

Conversation and Contemporary Life (Germ 150) SPRING 2008

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Hunter Bivens

OFFICE HOURS: MW 10:00-11:30

OFFICE LOCATION: Comenius 405

OFFICE PHONE: 610-861-1395

EMAIL: bivens@moravian.edu

CLASS MEETING SCHEDULE: MWF 2a (9:10-10:00) HOSCI 200

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 a contemporary novel and selected films, as well as contemporary issues through the use of a variety of materials. Grammar, though not the focus of this course will be reviewed as necessary.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Bernhard Schlink, *Der Vorleser*
- Claudia Rusch, *Meine freie deutsche Jugend*
- Wladimir Kaminer, *Russendisko*

Strongly Recommended:

A good English/German dictionary such as HarperCollins

ASSESSMENT

- 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 short written summaries (10 %).
- Each student will present orally twice, followed by brief discussion. (10%)
- Vocabulary quizzes (6 x 25 points = 150) (15 %)

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 2008.

- 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).

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

Viel Erfolg und gute Zusammenarbeit im neuen Semester!

VORLÄUFIGER WOCHENPLAN

1. Woche

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. Montag, 14.1 | Einführung |
| 2. Mittwoch, 16.1 | Bernhard Schlink, <i>Der Vorleser</i> 5-11 |
| 3. Freitag, 18.1 | Schlink, 12-19 |

2. Woche

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| * Montag, 21.1 | Frei |
| 4. Mittwoch, 23.1 | Schlink, 20-37 |
| | 1. Zusammenfassung fällig |
| 5. Freitag, 25.1 | Schlink, 38-45 |
| | 1. Bericht |

3. Woche

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 6. Montag, 28.1 | Vokabelheft einreichen
Schlink, 46-58 |
| | 1. Wortschatz-Quiz |
| 7. Mittwoch, 30.1 | Schlink, 59-66 |
| 8. Freitag, 1.2 | Schlink, 67-74 |
| | 2. Bericht |

4. Woche

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 9. Montag, 4.2 | Schlink, 75-94 |
| | 2. Zusammenfassung fällig |
| 10. Mittwoch, 6.2 | Schlink, 95-103 |

11. Freitag, 8.2

Schlink, 104-113

5. Woche

12. Montag, 11.2
13. Mittwoch, 13.2
14. Freitag, 15.2

Vokabelheft einreichen
Film: *Das Schreckliche Mädchen*
Das Schreckliche Mädchen
Filmbesprechung
3. Zusammenfassung fällig

6. Woche

15. Montag, 18.2

16. Mittwoch, 20.2

17. Freitag, 22.2

Schlink, 114-124
4. Zusammenfassung fällig
Schlink, 125-133
2. Wortschatz-Quiz
Schlink, 134-143
3. Bericht

7. Woche

18. Montag, 25.2

19. Mittwoch, 27.2
20. Freitag, 29.2

Vokabelheft einreichen
Schlink, 144-163
5. Zusammenfassung fällig
Schlink, 164-170
Schlink, 171-180 (Midterm)
4. Bericht

Ferien!

8. Woche

21. Montag, 10.3

22. Mittwoch, 12.3

23. Freitag, 14.3

Vokabelheft einreichen
Schlink, 181-190
6. Zusammenfassung fällig
Schlink, 191-198
3. Wortschatz-Quiz
Schlink, 199-207
5. Bericht

9. Woche

24. Montag, 17.3
25. Mittwoch, 19.3

26. Freitag, 21.3

Wladimir Kaminer, *Russendisko* 9-18
Kaminer, 19-22
4. Wortschatz-Quiz
Kaminer, 23-26
6. Bericht

10. Woche

27. Montag, 24.3

28. Mittwoch, 26.3
29. Freitag, 28.3

Vokabelheft einreichen
Kaminer, 36-39
7. Zusammenfassung fällig
Kaminer, 46-49
Kaminer, 54-57
7. Bericht

11. Woche

30. Montag, 31.3
31. Mittwoch, 2.4

Film: *Im Juli*
Im Juli
8. Zusammenfassung fällig

32. Freitag, 4.4

Filmbesprechung

12. Woche

33. Montag, 7.4

Vokabelheft einreichen

Kaminer, 62-64

34. Mittwoch, 9.4

9. Zusammenfassung fällig

Kaminer, 106-110

35. Freitag, 11.4

4. Wortschatz-Quiz

Kaminer, 186-188

8. Bericht

13. Woche

36. Montag, 14.4

Claudia Rusch, *Meine freie deutsche Jugend* 9-15

37. Mittwoch, 16. 4

Rusch, 16-19

38. Freitag, 18.4

6. Wortschatz-Quiz

Rusch, 20-24

14. Woche

39. Montag, 21.4

Vokabelheft einreichen

Rusch, 47-50

40. Mittwoch, 23.4

10. Zusammenfassung fällig

Rusch, 51-57

41. Freitag, 25.4

Rusch, 141-146