

University of Toronto
Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures

GERMAN FOR READING KNOWLEDGE
GER 6000H Winter 2017
Class Time Tu 3-5 pm

Instructor: Dr. Viktoriya Melnykevych
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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

Wilson, April. *German Quickly: A Grammar for Reading German*. 6th ed. New York: Peter Lang, 2007.

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 (50 min.)	20%
Final (100 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.

TENTATIVE SYLLABUS

Week	Topics	Homework (complete before next class)	Important Dates
1	Pronunciation Guide Strategies to learn fundamental vocabulary Ch.1: gender of nouns; present and past tense of <i>sein</i> ; interrogatives; cognates / loanwords Use of dictionary	Study: p.14-20, 25-31	
2	Ch. 2-3: plural of nouns, noun cases; present tense of regular verbs and <i>haben</i> ; meaning of past tense, past tense of weak verbs and <i>haben</i> ; numbers	Study: p.37-62	
3	Ch. 4-5: indefinite articles and <i>ein</i> -words; personal pronouns; present and simple past of strong verbs and <i>werden</i> ; word order Review	Study: p.63-94	
4	Ch. 6-8: prepositions; indefinite pronouns; meaning and form of perfect tenses; <i>seit</i> + present tense; verbs with prefixes; <i>Modalverben</i>	Study: p.95-116	
5	Ch. 9-10: adjectives and adverbs; singular and plural of nouns; present and past participles: form, use, meaning Review	Study: p.117-48	English text for the project due
6	Ch. 11-13: comparison of adjectives and adverbs: recognition, exceptions, special uses; future tense, future perfect tense, expression of probability; uses of <i>werden</i> ; passive voice: tenses, modal with passive infinitive	Study: p.149-69	
7	Midterm Review	Review chapters 1-15	
8	MIDTERM		
9	Ch.14-15: conjunctions, "false friends"; reflexive verbs and pronouns: meaning, form, word order; <i>lassen</i>	Study: p. 149-169.	
10	Ch.16-17: relative pronouns; indefinite and interrogative pronouns; double infinitives; meaning of modal auxiliaries	Study: p.193-211	
11	Ch.18-20: demonstrative pronouns; meaning of suffixes; <i>wer</i> and <i>was</i> as interrogative and relative pronoun; verb-first construction;	Study: p.226-53	

	feminine noun suffixes; infinite with <i>zu</i> ; idiomatic phrases; <i>ist/war+zu</i> +infinitive		
12	Ch. 21-23: extended-adjective construction: recognition, translation; participial phrases, other extended-adjective constructions; <i>da-</i> , <i>wo-</i> , <i>hier-</i> compounds; clauses without a subject Final Exam Review	Study: p.254-72	
	+ 3 days grace period		German text of the Project due
			Final Exam