

This is a preliminary version of the syllabus, changes might occur.

The University of Toronto
ADVANCED GERMAN PRACTICE
GER 400 /Fall 2015

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Department: Germanic Literatures and
Languages

Classes meet on
MW 10-12, NF 004



DESCRIPTION AND COURSE GOALS

This course is aimed at students with a high level of competence in German. Building on material covered in GER 100, 200 and 300, it offers intermediate to advanced studies of German language, including text-based analysis and with a focus on improving communication skills. It continues to deepen and practice grammatical structures as well as to broaden the vocabulary base with in-depth topics and authentic excerpts from German TV on the DVD.

It includes a systematic review and expansion of grammar and stylistics. Discussions are based on newspaper articles, literary texts, films and websites.

Using the textbook „Sicher! B2 Lektion 1-12“

COURSE MATERIAL

PERLMANN-BALME, MICHAELA, SCHWALB, SUSANNE. SICHER! NIVEAU B2. DEUTSCH ALS FREMDSPRACHE KURSBUCH LEKTION 1-12. MÜNCHEN: HUEBER VERLAG, 2014.

ISBN 978-3-19-001207-07

MATUSSEK, MAGDALENA, PERLMANN-BALME, MICHAELA, SCHWALB, SUSANNE. SICHER! NIVEAU B2. DEUTSCH ALS FREMDSPRACHE ARBEITSBUCH LEKTION 1-12. MÜNCHEN: HUEBER VERLAG, 2014.

ISBN 978-3-19-011207-4

REQUIREMENTS

2 Tests	40%
Written Component (2 Essays)	25%
Oral Component (1 Presentation)	20%
Attendance & Active Participation	20%

TESTS

Two tests will be given during the semester, covering vocabulary, grammar and readings from the course. No make up quizzes or tests are allowed unless the student has an excused absence. An excused absence is defined as one that has been validated in writing by a physician, surgeon, nurse practitioner, dentist, and clinical psychologist, or a person of authority, e.g. college registrar. If you should fall ill on the day of the test, please leave a message on voice mail or send an e-mail **before class**. A make-up test must be written no later than a week after the actual assessment date.

ORAL EXAM

You will have an oral exam in the form of a group presentation. Sufficient class time will be devoted to prepare for this exam which will be graded for general ability to hold a conversation about a set topic (short article about contemporary issues in the German-speaking societies, picture, quotation, etc.), competence and fluency in everyday situations as well the use of acquired vocabulary. Exact times will be arranged with the course instructor.

ESSAYS

You will write 2 compositions altogether. The topic and length of the composition will be indicated by your course instructor. Each composition consists of a draft and a final version. In order to receive the full grade you must turn in 2 versions of each composition. Your instructor will return the first version with corrective annotations. You will write the final version of your composition based on these corrections. This is a very important reflective exercise to develop your writing skills and to understand the source of your mistakes. The first version will count 60% and the second 40%. **To receive a complete score for each essay, you must submit the marked-up draft with the second draft.**

Do not have your essays proofread by someone else who is proficient in German!

This can be considered plagiarism, as you are submitting someone else's work as your own.

Do not use translation software or online translation tools such as Google translate!

It will not only be considered cheating, but you will miss a chance to reflect upon and improve your writing skills. The purpose of the composition is to show your ability to use the vocabulary and grammar learned in class in accordance with your level of German. If there is any suspicion whatsoever that you have not written an essay yourself, it will not be accepted. You will receive an "F" on the essay.

ATTENDANCE

The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures allows each student a maximum of four unexcused absences (i.e. four hours) per semester. For each subsequent unexcused absence, a student will incur a 10% penalty off the class participation and attendance grade of the course. **If a student misses more than 25% of one or any semester unexcused, the entire course will count as failed with a final grade of 0%.** An excused absence is defined as one that has been validated in writing by a physician, surgeon, nurse practitioner, dentist, and clinical psychologist, or a person of authority, e.g. college registrar. Absenteeism inherently has indirect bearing upon all other aspects of the grade weighting. Test material and homework assignments are based on tasks, activities, and information integrated into class time instruction.

INAPPROPRIATE USE OF MOBILE DEVICES/COMPUTERS

Phones or similar mobile devices must be off during class time! Mobile phones can be used during class only with the explicit permission of the instructor. **No texting is allowed.** In case of repeated texting despite warnings from the instructor, the student's participation grade will be lowered automatically by **10%!**

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Academic integrity is defined as the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. All students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts. Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, using online translators, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive academic sanctions and will be reported to the University's Judicial Affairs office for possible further disciplinary sanction. Please visit <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm> for additional information on the code of behavior on academic matters.

STUDY GROUPS

Study groups are a great way to learn German. We highly encourage students forming study groups outside of the classroom to work on the material that we covered in class and to discover new aspects of German. You can use Blackboard to email other students in the class.

Disability Access

The department encourages qualified people with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities and is committed to the policy that all people shall have equal access to programs, facilities, and admissions without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by university policy or by provincial or federal authorities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, the classrooms as well as course materials, please contact Accessibility Services and visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> or disability.services@utoronto.ca as soon as possible.

Class Participation

	Attentiveness	Contribution	Use of German
Expectations are exceeded (80%-100%)	Student always pays attention.	The student is always eager to contribute in class, in group and pair work activities and asks questions. The student always volunteers answers.	The student attempts to consistently speak in German during class time.
Expectations are met (70%-79%)	The student pays attention most of the time.	The student is usually eager to contribute to class discussion, exercises and group work. The student occasionally asks questions and volunteers answers most of the time.	The student tries to speak German most of the time.
Expectations are barely met (60%-70).	The student pays attention sometimes.	The student is occasionally eager to contribute to class discussion, exercises and group work. The student occasionally asks questions and sometimes volunteers answers.	The student sometimes speaks in German, but often switches to English or French.
Expectations are not met (50%-60)	The student rarely pays attention.	The student almost never contributes to class discussion, exercises and group work. The student almost never asks questions or volunteers answers.	The student speaks German only occasionally but switches to English most of the time.

Percentage	Letter Grade
90-100	A+
85-89	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F