

The University of Toronto / Department of German / 2011-12
GER 300Y “Intermediate German”
Draft (Subject to Change)

Required Texts



Lemcke, Christiane, Rohrmann Lutz, and Theo Scherling. Berliner Platz 3. Berlin: Langenscheidt KG, 2004.

Berliner Platz is a stimulating course designed according to ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines and the Common European Framework of Reference. It motivates students to delve into German language & culture through its unique approach to authentic material illustrating vocab in context, communicative functions of grammatical structures, and cultural highlights.

Our class covers chs. 30 to 36/12. Students are recommended to review chs. 25-29 before the semester begins.

Also required is a German-English dictionary of at least medium size (i.e. around 50,000 word).

Course Description

This course is designed for students who have successfully completed GER 200Y or were placed into the 300 language level. (Self-placement is not permitted; please contact the department for scheduling a placement test.) Building on materials introduced in GER 100Y and GER 200Y, the course is designed to provide students with a deeper understanding of German by developing communicative proficiency in the four language skills. Emphasis is upon effective oral and written expression, aural and reading comprehension, and in-depth review and expansion of grammatical structures. Class periods are devoted primarily to communicative and interactive exercises. Conducted entirely in German, GER 300Y provides students with *real* communication experience, and factual information is a central component of the course material. Throughout the course, Grammar is embedded in culturally relevant contexts. Readings, videos, projects, and class presentations explore historical, social, political, and popular topics with the goal to deepen the understanding of the German-speaking countries.

The class involves a year-long group project (“split into nice digestible pieces,” as one student commented) which facilitates a playful and creative approach to German culture & language: The German Soap Opera Project. It consists of three stages: (a) learning about the genre of sitcom / soap opera and practicing writing strategies; (b) creating dramatic characters within a specific situation and creating an outline for a short play; (c) writing and rehearsing two scenes within defined parameters and presenting them to the class. The project has been received very favorably. Here are a few student comments: “[The project] provides a chance to be creative, whereas most language courses do not.” / “Script-writing encouraged us to broaden our vocabulary.” / “The acting was particularly enjoyable because it was a chance to do something completely different in German class.”

Evaluation

4 Chapter Tests (2 per semester)	40%
Creative Group Project	30%
10 Quizzes (5 per semester)	15%
Preparation, Attendance, Active Participation	15%