

This is a preliminary version of the syllabus; changes may occur.

The University of Toronto

Intermediate German

GER 300Y1Y, 2017/18

Instructors: TBA

Office: 50 St. Joseph Street,
Odette Hall, 3rd Floor

Office Hours: See German website
www.german.utoronto.ca

Department:

German Literatures and Languages

Classes meet on

MW at 10-12, TR at 12-2, MW at 6-8



DESCRIPTION AND COURSE GOALS

Building on materials introduced in GER 100Y1Y and GER 200Y1Y, this language course is designed to provide students with a deeper understanding of German by developing communicative proficiency in all four language skills. Emphasis is upon effective oral and written expression, aural and reading comprehension, and in-depth reviews as well as expansions of grammatical structures.

Class periods are devoted primarily to communicative and interactive exercises. Conducted entirely in German, GER 300Y1Y provides students with real communication experiences, 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 German-speaking countries.

Herzlich Willkommen und viel Erfolg!

REQUIREMENTS

6 Tests (3 per semester)	40%
3 Essays (2 in fall term, 1 in winter term)	15%
Homework	10%
Oral Exam (first semester)	10%
Creative Project (second semester)	15%
Preparation, Attendance and Active Class Participation	10%

MATERIAL

The textbooks below will be available at the **University of Toronto Book Store** (214 College Street). Please purchase the **bundle package**, which includes an **access card** to the online workbook from which homework will be assigned.

Prisca Augustyn and Nicholas Euba. Stationen. Ein Kursbuch für die Mittelstufe. 3rd Edition. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning, 2015.

Jamie Rankin. Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik. 6th Edition. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning, 2015. (*This book is a grammar reference work, which will be useful to you even in GER400.*)

Bundle Package ISBN: 9781337494724

HOMEWORK

You can expect to spend 6 hours on homework every week. You will be assigned homework from the textbook, online workbook, and in the form of handouts. The homework exercises will provide you with ample opportunities before and after class to practice the materials covered. **No late homework will be accepted** without a legitimate excuse. Advice: In order to have a meaningful learning experience, you should do the homework assignments on a daily basis, rather than all at once at the end of the week. It is important that you do your homework regularly because the work you do outside of class will have a direct influence on your ability to actively participate in class.

TESTS

Six tests (3 each term) will be given during the year, 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 either in the form of group oral presentations or interviews with the course instructor. 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.

CREATIVE PROJECT

The capstone assignment in this course is a group project on current events that is intended to facilitate a student-directed and creative way of refining students' language skills and deepening their knowledge of German culture. The project consists of a written document and a group oral presentation. You will work on the project over the course of the second semester and present your results at the end of the term. Detailed information and guidelines will be provided in class.

ESSAYS

You will write three (3) compositions altogether (2 in the fall term, 1 in the winter term). 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.

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. 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.

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.

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.

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.

Grading Scale

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