

The University of Toronto
Intermediate German II
Synchronous Online Course

GER 300Y1 2020/21

Classes meet on U of T's Zoom Platform, am-pm EST on &

Name	Email	OHs
Instructor Term 1:		
Instructor Term 2:		



DESCRIPTION AND COURSE GOALS

Building on GER200Y the focus of this **synchronous** online intermediate German language course is on effective oral and written expression, aural and reading comprehension, in-depth review of grammar as well as the 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. Regular online meetings on Zoom will be devoted mostly to communicative and interactive exercises and group work. In order to participate successfully in these activities, independent work and preparation are paramount.

This is a preliminary copy of the syllabus. Contents may be subject to change.

Herzlich Willkommen und viel Erfolg!

REQUIREMENTS

Online Quizzes (5 in each term)	15%
Essay (2 in each term)	20%
Oral Online Interview (1 in each term)	15%
Blog Entries (2 in each term)	20%
Homework	15%
Preparation, Attendance and Class Participation	15%

MATERIA

The textbooks below will be available for purchase at the following link:

Prisca Augustyn and Nicholas Euba. Stationen. Ein Kursbuch für die Mittelstufe. 4rd Edition. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning, 2020.

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.*)

LIVE RECORDINGS OF ONLINE SESSIONS

Please note that the online sessions of this course will 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. Because live recordings of online sessions will be provided for all lectures, students may not create additional audio or video recordings **without written permission** from the instructor. Permission for such recordings will not be withheld for students with accommodation needs.

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 is a synchronous online language course that meets on U of T's Zoom platform X and X Yam-Ypm. The Department allows each student to miss maximum two on-line meetings (i.e. four hours) per term. For each subsequent unexcused absence, a student will incur a 10% penalty off the class participation and attendance grade of the course. 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.

Students will be further required to regularly contribute to class content in form of discussions and *word-of-the-week* presentations. Discussions and presentations each account for 25% of your attendance & participation grade.

HOMEWORK

You can expect to spend approx. 2-3 hours on homework every week. You will be assigned homework from the online textbook and workbook. 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.

ONLINE QUIZZES

Short online Quizzes will be assigned on MindTap at the end of each chapter 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.

BLOG ENTRIES

You will be asked to produce two travel blog entries relating to two of the cities presented in the textbook and upload them in the designated folder on Quercus. Your blogs will be graded for authenticity, language, vocabulary and creativity. In addition, you will be asked to comment on the blog entries of two other students. Details will be provided on the first day of class by your instructor.

ESSAYS

You will write four (4) compositions altogether (2 in the fall term, 2 in the winter term). 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.** Late assignment submission will result in a 5% grade reduction for each day past the deadline, for up to 5 days.

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 ONLINE INTERVIEWS

At the end of each term you will sign up for an oral interview with your instructor outside of regular class time. You will be paired with another student from your class and 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. Topics and exact times will be arranged with the course instructor.

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.

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