Florida Atlantic University

TENTATIVE SYLLABUS

Course title: GER 3952 Experience Berlin! German Conversation in Everyday Life: Literature and Urban Sites

Instructor:: Dr. Andrea DeCapua
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Time: Summer 2016, Term 3, June 29-June 30 and Aug 1-Aug 8 Online, July 1-July 31 in Berlin

Language of instruction: German and English
Contact hours: 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 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 asking 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

None

Cross listed

The course is cross-listed with Berlin: Culture and Society

Course Requirements:

Presentations 20%
Weekly journal /blog 15%
Homework Assignments and Class participation 30%
Final oral presentation project 25%

Presentations (2)

Each student will prepare 2 short (5-8 minute) presentations on topics of his/her choice in consultation with the professor. Presentations may be accompanied by photos, PPT slides, and/or handouts.

Weekly journal/blog

Students will reflect on their personal language development, including but not limited to:

• What have I mastered?
• What am I finding difficult?
• What instances of (mis)communication have struck me?
What were or might be the reasons for the communication breakdown or success?

- How are my impressions of the German language changing (and why)?

**Homework Assignments and Class participation**

Attendance and active participation in all activities is essential to promote conversational skills. There will be a variety of homework assignments to promote students' oral interactions. Students are expected to complete all homework on time.

Required daily M-R; students must attend all announced class meetings and announced excursions; each unexcused absence from an announced requested meeting results in a 3% course reduction and more than 3 unexcused absences account for a 5% grade reduction or higher depending on how many times a student misses classes/excursions.

**Final Oral Presentation 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. Presentations may be accompanied by photos, PPT slides, or short video clips. A formal written paper must also be submitted. This may be written in English or German.

**Required Reading (tentative)**

The main readings for this course will be drawn from current German news stories, blogs, etc. relevant to course topics.

In addition, depending upon student interest, we may read any or all of the following:


**Tentative syllabus**

**Week One: The Basics of Life**
- Meeting people: greetings and leave takings
- Asking for and conveying personal information
- The ins and outs of getting around: Taking public transportation and using a map/GPS
- Buying and describing food
- Visiting restaurants: Reading and ordering from a menu, expressing food preferences

**Week Two: Out and About**
- Shopping: prices, sizes, selections
- Expressing likes and dislikes
- Asking for and making recommendations
- Describing people and things
- Asking for information

**Week Three: Berlin, Our Community**
- Interviewing people
- Describing customs and behaviors
- Expressing similarities and differences: Families, gender and societal roles, behaviors and expectations
- Idioms, colloquial expressions, slang

**Week Four: When in Rome . . . or in this case, Berlin**
- Small talk . . . or not?
- Social interactions: Making offers and accepting invitations
- Engaging in fun, recreation, sports—German style
- Asking and responding to questions
- Following instructions

**Week Five: Current Events Hot Topic**
- Expressing opinions, feelings, and emotions
- Agreeing and disagreeing
- Comparing facts, information
- Asking for clarification, checking information

**Week Six: The Many Faces of Berlin**
- 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
Suggested web sites:

http://www.german-way.com

http://mathwww.uni-paderborn.de/~vevdusd.html

http://webberman.com/germlinks/

http://www.colby.edu/german/deutsch_weben/

http://www.gvvy.com/de

http://library.thinkquest.org/26576/

Suggested Readings


