

The University of Toronto  
Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures

**GERMAN FOR READING KNOWLEDGE**  
**GER 6000H Fall 2014**

Class Time Tu 6-8 pm, CR 405

Instructor: Dr. Viktoriya Melnykevych  
Office: 50 St. Joseph Street Odette Hall, Rom 312  
[v.melnykevych@utoronto.ca](mailto:v.melnykevych@utoronto.ca) Office Hours: Mo/Tu 4-5 pm

**Course Description:**

This intensive course is designed for graduate students from the Humanities. It develops proficiency in reading German texts and is ideal for those preparing for departmental reading examinations. Taught via grammar-translation method, the course will equip students with the knowledge of German grammar and translation mechanisms and will enable them to decipher texts in modern Standard German. The course will be conducted in English; no previous knowledge of German is required.

Participants of the course will acquire essential skills to achieve translation competence. Emphasis will be placed on the development of fundamental reading vocabulary and understanding of German grammar. Students will learn word formation principles and will engage in the use of a dictionary. A fundamental part of in-class time will be devoted to students' active participation in translation process exposing them to a selection of German reading materials from different disciplines with progressing level of difficulty. Additional learning resources will be made available on the course website.

Upon successful completion, students will understand and translate German texts with the help of a dictionary. They will be able to pronounce words correctly. The focus of the course does not include development of conversational or written skills.

The final exam will be conducted in conformity with the Arts & Sciences Faculty Regulations. The use of dictionary will be permitted. Course participants will be assigned **CR** or **NCR** grade. It is up to the individual department to determine whether this mark satisfies their German language requirement.

**Course Material**

Korb, Richard Alan. *German for Reading Knowledge*. 7th ed. Boston: Heinle. 2014.

A solid German-English/English-German dictionary is recommended.

Basis linguistic competence is required. Students who struggle with basis linguistic terminology are encouraged to review *English Grammar for Students of German; A Study Guide for Those Studying German*, Cecile Zorach and Charlotte Melin, Olivia & Hill Press Inc.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

Attendance & Participation	10%
Homework	20%
Quizzes	10%
Translation Project	10%
Midterm (60 min.)	20%
Final (120 min.)	30%

## **Course Requirements**

### *Attendance & Participation*

As this is an intense course, attendance and active participation in class are mandatory and will assist you in successful completion of the course. Absences and repeated tardiness in class will affect attendance & participation grade. It is recommended to contact the instructor in cases of absence.

### *Homework*

Homework will be assigned after each class, its completion is the responsibility of the student. Typical homework assignments will include reading grammar explanation in the textbook and completing on-line exercises. This part of homework is an essential step in preparation for class that will ensure your active participation during discussions.

Short translation exercises at the end of the chapter must be completed and checked against the answer key before coming to class. They are to be submitted on-line with corrections visible to the instructor prior to the beginning of class. Successful submission of all assigned sentences along with visible corrections will be counted towards homework grade. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Longer text (Lesetexte) will be assigned as homework as well. Please check homework announcements regularly. The translation of these text is due before the next class and will be counted towards homework grade.

Review and clarification of assigned concepts will take place in class. The majority of class time will be devoted to translation activities.

### *Quizzes*

Short quizzes will be written at the beginning of class. They test your knowledge of vocabulary and grammar.

### *Translation Project*

To assist you in advancing in your field, you will be asked to choose a text of your interest and prepare its written translation. Drop box for this written assignment will be made available on the course web page. The instructor will provide feedback that will include patterns of error to concentrate on. Due dates will be announced in class at the beginning of the course.

### *Midterm Exam / Final Exam*

The midterm exam will be written in class. It will cover material in the first half of the course. The final exam will be based on all learnt structures. Dictionaries are allowed.