Willkommen bei GER200!

This intermediate German course builds on skills acquired in Introductory German. It offers a thorough review and practice of grammar and syntax, as well as an expansion of vocabulary. The focus will be on enhancing your communicative competencies in key skill areas, such as expressing opinions, agreements and disagreements.

We will start the year by revisiting and deepening your knowledge, use and understanding of fundamental concepts, such as the grammatical case system, prepositions and adjectives declination. As you become more confident through practice, we will move on to more complex and challenging structures, such as types of dependent clauses, passive voice and subjunctive.

Throughout this course, you will engage with variety of literary and non-literary texts, current media outlets, as well as contemporary art forms. Class time will be devoted mostly to communicative and interactive activities.

At the end of GER200, you will have reached the B1.1 proficiency level.
You can purchase the print bundle required for this course at the U of T Bookstore. Simply ask or search for the Moeller - Bundle: Kaleidoskop, 9th + Student Activities Manual. ISBN: 9781337373302

**ASSESSMENT & ASSIGNMENTS**

**Attendance & Participation**

This synchronous online language course meets twice a week for a 2-hours block on Zoom. Each student is allowed one unexcused absence (i.e. two hours) per term. For each subsequent unexcused absence, a student will incur a 10% penalty off the class participation and attendance grade for the course. An excused absence is defined as one that has been reported on ACORN or with a 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 presented during the online meetings. If, for any reason, you cannot attend class, please contact your instructor. They will inform you on the best ways to catch up on the material. Students will be further required to regularly complete reading comprehension assignments on Quercus. Reading comprehension assignments will account for 25% of your attendance & participation grade.

Please note that not turning your camera on during class will be considered an absence!

**Homework**

You will spend approx. 4 hours on homework every week. You will be assigned homework on Quercus. The homework exercises will provide you with ample opportunities 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. The independent work you do will have a direct influence on your ability to actively participate in all other off and on-line activities.

**Meet your instructor...**

Hallo zusammen! My name is Laurence and I will be your German instructor this semester. I am a PhD. candidate in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Toronto. I hold an MA. in German and an H.BA. in German and European Studies from the University of Toronto. I also studied at the Karl-Franzens Universität in Graz, Austria; the Humbold-Universität zu Berlin and the Freie Universität Berlin as an exchange student. I like to include a lot of real life cultural material into my language courses. I am looking forward to meet you all and share my passion for the German language and culture with you!
Written Compositions

You will write a total of 4 written compositions this year - 2 in each term. The topic and length of each essay will be indicated by your course instructor. Because writing is a process, you will submit a draft and a final version of your composition. In order to receive the full grade, you must turn in both! Here is how it works: You will write your first draft. After that, your instructor will review it and return it with corrective suggestions. You will then write the final version of your text based on these suggestions. 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 for 60% and the second for 40% of the final mark. Make sure you submit your final version on time! Unfortunately, late assignment submission will result in 5% grade reduction for each day past the deadline, for up to 5 days. Deadlines will be indicated by your instructor. Achtung! Having your essays proofread by someone else who is proficient in German will be considered plagiarism, as you are submitting someone else's work as your own. The use of translation software or online translation tools such as Google translate 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 the course in accordance with your level of German.

Grammar Tests

You will write 5 grammar tests - 1 for each chapter. Each test will cover grammar topics from the course. Tests are approx. 50 mins each and will be written on Quercus during live instruction time. Your camera must be on for the duration of the entire test or your test will be nulled! No make-up tests are allowed unless the student has a legitimate excuse and has communicated this to their instructor prior to the assignment. If you should fall ill on the day of the test, please let the instructor know before class. A make-up test must be written no later than a week after the actual assessment date.

Oral Assessments

You will have an oral assessment at the end of each term. In the Fall semester, you will have a Show-and-Tell type of presentation, followed by an interview with the instructor. In the Spring semester, we will participate in a TalkAbroad program, where you will meet and talk with native speakers from a German-speaking country of your choice on a predetermined topic. Please note that the TalkAbroad program comes at an additional cost of US30 (for 2 sessions), which is to be covered by the student. It is an exciting opportunity to practice your communicative skills! More details to be announced in class. Do not fret! You will have plenty of opportunities to practice in and outside of class. Exact times will be arranged with the course instructor. Here as well, you must have your camera on at all times!

Vocabulary Quizzes

Learning and practicing vocabulary is crucial for your success, therefore you will write bi-weekly vocabulary quizzes on Quercus.
Privacy Considerations

Students may not record any portion of a lecture without the prior and explicit written permission of the course instructor. Provostial guidelines on the Appropriate Use of Information and Communication Technology, available at https://www.provost.utoronto.ca/planning-policy/information-communication-technology-appropriate-use/, state that:

The unauthorized use of any form of device to audiotape, photograph, video-record or otherwise reproduce lectures, course notes or teaching materials provided by instructors is covered by the Canadian Copyright Act and is prohibited. Students must obtain prior written consent to such recording. In the case of private use by students with disabilities, the instructor’s consent must not be unreasonably withheld.

Students may not create audio recordings of classes with the exception of those students requiring an accommodation for a disability, who should speak to the instructor and obtain a permission prior to beginning to record lectures. Students creating unauthorized audio recording of lectures violate an instructor’s intellectual property rights and the Canadian Copyright Act. Students violating this agreement will be subject to disciplinary actions under the Code of Student Conduct.

Students may not take screenshots of class chats, class discussion board entries or any other course content without the prior and explicit permission of the course instructor. Taking screenshots of class chats, discussion board entries or other class content and distributing them via the Internet using social media of any kind, peer-to-peer file sharing such as One Drive or Dropbox, or other distribution channels may be considered a violation of privacy and of intellectual property rights. Students violating this agreement will be subject to disciplinary actions under the Code of Student Conduct. In accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, persons who have special needs will be accommodated.

Live Recordings of Online Sessions

Please note that some online sessions of this course may be recorded and uploaded on Quercus for reference. These live recordings will be available for a short period only. They are intended to be used as a student study aid and are not a substitute for regular attendance unless there are special circumstances (i.e. you are out of the country and in a different time zone) and you have an explicit permission from the course instructor.

Video recordings will mostly capture the instructor and the shared screen. However, your voice and video, may be captured as well. If you have any concerns about being recorded, please speak to your instructor.

Live recordings of online sessions may not be reproduced or posted or shared anywhere other than the official course Quercus site and should only be used by students currently registered in the course. Even if online sessions are not recorded, students may not create audio or video recordings without the written permission from the instructor. Permission for such recordings will not be withheld for students with accommodation needs.
We take Academic Integrity very seriously here! 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 impersonation, 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. For more, please visit:

Academic Integrity Statement

Accessibility

The German Department is committed to ensuring that all students have equal access to programs, facilities, and admissions. This course welcomes students with diverse learning styles and needs. If you have a consideration or a circumstance that requires specific accommodation for attending online course sessions, participating in group-work, or completing homework and assignments, we invite you to contact the course instructors and Accessibility Services (accessibility.services@utoronto.ca) as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements.

Welcome to GER200! Auf ein erfolgreiches Jahr!