

The University of Toronto  
**Intermediate German II**  
GER 301H Winter 2020

Instructors: TBA

Office: 50 St. Joseph Street,  
Odette Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Office Hours: TBA

Department:

German Literatures and Languages

Classes meet on

**MW at 10-12, at 6-8; TR at 9-11**



## DESCRIPTION AND COURSE GOALS

This course is the equivalent of the **second half** of GER300Y. Building on GER200Y it emphasizes effective oral and written expression, aural and reading comprehension, and in-depth review of grammar as well as study of more complex structures. Through engagement with a variety of readings, videos, and films on important historical, cultural, social, and political topics in German-speaking countries, students will have the opportunity to practice grammar and vocabulary in embedded and culturally relevant contexts. The aim of this course is to equip students with the skills to understand extended speech, to read articles on contemporary problems, to describe personal experiences and to explain viewpoints on topical issues in speech or in writing.

**NB:** Students who wish to take this course are *required* to take a placement test at the German Department in order to ensure appropriate language course level. Please contact our Undergraduate Assistant, Gayle Grisdale at [gayle.grisdale@utoronto.ca](mailto:gayle.grisdale@utoronto.ca) to schedule an appointment as early as possible.

## REQUIREMENTS

2 Tests	25%
2 Quizzes	8%
2 Essays	20%
Homework	15%
Video Assignments	12%
Oral Interview	5%
Participation at German Events	5%
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 & QUIZZES

Two tests and two quizzes will be given during the term, 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.

## VIDEO ASSIGNMENTS

You will make videos and participate in online discussions about them on Quercus. The purpose of this interactive exercise is to allow you to practice speaking and writing and to foster collaborative learning. Prompts will be posted under "Video Assignments." The assignments will be graded for their required

length, punctual completion, and comprehensibility. Further information will be provided by your instructor.

## ORAL INTERVIEW

In the last month of the second semester you will sign up for an oral interview outside of regular class time. You will be graded for general ability to hold a conversation about a set topic (such as 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.

## ESSAYS

You will write two compositions altogether. 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.

## PARTICIPATION AT GERMAN EVENTS

5% of your overall grade will be earned through your participation at German events either hosted by the German Department, the Goethe-Institut Toronto, or other German-language related events around the city (e.g. Kaffeestunde, scholarly talks related to German Studies, German-language film screenings, cultural events sponsored by the Goethe-Institut or the German Consulate, German-language operas/plays/Liederabend). If the event, which you are planning on attending, is *not* organized by the German Department or the Goethe-Institut, **please consult your instructor and get his or her approval first before attending.** In order to earn the full 5%, you will need to attend a **minimum of two events per semester** and provide proof of your attendance, be it by having a supervising faculty member or organizer sign a ticket stub or event program (alternative documentation options must be discussed with and approved by your instructor), and submit a written reaction to the event in 150 words **within one week** of attending the event.

## 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](mailto:disability.services@utoronto.ca)** as soon as possible.

## 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