Course title: Experience Berlin! German Conversation in Everyday Life: Literature and Urban Sites

Instructor:: Dr. Andrea DeCapua
Email address: drandreadecapua@gmail.com
Telephone: Mobile in Berlin: TBA

Time: Summer 2017, Term 3 June 7 June-Aug 8:

   Jun 27-July 30    online   
   July 1-Jul 31    in Berlin  
   Aug 1-Aug 8     online

Language of instruction: German and English

Contact hours: 192 minimum, M-R daily schedule varies

Credits: 4

Cross listed The course is cross-listed with GET 3956 Berlin Culture and Society

Course description

This course is designed to improve students’ ability to communicate effectively in German with Berlin as our laboratory. The course focuses on the acquisition of communicative skills while developing an awareness of and appreciation for modern German culture. The course includes directed interactions, including interviews of and discussions with native speakers on selected topics and a variety of experiential activities both in the classroom and outside; and explorations in the differing ways of communication between Americans and Germans. Introduction to and review of pertinent vocabulary and grammar is incorporated into this essentially conversational course. The course will be conducted at the beginning, intermediate, or advanced level, in accordance with students’ level of proficiency. Topics will be coordinated with the course Berlin Culture: Past and Present

This course is recommended for anyone wishing to communicate effectively in German.
Course procedure

This six-week summer course is taught for the first and last weeks online. The entire course is divided into 6 weekly units.

Course objectives

 Students will develop and gain confidence in their spoken language skills through exposure to and participation in different social settings.

 Students will be able to engage in social conversations with native speakers, including ask questions, following directions, expressing likes and dislikes, and agreement and disagreement.

 Students will gain an understanding of the social uses and functions of German as compared with American English

Prerequisites

GER 1120 or equivalent

Cross listed

The course is cross-listed with GET 3956 Berlin Culture and Society

Course requirements:

Presentations 30 points
Assignments and class participation 45 points
Final project 25 points

Presentations (3)

Each student will prepare 3 short (3-5- minute) presentations on topics of his/her choice in consultation with the professor. Presentations may be accompanied by photos, PPT slides, and/or handouts.
Assignments and Class Participation

Attendance and active participation in all activities is essential to promote conversational skills. There will be a variety of assignments, both in class and online, designed to promote students’ development of conversational German and familiarity with Berlin, Germany and Germans.

Required daily M-R; students must attend all scheduled class meetings and announced excursions. More than 3 unexcused absences will result in a 1/2 letter grade drop; for example, a student who has earned an “A” but has missed more than 3 unexcused absences would received an “A-“.

Final Project

For their final project, students will investigate in greater depth a topic of interest discussed in the course. Students will present for approximately 10 minutes. Students have the option of working individually, in pairs or in small groups.

Presentations may be accompanied by photos, PPT slides, or short video clips. You may also choose to prepare a video or DVD of your presentation and submit it electronically. A formal written essay must also be submitted. This may be written in English or German, but the presentation must be in German.

Required Reading

The main readings for this course will be drawn from current German news stories: television, radio, newspapers, blogs, etc. relevant to course topics. We will also be using materials related to the required excursions.
Calendar
(Note: This will be adjusted as necessary)

ONLINE

Week 1 (June 27-June 30)

Watch the following videos:
1. Think about what they are saying; what they are doing.
2. Prepare your dialogue to practice with us when we have our first week of class in Berlin.

Im Restaurant

http://slowgerman.com/?s=restaurant
In a restaurant

http://www.goethe.de/lrn/prj/gad/eue/deindex.htm
Lesson: Podcast - Folge 4: Im Restaurant

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUnOcJAFWlA
Aufgabe 3. Im Restaurant

Now watch this video:

Essen und Trinken

http://www.goethe.de/lrn/prj/gad/eue/deindex.htm
Lesson: Podcast - Folge 3: Keine Currywurst für Ardhi

1. Plan a meal that you might prepare in your apartment in Berlin. Include beverages.
2. Prepare a shopping list in German. Discuss why you chose the items you did, for example, are you a vegetarian? Meat lover? Have a sweet tooth? Are you concerned about additives?
3. Describe your meal. If you’re not a cook, here’s your chance to learn 😊. Remember: Germany uses the metric system, not pounds, ounces, cups, etc.
4. Post your work on the Discussion Board.
Suggestions for extra oral practice

- On Facebook, you can search for "German conversation" or "German conversation table" and will find a list of groups and people sharing an interest for German language and culture.

- Here you can find people who want to trade language practice, i.e. they’ll help you with German and you’ll help them with English. Visit http://www.mylanguageexchange.com/Search.asp?selX3=23&selX13=true

IN BERLIN July 1-31

NOTE: Topics and excursions coordinated with GET 3956 Berlin: Culture and Society; thus, the calendar and meeting times below may change accordingly.

Meetings Times: T & Th 10:00-12:00 (tentative)

Week Two: Orientation to Berlin and German Culture, The Basics

- Shopping, prices, food choices, units of measurement, money, sizes, selections
- Greetings, partings, and other essential conversation protocols
- Using public transportation, asking for and following directions

Week Three: Berlin, Our Community

- Visiting cultural sites, gaining information about what to see, what to do, special exhibits
- Asking for information
- Describing, persuading, suggesting

Week Two: Out and About

- Expressing likes and dislikes
- Asking for and making recommendations
- Describing people and things
- Idioms, colloquial expressions, slang
- Small talk . . . or not?
- Social interactions: Making offers and accepting invitations

Week Four: When in Rome . . . or in this case, Berlin

- Engaging in fun, recreation, sports—German style
- Asking and responding to questions
- Following instructions
- Expressing opinions, feelings, and emotions
- Agreeing and disagreeing
• Comparing facts, information
• Asking for clarification, checking information

**Week Five: Current Events Hot Topic**

• Reporting information: Identifying and commenting on social issues, e.g.: Immigrants, poverty, East vs. West
• Describing the consequences of historical and current events
• Asking for and giving opinions and suggestions

**WEEK 6: ONLINE**
**August 1 - 8**

Assignments based on a choice of topics from the following links will be posted on Blackboard. You may want to use these to help you in planning your final project.

Lesson #073: Die Berliner Mauer
slowgerman.de

Der Taxifahrer
http://deutsch-lerner.blog.de/2008/10/13/deutsch-sehen-a1-a2-4861755/

Willi Will Pilot Werden
http://www.i-catcher-online.com/German/German0903-high.swf

Silent Majority: Eine Musik Bande
http://www.i-catcher-online.com/German/German0203-high.swf

**Recommended web sites:**

http://www.bvg.de/
This website is very useful in helping you get around Berlin on your own. You can plan your travel routes in Berlin with exact times and travel options.

http://www.wdr.de/mediathek/html/regional/uebersicht/untertitel.xml

http://www.german-way.com

http://math-www.uni-paderborn.de/~axel/us-d.html

http://webgerman.com/germlinks/

http://www.colby.edu/german/deutsch_ueben/
Additional Resources
