German 497
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall Semester 2012

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

No Textbook
Supplementary Materials – Online – *Deutsch im Blick*
Other Online Sites
Handouts

Course Description:

This course will provide students with a fundamental understanding of the German language in several core competencies. Specifically, the five areas of assessment are: listening, reading, spoken interaction, spoken production, and writing.

As well as gaining a fundamental understanding of the German language, this course will provide you with tools to understand cultural differences and the basics of intercultural communication with a focus on the German culture. We will focus on the three essential areas of competence: openness, knowledge, and adaptability. Below is a table explaining the basic level:

	Level 1 - Basic Intercultural Communication Skills
Overview Of Competence	I am willing to interact with people of other cultures. I can easily pick up cultural nuances through learning languages but I still don't have the experience to deal with intercultural situations in general. I tend to respond to events rather than plan for them. At this stage, I am reasonably tolerant of the values, customs, and practices of other cultures, although I may find them odd, surprising, or I may disapprove of them.
Openness	• When uncertainty arises due to cultural differences, I try to keep a positive attitude as long as the issue is not sensitive to me. • I sometimes jump to conclusions about different behaviors that I later realize were not entirely correct.

Knowledge	• I have some knowledge about the cultures of those to which I am introduced. This knowledge may consist of facts that have been misconstrued and are not always truly characteristic of that culture. • I learn from intercultural experiences and build on my previous knowledge. • Although I tend to find cultural behaviors different from my own curious, I try to be tolerant.
Adaptability	• I continue to learn the best ways of behaving, but I still do not have a firm grasp on the underlying principles and I do not have a plan for reacting to events. When an intercultural situation becomes confusing, I tend to take a passive role. • I take events as they come, doing what seems right at the time. • When people try to communicate with me in a way that I am unfamiliar with, I try to take part but I hope that they will eventually adapt to my communication style. • I understand that others may communicate in ways that I am unfamiliar with.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Below is a table intended to clarify the expected learning outcome for students of this German 477 course, which align with the ACTFL standards for language learners at the "Novice Low/Mid" level. For more information on these metrics, please see the ACTFL standards online.

Listening	Reading	Spoken Interaction	Spoken Production	Writing
The student can recognize familiar words and very basic phrases concerning themselves, their family and immediate concrete surroundings when people speak slowly and clearly.	The student can understand familiar names, words and very simple sentences, for example on notices or posters or in catalogues.	The student can interact in a simple way, provided the other person is prepared to repeat or rephrase things at a slower rate of speech and help the student to formulate the intended thought. The student can ask and answer simple questions in areas of immediate need or familiar topics.	The student can use simple phrases and sentences to describe where he or she lives and people such as friends or family.	The student can write a short, simple postcard, for example sending holiday greetings. The student can fill in forms with personal details, for example entering name, nationality, and address on a hotel registration form.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes/objectives for the course and instructional units/modules. Each week you will work on various combinations of assignments, activities, discussions, readings, research, etc.

Grading

Class Participation: 20%
In-Class Exercises : 10%
Homework and Quizzes : 20%
Oral exams : 10%
Written midterm and final exams : 40%

Class Participation (10%):
In order to participate in class and to fulfill your obligation to others during group and pair activities, attendance is mandatory and roll will be taken every day. This grade will reflect both the quantity and quality of your participation. A detailed description of each letter grade for participation follows.

A: Arrives to class on time with homework assignments completed and ready for the lesson. Participates actively in all classroom activities. Volunteers frequently and readily contributes to group work. Uses German, both when asking questions and when working in a group.

B: Usually arrives to class prepared, but occasionally misses a homework assignment or neglects to learn the material. Occasionally a bit late for class. Participates in classroom activities on a regular basis. Sometimes volunteers, but usually waits for the teacher's cue. Contributes to group activities, but sometimes reverts to English so that the task may be completed with greater ease. Tries to ask questions in German (when reminded) but often resorts to English to facilitate communication.

C: Does not always arrive to class prepared, and the lack of preparation affects ability to participate in classroom activities. Often late for class, thereby missing important instructions and practice time. Contributes to classroom activities occasionally, but usually only when asked to do so by teacher. Sits quietly during group time or resorts to English. Rarely attempts to use German as a medium of communication- uses English to ask questions and to ask for clarification.

D/ F: Always arrives to class unprepared and is frequently absent. Rarely participates in classroom activities unless asked to do so by the teacher. Does not become involved in group activities. Never uses German as a medium of communication.

Homework will be assigned on a nightly basis. Some exercises may be collected while others may be randomly verified for completion by the instructor. Late homework will not be accepted. All assignments MUST be turned in on the day they are due. If you are absent that day, you must turn in assignments on the day you return to class. It is your responsibility to make sure that you have received the weekly homework assignment sheet.

Quizzes may consist of announced or unannounced in-class exercises or written out-of-class assignments. No make-up quizzes will be given unless the instructor is advised of the reason for the missed quiz. However, I will drop the lowest quiz grade at the end of the term.

Oral Exams (10%):
Both the midterm and the final exam will have an oral component. Specific dates and times will be arranged. Failure to appear at the appointed time will result in a grade of F.

Written midterm and final exams (40%):
Exams will be communicative in nature -- writing short paragraphs, responding to a short audio

selection or reading a short passage in German. There will also be a small grammar section to both the final and the midterm.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Computer Access needed for some exercises/assignments.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Not applicable

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Instructor is available to students through email (to be supplied as soon as applicable), phone, and in person following class.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Academic Honesty Policy

Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate **plagiarism** and other forms of academic **dishonesty**. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material.

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library- Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).*

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Stage 1	**Meeting people**		
Task	**Objectives**	**Language**	**Culture**
1 Introducing yourself	Basics of the language: greetings and introductions	**The sounds of German** Introduction to pronunciation **Simple introductions** Sein: Ich bin, Sie sind	**Greetings and politeness**
2 Family and friends	Group introductions: members of the family	**Words similar to English** Recognizing cognates **Saying 'my'** Introduction to gender. Possessives: mein, meine	**Family and marriage**
3 Saying what you do	Asking and saying what you do	**Masculine and feminine** Nouns and gender: professions **Saying 'you'** Personal pronouns: du, Sie	**Jobs and work**
4 Where you live and come from	Exchanging information about country of origin and place of residence	**Regular verbs** Regular verbs: endings for ich, du, Sie **Saying where you're from** Prepositions: aus, in	**Regional identity**
The Challenge:	Check how much you know		

Stage 2	**Getting Around**		
Task	Objectives	Language	Culture
5 Sightseeing	Identifying and recognizing sights	**Saying 'the'** The definite articles: der, die, das **Asking questions** Interrogatives	**East German cultural history**
6 Taking a taxi	Basic conversation with taxi driver: stating destination and paying. Basic formalities.	**Asking and talking about location** Location: wo, in, an **Asking and talking about destination** Destination: wohin, zu, nach	**The social scene in Germany**
7 Asking for directions	Attracting someone's attention. Asking for and understanding directions.	**Using 'bitte'** Basic formalities: bitte **Letters ä ö ü** Umlauts	**Sightseeing**
8 Taking a bus	Asking about public transport: lines, fares, tickets. Buying a ticket.	**Numbers 1-10** Numbers 1-10 **Changing vowels** Vowel shift - fahren, fährt	**Local transport**
The Challenge:	Check how much you know		

Stage 3	**Food and drink**		
Task	Objectives	Language	Culture
9 Coffee and cake	Basic food orders: typical cakes and hot drinks	**Quantities and portions** Partitive expressions: ein Stück, eine Tasse **Compound nouns** Introduction to compound nouns	**Coffee and cake**
10 Having a snack	Ordering a snack: typical dishes and cold drinks	**Saying 'I'd like...'** Making a choice: ich möchte **Saying 'a'** The indefinite articles: ein, eine, einen	**Beer and other drinks**
11 Ordering a meal	Asking for and understanding the menu	**Saying what you like** Preference: gern **Saying 'no'** Negatives: nein, nicht, kein, keine, keinen	**Eating out**
12 Shopping for food	Basic conversation to buy foodstuffs	**Numbers 11-99** Numbers 11-99 **Plurals** Plurals: die, -e, -n, -en	**Traditional meals**
The Challenge	Check how much you know		

Stage 4	**Taking a holiday**		
Task	Objectives	Language	Culture
13 Arranging a day trip	Understanding, discussing and agreeing on leisure events	**Saying 'there' and 'there is/are'** Basic impersonal structures: es gibt **Irregular verbs** Irregular verbs: ich habe, du hast	**Leisure time**
14 Driving	Understanding key driving language and reading signs	**Saying 'I need'** Necessity: brauchen **Using Sie** Personal pronouns: Sie, sie	**On the Autobahn**
15 Holiday accommodation	Understanding instructions and information about key facilities	**Saying 'must' and 'can'** Obligation, permission: müssen, dürfen **Agreeing** Agreement: ich verstehe, in Ordnung, kein Problem	**Holiday destinations**
16 Discussing the weather	Understanding and discussing what the weather is and will be like	**Talking about the future** Present tense as future **Time and place** Word order: inversion	**Town names**
The Challenge:	Check how much you know		

Stage 5	**Making arrangements**		
Task	Objectives	Language	Culture
17 Booking a room	Asking about and booking a hotel room over the phone	**Giving dates** Dates: von… bis zum, am, ordinal numbers **Months** Months	**Making phone calls**
18 Making an appointment	Arranging time and date for a meeting by e-mail	**Telling the time** Telling the time: um **Days of the week** Days of the week	**Time keeping**
19 Taking the train	Asking about and buying a train ticket: arrival and departure times, seat reservation and station changes	**Saying 'leaves' and 'arrives'** Introduction to separable verbs **Saying 'it'** Personal pronouns: er, sie, es	**The railway system**
20 Attending a conference	Basic business introductions and meeting openings	**Saying 'your'** Possessives: Ihr, dein, ihr **Saying 'from'** Prepositions: von, aus	**Doing business**
The Challenge:	Check how much you know		

Stage 6	**Shops and services**		
Task	Objectives	Language	Culture
21 Shopping for presents	Buying items in a shop: describing and differentiating similar items, discussing your budget	**Describing objects** Introduction to adjectives **Saying 'den'** Introduction to accusative	**Gifts and souvenirs**
22 Renting a car	Renting items: negotiating budget, contrasting options, making a decision	**Numbers 100 and above** Numbers 100 and above **Making comparisons** Adjectives: comparative forms	**The car industry**
23 At the chemist's	Describing symptoms, buying medicine, understanding how to take it	**Saying 'it hurts'** Describing pain: der Schmerz, es tut weh **Giving instructions** The imperative: Nehmen Sie	**Pharmacies**
24 Lost property	Asking about, describing and reporting lost property: filling in form with personal details	**Talking about the past** Introduction to the past tense **More about the past** Participles	**Emergencies**
The Challenge:	Check how much you know		