

**FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPT. OF LANGUAGES, LINGUISTICS AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE**

**GER 2225 Intermediate German - 4 credits**

**Instructor:** Dr. Evelyn Trotter

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Term:

Class meeting:

Classroom:

**Course description**

Intermediate German is intended to help students develop their German skills and express themselves more idiomatically and accurately in speaking as well as in writing. The course emphasizes the ethnic and cultural complexities of contemporary society in the German speaking world.

**Course objectives:**

- Review basic structures and help students learn to speak, read, and write German with more confidence.
- Emphasize the ethnic and cultural complexities of contemporary society in the German speaking world.

**No prerequisite**

**Required Texts**

Augustyn, P. & Nikolaus Euba.2012, *Stationen. Ein Kursbuch für die Mittelstufe*. Boston: Thomson Heinle. Second Edition.

Augustyn, P & Nikolaus Euba. 2012 *Stationen Student Activities Manual Arbeitsbuch*, Boston Thomas Heinle, second edition.

**Grading**

6 Tests (one per chapter)/final exam	25%	
Essays	25%	
Homework/Presentation		25%
attendance/participation		25%

**Tests and final exams**

There are six tests following each chapter in the textbook. Tests cover the vocabulary and structures of the respective chapter. You cannot miss a test day if you don't have proper (see below under missed exams) documentation. Otherwise it will be 0%. The five first chapter tests will count 4 % each of the final grade and the sixth test will be your final exam and count 5% of the final grade.

**Essays**

Students prepare at least 1 short essay (> 300 words in length) per chapter on readings and discussion topics. All assignments should be typed double-spaced. Students will receive corrected versions, which they will use as a guideline for rewriting! The writing assignment is only fulfilled when students turn in a rewrite of the original essay! All six essays together will count 25% of the final grade.

### **Homework/presentation**

Students complete assignments in the textbook and in the workbook. Homework will be 15 % of the final grade; Homework is assigned daily and evaluated weekly. For each week a max. 5 points max can be gained (5 pts. for complete work, 0.5 points will be subtracted from the 5 pts. for each missed exercise and/or for less than 50% of an exercise) and 0 pts for not handed in homework or homework handed in after the chapter exam); homework is always due by the first weekly class meeting before class begins. There will be a folder on the instructor's desk for students to put their homework in (regardless whether the instructor asks for it or not.)

Students will prepare one (internet or other) project for presentation in class. Projects may be prepared with a partner or group or individually. Topics may be chosen individually but have to be announced at least one week before. An evaluation of the presentation grade sheet will be posted on blackboard. The presentation will count 10 % of the final grade

### **ATTENDANCE & CLASS PARTICIPATION**

In order to meet the course goals and objectives, you must attend and actively participate in class. Participation is an important component of your final grade, and each day your instructor will make a mark in his/her grade book regarding your participation and will assign you a daily grade. If you miss class, no participation points can be awarded for that day. There is NO make-up for participation, with the exception of the following, for which you will be awarded full participation for the day by providing proper documentation to your instructor:

- University-recognized religious holy days
- Jury duty and other court related appearances
- Doctor's visits
- Prior approved and properly documented University-sponsored activities that demand your presence

\*For religious holy days, students must speak with their instructor prior to missing class in order to receive participation points. Notifications after the religious holy day will not be accepted.

\*See the attendance policy for being awarded participation points if your grade suffers a reduction due to absences.

You will be able to check your weekly participation grades in Blackboard. If you do not receive a grade, ask your instructor for one. If you do not agree with the participation grade, you should speak to your instructor immediately. Disputes over participation grades should not wait until the end of the semester since they are more difficult to document and handle then. Disputes over participation grades must be addressed within one week and if any adjustments are to be made, they must be made immediately. Disputes over participation grades after one week of the date(s) in dispute, will not be considered. Daily participation will be graded according to the following scale:

#### **2 points**

- Arrived on time, attended full class and participated in all activities using German.
- Brought all required materials (including textbook) to class.

#### **1 point**

- Arrived late but less than 10 minutes late to class.
- Was not prepared, did not bring required materials, did not participate fully, and/or did not pay attention.
- Displayed behavior deemed inappropriate by instructor (including use of English).

#### **0 points**

- Absent.

- Arrived to class 10 minutes late or more (equivalent to an absence).
- Refused to participate.
- Left early without instructor's permission (equivalent to an absence).
- Did not complete the in class activities.

Please note that your instructor reserves the right to:

- a. deny entrance to any student arriving to class 10 minutes late or more, and
- b. dismiss anyone from a given class whom the instructor deems as disruptive, and/or count them as being absent for the day.

### **Absence Policy**

Excessive absenteeism not only affects your participation grade but is also grounds for course grade reduction in this course. The German Basic Language Program takes seriously the topic of attendance. Therefore, consistent with policy, students who miss the equivalent of *five contact hours* automatically receive a final course grade reduction to the next lowest grade. Each and every hour absence after the fourth hour absence will receive a course grade reduction.

In other words, students who miss five contact hours of class will have a grade reduction of one scale for each and every hour absence after four hour absences. For example, if a student accrues five contact hour absences their grade will be reduced one scale (i.e., an "A" will reduce to an "A-", a "B+" to a "B", etc.), a sixth absence entails one additional scale reduction, a seventh absence will incur another scale reduction, etc. For example, if at the end of the semester a student has an A for their final grade, not including absences, but they are absent 11 contact hours, then they will automatically fail the course due to grade scale reductions.

Students will NOT be exempt from this policy, except in cases deemed as *extraneous*, namely, in which the *majority* of a student's first five absences (i.e., 3 contact hours out of five contact hours) are attributed to severe illness or family issues, and for which *documentation is available*. See the note below. Vacations, work, and prior arranged engagements (i.e., prior arranged doctor's visits) do not constitute excusable absences. Petitions can only be made in cases in which a student has exceeded the allowed number of absences and they can only be made as soon as a student reaches the fifth contact hour absence. In cases of petition, students should schedule a meeting with the coordinator of the German Basic Language Program, Dr. Prisca Augustyn CU 274 [augustyn@fau.edu](mailto:augustyn@fau.edu). Students have a *maximum of one week* to make this petition. If it is determined that a student should not suffer from a grade reduction penalty, he or she will not be able to miss again. An additional absence would constitute a grade reduction of the course and each and every absence thereon would constitute additional grade reductions.

Note: Petitions can only be made for the FIRST five contact hour absences of the semester. For example, if a student has no prior absences and then is absent 2 contact hours because of non-emergency reasons and 3 contact hours because of emergency related reasons, they may follow the petition procedure outlined above and make a petition for a grade reduction not to be imposed. In this case, it is likely that they will not incur a grade reduction. However, if a student is absent four contact hours due to non-emergency related reasons and then one contact hour because of emergency related reasons, they will receive a 1 scale grade reduction. Moreover, if a student's first four contact hour absences are non-emergency related and they are absent two more contact hours because of emergency related reasons, they will receive a 2 scale grade reduction. It is in a student's best interest to attend every class session and not to "use up" their allowed number of absences during the semester.

The only absences that do not count as absences are the following: University related athletic events, Jury duty and other related court appearances, University-recognized religious holy days, Prior approved and properly documented University-sponsored activities that demand your presence. All other absences count as absences regardless of the documentation available.

If a student's grade suffers one, or more, grade reductions, they will be awarded participation points for the days they were absent. This is so that a student's course grade is not penalized in two ways (participation and attendance) for the same class meetings they did not attend.

In order to account for sudden emergencies and illness, at the end of the semester two hours worth of participation points (4 points) will be added back to your final participation grade. These points do not count towards making-up absences, but rather participation points lost. This will be reflected in the last participation/attendance column on Blackboard.

### **Missed Exams / Missed Assignments**

Written exams, oral exams, in class compositions, etc. may be made-up only when so authorized by the coordinator of the French and German Basic Language Program. The student will be given a *maximum of one week* from the date of the absence to make this request. Work, family vacations, planned trips, social events, or advanced appointments *are not* acceptable excuses.

Legitimate reasons for not attending the day of an exam or assignment due date include the following: participation in a scheduled event as a member of a university-sponsored athletic/scholastic team, religious holy days, a death in the immediate family, or jury duty or other court related appearances. In these cases, the absences will not be counted against you however, in all other cases, the absence will still count as an absence although you will be able to make up the exam, composition, etc.

Acceptable documentation must be provided in order for an exam to be made-up, or a homework assignment handed in late. Examples of such documentation include: official letter or note with contact phone number, death notice or obituary, program from funeral, etc. Medical excuses (only non-advanced appointments are eligible) must be in writing on physician's letterhead and must include the date(s) on which the student could not attend class. Letters from parents or personal statements are not acceptable. For religious holy days, students must speak with their instructor **prior** to missing class.

In order to request a make-up exam or that a late homework assignment be accepted, students must do the following:

1. Contact your instructor immediately and make an appointment with him/her to make-up the exam, composition or oral exam, the day you return to class. Note: your exam/composition/oral exam can be completed prior to receiving authorization for credit in order to keep the information as current for you as possible.
2. Download and print the "Missed Exam Request Form" from the GER course Blackboard site.
3. Complete the "Missed Exam Request Form" and submit it to your instructor with copies of all necessary documentation attached (see Attendance section).

Your instructor will then submit the form to the Office of the German Basic Language Program. Once a decision has been made, your instructor will return to you the completed form. A copy of the form will be kept on file. Students will not receive credit for any exam or assignment until a decision has been made by the coordinator of the French and German basic program. The student will be given a *maximum of one week* from the date of the absence to make this request.

Students who arrive late to an exam will only be given the remaining exam time to complete the exam. No listening comprehension sections will be repeated due to tardiness. If the tardiness is the result of an excusable and documented situation, the student must see their instructor immediately after the exam to request that the listening section be repeated at their convenience.

**Inquiries:** If you have questions or concerns about your class, direct them first to your instructor. If this is not possible, you may then make an appointment to see the coordinator of the German Basic Language Program, Dr. Prisca Augustyn (CU 278 [augustyn@fau.edu](mailto:augustyn@fau.edu))

### **Procedure for Petition of Penalty for Absences**

You may petition to not receive a penalty for your fifth absence by completing the Petition of Penalty for Absences form available on your Blackboard course site. Keep in mind that (a) you may only petition to not receive a penalty only when you reach your fifth absence (b) you forfeit your right to petition if you accrue more than five absences and do not make a petition at the fifth contact hour absence (c) if it is determined that you will not receive a penalty at this point then you will not be allowed to be absent again and every additional absence will constitute a one scale grade reduction penalty.

**Bonus pts.:** There will be bonus pts available only for students who are endangered to fail the course (C- and below) and the max. bonus pts may not exceed pts necessary to earn the letter grade C. for reading and/or viewing of extra material. Students must make an appointment with the instructor to find out which bonus pts they can gain or check on Blackboard under **Bonus pts.**

#### **Classroom etiquette policy:**

In order to enhance and maintain a productive atmosphere for education, personal communication devices, such as cellular telephones and pagers, are to be disabled in class sessions. Lab tops are only permitted by special request and their use in class must be granted from case to case by the instructor.

#### **Grading Scale**

<b>A</b>	<b>92-100</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>88-89</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>78-79</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>68-69</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>0-63</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>90-91</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>82-87</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>72-77</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>66-67</b>		
		<b>B-</b>	<b>80-81</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>70-71</b>	<b>D-</b>	<b>64-65</b>		

**Blackboard:** Students are responsible for checking their FAU e-mail and the course BlackBoard site for updates. Students may also view their daily overall grade on BlackBoard.

#### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodation due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) – in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, MOD 1 (954-236-1222); in Jupiter, SR 117 (561-799-8585); or at the Treasure Coast, CO 128 (772-873-3305) – and follow all OSD procedures. Bring a letter to your instructor from the OSD indicating that you need academic accommodations no later than the second week of classes.

In accordance with the OSD's rules and regulations, students must turn in an Exam Sign-Up Sheet at least one week before the date on which each exam is scheduled. Please contact OSD for more information.

#### **Academic Honor Code & Honors Statement**

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see [http://wise.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001\\_Code\\_of\\_Academic\\_Integrity.pdf](http://wise.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf)

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code.

#### **THE COURSE CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE ON BLACKBOARD**