

The University of Toronto
Advanced German Practice
GER 400 2023

Classes meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10am EST, Room CR404

	Name	Email	OHs
Instructor:	André Flicker	andre.flicker@mail.utoronto.ca	per appointment

Description and Course Goals



Liebe Studierende, herzlich willkommen in GER400! This course is designed for students who have already achieved a high level of competence in German. Building on the material covered in GER 100, 200 and 300, we will study German language at the intermediate to advanced level.

The core of our course will consist of work with Hueber's *AusBlick 2*. This textbook, which takes the Common European Framework as its point of reference, emphasizes actual language use in a variety of contexts and covers a breadth of subjects with cultural or contemporary relevance: art and travel, lived history and the division of Germany, music and emotions, and many more. It also provides you with a highly structured approach to strengthening and expanding your grasp of German grammar and vocabulary.

Our textbook-centred work will be supplemented by activities and assignments that help you develop a more personal, meaningful relationship with your ability to speak

German – to further identify with German and use it to engage with topical issues. To this end, you will be asked to reflect on your own thoughts and experiences and to explore authentic German language materials such as articles, video, and music.

Herzlich Willkommen und viel Erfolg!

REQUIREMENTS

Homework	10%
Attendance, Class Preparation, and Participation	10%
Journal Entries: 8 in total, (0: not completed / 1: completed / 2: reflective engagement with material)	20%
Grammar Quizzes (4 in total)	10%
Annotated Bibliography / Critical Reflection	10%
Final Essay	15%
Presentation	25%

MATERIAL

In this course, we will be using the *AusBlick 2 Kursbuch* and *AusBlick 2 Arbeitsbuch*. The textbooks are available at the UofT bookstore.

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 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 such as Facebook, 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.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

This language course meets twice a week for a 2-hour block. 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. Keep in mind that absenteeism inherently affects all other aspects of the grade weighting. Hence, if you miss class, it will be difficult to catch up. If, for any reason, you cannot attend class, please let your instructor know in advance. They will tell you the best ways to catch up on the material.

HOMEWORK

You can expect to spend approx. 2-3 hours on homework every week. You will be assigned homework from textbook and handouts distributed in class. 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. It is important that you complete your homework regularly because the independent work you do will have a direct influence on your ability to actively participate in all other on-line activities.

JOURNAL ENTRIES

At the end of every week, you are asked to submit a journal entry of at least 30-50 words each on the Quercus discussion board. The purpose of these journal entries is to help you build a habit of using German regularly, to develop a closer relationship with the German language, and to expand your vocabulary and improve your German writing style more effectively. Each week you are required to engage with a text from the “Heimat Reader” available on Quercus. The journal entry should demonstrate your reflection and engagement with these texts. You are also encouraged to ask grammatical and structural questions. These essays are not meant to provide an answer, but help you to formulate and ask questions that will be beneficial for the annotated bibliography and your final assignment.

As with the homework, it is highly recommended that you complete the journal entries on a daily basis; only then will you reap its full benefit. Journal entries will be due on Sundays at 11.59pm EST. To help you develop your German writing, you will get feedback, mainly on grammar and vocabulary. However, this exercise is about exploration, reflection, and creativity, not correctness; so as long as you fulfil all requirements, you will receive a full grade. More instructions and details about this assignment will be provided in class.

GRAMMAR QUIZZES

Short Grammar Quizzes will be assigned on Quercus and they will cover grammar and vocabulary from the textbook. No makeup quizzes 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.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY / CRITICAL REFLECTION

In the middle of the term you will be asked to submit an annotated bibliography that reflects your critical engagement with the material collected in the “Heimat Reader”. An annotated bibliography is not a list of references and sources you are intending to use in the final essay. This assignment requires you to reflect on **three sources**: What is the concept of “Heimat” presented in these texts? Do you agree/disagree with the author’s opinion, and why? In addition, you will state a preliminary thesis/idea/topic, which you will further explore in the final essay.

The annotated bibliography will be written in German and should not exceed more than two pages.

FINAL ESSAY

At the end of the term you will submit your final essay. The essay should focus on the topic of “Heimat” and include at least **three sources** from the “Heimat Reader” available on Quercus. In this essay you are asked to reflect critically on the concept of Heimat. What is Heimat? How did the concept change over the years and in different cultural contexts? In which historical contexts does the term gain significance? Do you have a “Heimat”?

The final essay will be composed **in German**. The page count for this assignment is **four pages**.

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

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

The oral evaluation in this course will take place at the end of the term; it focuses on a skill that is identified as a key component of B2 level language competency by the European Common Framework, the ability to discuss arguments for and against a particular position and to express your own opinion on the subject. You will contact the instructor prior to your presentation in order to discuss your topic. More instructions and details about the assignment will be provided in class.

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.

MOBILE DEVICES

In order to minimize distractions during class time, we ask that phones or similar mobile devices be off during online meetings unless requested otherwise by the course instructor

ACCESSIBILITY

The 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.

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.

The use of generative artificial intelligence tools or apps for assignments in this course, including tools like ChatGPT and other AI writing or coding assistants, is prohibited.

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