of discussion and their presentations. The collection must also include their personal typed German-German dictionary in which they will collect all the words they have learned during the semester. The dictionary can include low frequency words, prepositions, and other useful words that will contribute to their improvement in their oral expression as educated speakers in German. The dossier will be handed in on the last day of class. For every late day the grade for the dossier will be reduced by one letter grade.
- Mid-term oral exam (15%):** The oral exam recorded on tape will concentrate on developing orally one topic (chosen by the student) taken from the book "*Anders Gedacht*". This exam will consist on a 15 minute recorded presentation in which the student will express his/her opinion. On the designated date, the student will hand in his/her cassette which the professor will evaluate according to the guidelines provided by the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) for Oral Proficiency.
- Two Power point oral presentations in class (20%):** These presentation will be a 15 to 20 minute presentation to discuss and develop a specific issue not related to the topics discussed in class. The selection of each topic should be consulted with and approved by the professor at least one week in advance of the presentation date. This can be done by e-mail. At the end of each presentation, the student will elicit the general discussion of the topic from the class by proposing a set of three questions regarding the topic he/she discussed.

5. **Debate prepared by two students at a time (10%):** In pairs, students will prepare a class debate on one chapter of the book. Each pair of students will choose one chapter, will introduce the topic, will present the different views on the topic and will help other students with their questions on the readings and grammar of that chapter. In short, the students will "take over" the role of the professor during that class. It is important that the students prepare well. Students may bring and present extra material related to the topic being presented and discussed that day.
6. **Final oral interview (10%):** in which the student must demonstrate progress in his/her language skills from the beginning of the semester.

*Taped oral exams and oral presentations must be handed in or done on the assigned date (see "Kursplan"). **Important note:** For every late day that a taped oral exam is handed in, one letter grade will be deducted from the grade; for example, an exam due on a Monday that would receive a B if handed in on time, will automatically receive a D if handed in on Wednesday. Saturday and Sunday count as two days.*

Electronic devices: When preparing work for a grade, you are prohibited from using electronic translation devices. Electronic dictionaries, used for single word inquiries or for short idiomatic expressions are acceptable. If ever you are unsure about how you are using an electronic source, please contact your professor.

The final course grade will be calculated as follows:

participation -----	40%
1 taped (mid term) oral exam -----	15%
2 class power point presentations-----	20%
1 debate (lead discussion) -----	5%
Dossier -----	10%
Final oral interview -----	10%

Note: I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time as I see necessary.

KURSPLAN

Montag, 27.8	Einleitung
Mittwoch, 29.8	<i>Anders Gedacht</i> , Kapitel 1: "Das Reisen"
Montag, 3.9	Frei
Mittwoch, 5.9	Fortsetzung Reisen
Montag, 10.9	<i>Anders Gedacht</i> , Kapitel 2: "Das Fernweh zur Zeit Goethes"
Mittwoch, 12.9	<i>Anders Gedacht</i> , Fortsetzung Fernweh
Montag, 17.9	Fortsetzung Fernweh
Mittwoch, 19.9	<i>Anders Gedacht</i> , Kapitel 3: "Die Grünen und ihrer Politik"
Montag, 24.9	<i>Anders Gedacht</i> , Kapitel 4: "Planet Germany: Deutschland, ein Einwanderungsland?"
Mittwoch, 26.9	Fortsetzung Planet Germany
Montag, 1.10	"Die gute Revolution," Klaus Wiegrefe*

Mittwoch, 3.10	Midterm fällig
Montag, 8.10 Mittwoch, 10.10	Frei “Die Familie von Morgen”*
Montag, 15.10 Mittwoch, 17.10	<i>Anders Gedacht</i> , Kapitel 5: “Die Comedian Harmonists” Fortsetzung Comedian Harmonists
Montag, 22.10 Mittwoch, 24.10	<i>Anders Gedacht</i> , Kapitel 6: “Stationen der Geschichte” Fortsetzung Geschichte
Montag, 29.10 Mittwoch, 31.10	Fortsetzung Geschichte <i>Anders Gedacht</i> , Kapitel 7: “Umgang mit der Vergangenheit”
Montag, 5.11 Mittwoch, 7.11	Fortsetzung Vergangenheit Fortsetzung Vergangenheit
Montag, 12.11 Mittwoch, 14.11	<i>Anders Gedacht</i> , Kapitel 8: “Kunst und Künstler: Anselm Kiefer” Fortsetzung Kiefer
Montag, 19.11 Mittwoch, 21.11	<i>Anders Gedacht</i> , Kapitel 9: “Vereinigtes Deutschland” Frei
Montag, 26.11 Mittwoch, 28.11	Fortsetzung vereinigtes Deutschland <i>Anders Gedacht</i> , Kapitel 10: <i>Lola rennt</i>
Montag, 12.3 Mittwoch, 12.5	Fortsetzung <i>Lola rennt</i> End-Interviews