GERMN 301: Grammar and Composition

Fall 2015

COURSE INFORMATION

Class Days: TTh 11-12:15
Location: EBA 441
Blackboard: blackboard.sdsu.edu
German Studies: german.sdsu.edu

Dr. Kristin Rebien
Office: Storm Hall 220-B
Office Hours: TTh 3:15-4:45 p.m. or by appointment
Phone: (619) 594 5128
Email: krebien@mail.sdsu.edu

Course Overview

This course is designed to provide students with strategies and opportunities for developing advanced-level skills in writing German. Advanced grammatical structures and stylistics will be practiced and productive vocabulary will be expanded. Practice in writing German will make up the focus of this course. Emphasis will be placed on self-editing as keys to improving writing skills. Handouts, textbook chapters, written exercises, and lectures will offer opportunities to better understand and to practice advanced grammatical structures and stylistics and will provide writing strategies, which will be useful in developing advanced-level writing skills. In addition, students will learn methods for improving their active use of vocabulary and making effective use of a dictionary. This course will be conducted entirely in German to give students ample practice in speaking and listening to German. **Prerequisites:** German 205B and 202 or equivalent.

Learning Outcomes

- Develop advanced-level German writing skills, such as describing, summarizing, paraphrasing, and supporting points of view.
- Gain practical writing skills for completing job applications and composing business correspondence in German.
- Improve facility with advanced grammatical structures, particularly those frequently used in writing.
- Increase use of active vocabulary in writing.
- Begin to recognize stylistic differences in German, including ways in which written language differs from spoken language and ways in which written texts may vary depending upon discourse type and social or professional context.
- Increase knowledge and understanding of current events and contemporary issues of the regions where German is spoken.

Materials


Course Assessment and Grading

**Participation (10%)**  
Students should attend class regularly, come to class fully prepared, and participate actively in classroom activities, including short in-class writing exercises and discussions. Your participation grade will be lowered one full letter grade for every 2 unexcused absences.

**Homework (10%)**  
Assignments include writing practice and grammar exercises. Students should submit written homework on the day under which it is listed on the semester schedule.
Writing Assignments (40%) Students will complete a number of short writing assignments including resumé, letter, summary, and literary analysis. Writing assignments should be typed.

Writing Revision (10%) Toward the end of the semester, students will select their two best writing assignments, revise them, and resubmit them.

Exams (30%) A midterm and a final exam will be given. Exams will assess the ability to use grammatical structures correctly and writing proficiency in the areas practiced. Final Exam Tuesday, December 15, 2015, 10:30-12:30 PM

Grades are defined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A, A-</td>
<td>Outstanding achievement; available only for the highest accomplishment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+, B, B-</td>
<td>Praiseworthy performance; above average.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Slightly above average.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Average; awarded for satisfactory performance; the most common undergraduate grade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>Slightly below average.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+, D, D-</td>
<td>Minimally passing; lower than the typical undergraduate achievement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INC</td>
<td>Incomplete Authorized: used only when the instructor concludes that a small, identifiable portion of course requirements cannot be met within the academic term for unforeseen, but valid reasons. A grade of “INC” may not be assigned to permit a student to avoid an undesirable grade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WU</td>
<td>Incomplete Unauthorized: a student who is officially registered for the course but who has never attended or who has stopped attending after satisfactorily completing a portion of the course will receive a grade of “WU.” A “WU” counts as an “F” for grade-point averages, but may be removed by repeating the course. Students who are failing the course and who stop attending will receive an “F.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR/NC</td>
<td>Credit/No Credit: Subject to the requirements of their major and the conditions set forth in the General Catalog, students may register for courses on a credit/no credit basis before the deadline. Work equivalent to “C” or above will result in a grade of “CR;” work equivalent to a “C-” or below will result in “NC.”</td>
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Late Assignments and Accommodations

Grades for writing assignments turned in late will be lowered one full letter grade for each day work is late unless other arrangements have been made in advance.

SDSU provides reasonable accommodations in the following situations:

- **Disability:** If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.
- **Religion:** By the end of the second week of classes, students should notify the instructors of affected courses of planned absences for religious observances.
- **Official university activities** (e.g., Athletics): Within the first two weeks of classes, a student who expects to be part of an official university event or activity shall notify the instructors of affected courses. At that time, the student shall request accommodation for any missed examinations or other assignments. If scheduling changes occur, the student shall immediately notify the instructors.

Academic Honesty

The University adheres to a strict policy regarding cheating and plagiarism. These activities will not be tolerated in this class. Become familiar with the policy (http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/conduct1.html). Any cheating or plagiarism will result in failing this class and a disciplinary review by Student Affairs.

Examples of Plagiarism include but are not limited to:

- Using sources verbatim or paraphrasing without giving proper attribution (this can include phrases, sentences, paragraphs and/or pages of work)
- Copying and pasting work from an online or offline source directly and calling it your own
- Using information you find from an online or offline source without giving the author credit
- Replacing words or phrases from another source and inserting your own words or phrases
- Submitting a piece of work you did for one class to another class
If you have questions on what is plagiarism, please consult the policy (http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/conduct1.html) and this helpful guide from the Library: (http://infodome.sdsu.edu/infolit/exploratorium/Standard_5/plagiarism.pdf)

Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses. You are plagiarizing or cheating if you:

• for written work, copy down or cut anything from a book, article or website and add or paste it into your paper without using quotation marks and providing the full reference for the quotation, including page number
• for written work, summarize/paraphrase in your own words ideas you got from a book, article, or the web without providing the full reference for the source, including page number
• for an oral presentation, copy down or cut anything from a book, article, or website and present it orally as if it were your own words. You must summarize and paraphrase in your own words, and bring a list of references in case the professor asks to see it
• use visuals or graphs you got from a book, article, or website without providing the full reference for the picture or table
• recycle a paper you wrote for another class
• turn in the same (or a very similar paper) for two classes
• purchase or otherwise obtain a paper and turn it in as your own work
• copy off of a classmate
• use technology or smuggle in documents to obtain or check information in an exam situation

In a research paper, it is always better to include too many references than not enough. When in doubt, always err on the side of caution. If you have too many references it might make your professor smile; if you don’t have enough you might be suspected of plagiarism.

In foreign language study, cheating also includes the following:

• Doing your written homework and then having a third party correct it, or having someone else write your homework for you and turning that in for credit
• Doing assignments with another student and turning in the same or almost the same work. (Unless you are specifically directed to work in pairs on in groups, college-level work is always expected to be solely your own.)
• Using an automated translation engine to translate your homework
• Using an available translation of a text on which to base your own translation and turning that in for credit

What IS acceptable includes the following:

• Asking your professor for help.
• Brainstorming answers and/or ideas with another student; then, each student writes up the homework separately and turns in his or her own work.
• Doing your written homework and/or translation and then having a third party circle your mistakes; you then do the corrections on your own and turn in your own work.

If you have any question or uncertainty about what is or is not cheating, it is your responsibility to ask your instructor.

TAKE THE TUTORIAL:

Test your knowledge of what constitutes plagiarism through a tutorial offered by the SDSU Library. To access the tutorial go to: http://library.sdsu.edu/guides/tutorial.php?id=28

Consequences of cheating and plagiarism

SDSU instructors are mandated to report all instances of cheating and plagiarism to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibility. Consequences are at the instructor’s and the Center for Student Rights and Responsibility’s discretion. They may include any of the following:

• failing the assignment
• failing the class
• warning
• probation
• suspension
• expulsion

For more detailed information, read the chapter on plagiarism in the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (6th edition, 2003), visit the following website http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml and talk to your professors before turning in your paper or doing your oral presentation.
The University of Indiana also has very helpful writing hints for students, including some on how to cite sources. Please visit http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets.shtml for more information.

Last Day to Adjust schedule

Last Day to Adjust Schedule: Add, drop, or change grading basis by September 4, 2015 (course forgiveness forms should be secured from the Office of the Registrar, SS-1641).

Dropping this Course

Students who do not attend the first class session and the beginning of the second MAY BE DROPPED FROM THE COURSE BY THE INSTRUCTOR within the first 12 days of the semester. Students who do not meet prerequisite requirements can also be dropped within the first 12 days. Any student dropped by the instructor will be notified of the action by email. It is the student’s responsibility to keep a current email address on file through WebPortal sunspot.sdsu.edu. To reenroll, students must receive an add code from the instructor and reenroll in the course within the first 15 days of the semester.

German Program Information

For more information about the German Studies program at SDSU, see the program website: german.sdsu.edu, or contact the German Studies advisor, Professor Rebien: Dept. of European Studies, SH 220-B, krebien@mail.sdsu.edu, (619) 594 5128.