

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

The University of Toronto

# **INTRODUCTION TO GERMAN I**

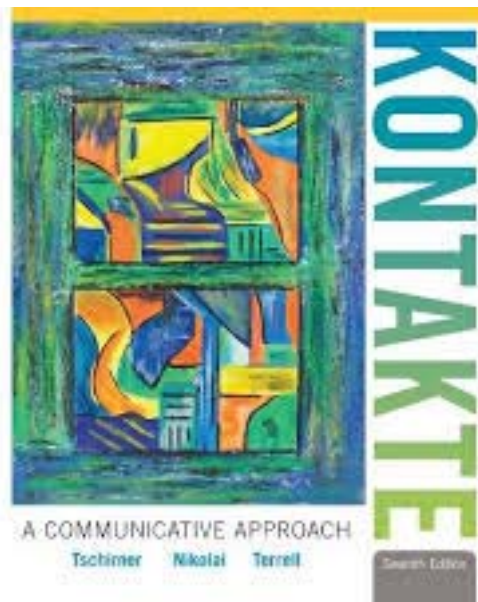
GER 100Y Summer 2016

Instructors: **Lara Pehar**  
[lara.pehar@utoronto.ca](mailto:lara.pehar@utoronto.ca)  
Office hours: M 4-6

**Andrew Warren**  
[andrew.warren@utoronto.ca](mailto:andrew.warren@utoronto.ca)  
Office hours: tbc

Department of  
Germanic Languages and Literatures  
50 St. Joseph Street, Odette Hall, 311  
416-926-2324

Class Meeting Times:  
**Mondays-Thursdays, 6-8 pm**



## **DESCRIPTION AND COURSE GOALS**

The GER 100Y1Y language course is an introductory German course divided into two sections for students with no prior knowledge of the language. Based on a communicative and task-based approach, it is designed to develop proficiency in oral and written communication skills while providing students with knowledge and understanding of the societies and cultures of German-speaking countries.

Students will develop their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills through a variety of stimulating activities. Vocabulary will be presented in the context of culturally significant issues.

Topics cover areas such as introducing and talking about oneself, shopping, telling time and recounting a day, family life, describing and renting an apartment, travel, health and fitness or studying abroad. Additionally, the course will provide students with a foundation in a number of basic grammatical structures and concepts.

Class periods will be devoted mostly to communicative and interactive exercises. In addition to preparation at home, regular class attendance is paramount in order to participate successfully in these activities.

# ***HERZLICH WILLKOMMEN UND VIEL ERFOLG!***

## **REQUIREMENTS**

Comprehensive Final Exam	35%
3 Tests (2 in the 1 <sup>st</sup> term, 1 in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> term)	15%
Spontaneous conversation assessment (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)	5%
Quizzes	10%
Writing assessments	10%
Homework	10%
Preparation, Attendance & Active Class Participation	15%

## **MATERIAL**

Please purchase the textbook at the **University of Toronto Bookstore** (214 College Street).

Erwin Tschirner et al. KONTAKTE. 8th ed.

*The textbook sold at the U of T Bookstore comes with an access code to the Connect Online Workbook. You will need this access code in order to do your homework assignments.*

### **Recommended:**

Cecile Zorach and Charlotte Melin. ENGLISH GRAMMAR FOR STUDENTS OF GERMAN. Ann Arbor: Olivia & Hill Press, 2014.

## **CLASS FORMAT**

This class will be entirely conducted **in German**, and it is expected that **you will speak in German during class time from the beginning until the end of class**. You will see progress swiftly if you concentrate on speaking German in class all the time. Your instructor will use many partner- and group activities, which are to be completed entirely in German. Don't be afraid to make mistakes! They are part of the learning process. Note that you will not be graded on error-free speech, but on your **continuous efforts to speak in German!** This course will provide you with a **welcoming, respectful, and fast-paced environment for learning German** during this academic year.

## **HOMEWORK**

You can expect to spend 4 to 5 hours on homework every week. You will be assigned homework from the textbook and the online workbook. The online exercises will provide you with ample opportunities before and after class to practice the materials covered. Doing them regularly and carefully will help you prepare for quizzes and tests. **No late homework will be accepted** without a legitimate excuse. Advice: In order to have a meaningful learning experience, it is important to do the homework assignments on a daily basis, rather than all at once at the end of the week.

## TESTS

Three tests (2 in the first term; 1 in the second term) will be given during the summer, 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 send an email **before class**. A make-up quiz or test must be written no later than a week after the actual assessment date.

## SPONTANEOUS CONVERSATION ASSESSMENT

At the end of the second term, students will have a spontaneous conversation assessment, either in the form of group oral presentations or interviews with the course instructor. Sufficient class time will be devoted to prepare for this. It 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 as the use of acquired vocabulary. Exact times will be arranged with Andrew Warren.

## WRITING ASSESSMENTS

You will write several in-class compositions. The topic and length of each will be indicated by your course instructor. Sufficient class time will be devoted to prepare for each of these.

## 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 (i.e. more than 12 hours) 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.

Moreover, if you are more than 10 minutes late for class, you will be marked absent for the purposes of the attendance grade; however, it will not be counted towards the semester total.

## INAPPROPRIATE USE OF MOBILE DEVICES/COMPUTERS

**Laptops, phones or similar mobile devices must be off during class time!** Mobile phones and laptops can be used during class only with the explicit permission of the instructor. **No texting is allowed.** In case of a violation of this policy, 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](mailto:disability.services@utoronto.ca) as soon as possible.

## **TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR**

Week 1:	Einführung A
Week 2:	Einführung B
Week 3:	Kapitel 1: Wer ich bin und was ich tue
Week 4:	Kapitel 2: Besitz und Vergnügen
Week 5:	Kapitel 3: Talente, Pläne, Pflichten
Week 6:	Kapitel 4: Ereignisse und Erinnerungen
Week 7:	Kapitel 5: Geld und Arbeit
Week 8:	Kapitel 6: Wohnen
Week 9:	Kapitel 7: Unterwegs
Week 10:	Kapitel 8: Essen und Einkaufen
Week 11:	Kapitel 8/9: Kindheit und Jugend
Week 12:	Kapitel 9: Kindheit und Jugend

## Class Participation

	<b>Attentiveness</b>	<b>Contribution</b>	<b>Use of German</b>
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