

GER 312: ADVANCED GERMAN CONVERSATION
FALL 2014
PURDUE UNIVERSITY – SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES
DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN AND RUSSIAN

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:30-2:30pm, and by appointment

Course Goals and Description

This course is designed for students who have passed German 202 or the equivalent. The class will focus on active speaking as well as listening and reading comprehension. The main goal of the Advanced Conversation Course Level is to improve students' communication skills in the German language. This will be achieved by using authentic material and by covering practical, everyday topics that will enable the students to communicate more easily. **This course will be taught almost exclusively in German.** The course does not follow a textbook.

Course Schedule

Spring 2014	
GER 312	R
12:30pm - 1:20pm	Class of 1950 121

Semester Grade Breakdown:

There is no written homework in this course, and there are no quizzes or tests. Grades will be awarded on the basis of the following criteria:

Participation	50%
Attendance	30%
In-class presentation	20%

The final semester grade will be calculated according to the following scale:

A+ = 100 % - 98%	C+ = 79.99 – 78
A = 97.99-93	C = 77.99 – 73
A- = 92.99-90	C- = 72.99 – 70
B+ = 89.99 - 88	D+ = 69.99-68
B = 87.99 - 83	D = 67.99 - 63
B- = 82.99-80	D - = 62.99 - 60
	F = 59.99 and below

Blackboard Learn

A copy of this syllabus and other important course information can be found on the course's Blackboard Learn page. Registered students can access their section's Blackboard Learn page by following the link to Blackboard Learn on the Purdue homepage and logging in with their Purdue career account. <http://www.itap.purdue.edu/learning/tools/blackboard/>

IMPORTANT GER 312 COURSE INFORMATION

Attendance Policy

Class meets **once a week (R)** for 50 minutes and **attendance in this course is expected and required** at every scheduled session. Attendance is calculated as a strict percentage of the number of times you were in class – in other words, every unexcused absence counts against your overall semester grade. Unexcused absences also affect your participation scores. All absences will be treated as unexcused unless students request each absence to be excused in advance of, or as soon as possible after the absence in question.

Absences may only be excused at the discretion of your instructor for legitimate personal / family / medical emergencies, or for university related events. Students must document their request to have an absence excused in a signed note to their instructor that includes the student's course and section, the date(s) of absences, and a concise explanation for the request. Each request will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The instructor reserves the right to limit the number of excused absences granted to any student in a semester.

If you miss class, it is your responsibility (not your instructor's) to find out what was done in class. It is recommended that you find another student in the class whom you can contact to find out this information. Instructors are not obligated to respond to students' emails regarding information / missed work for unexcused absences. **Please note that it is possible to fail this course on attendance alone. Students who have three (3) unexcused absences will receive a failing grade for the course.** Students should monitor their absences throughout the semester.

Language of Instruction

The language of instruction in GER 312 is **German**. Don't be dismayed if you feel you cannot understand every word you hear or produce perfect sentences. Keep listening for words you recognize that will function as cues for your understanding. Your acquisition of German will develop as you are exposed to more and more of the language and as you respond to what you see and hear. **Your instructor is also willing to help you outside of the classroom during her office hours.**

Active Participation

The nature of this course requires significant weekly participation. **Active participation** in class is crucial for practicing your skills and for being successful in this course. It is not sufficient to simply be present in class. You will be expected to participate in all individual and group activities. Your participation will be graded according to the criteria listed on page 4 of the syllabus.

Please respect your class and instructor by refraining from the use of electronic devices during class, unless otherwise instructed to do so. Help to reduce distractions by disabling audible notifications on your mobile devices during class.

Lateness

It is your responsibility to make sure that you come to class on time. Students will be marked late if they arrive up to 15 minutes after class begins. After 15 minutes, the student may be marked absent. Arriving less than 15 minutes late twice may also equal one absence.

Academic Integrity

The School of Languages and Cultures requires the same high level of academic honesty and integrity that Purdue University expects of its students. Therefore, you will be expected to turn in your own work, without help from others or the use of online translation engines/services.

All work submitted for this class must be entirely your own work completed for this course during this semester. Students are not allowed to use any translation service or software for any course work (unless instructed otherwise), and may not receive any help from others on any work for credit in this course.

Any student who cheats, copies work, commits plagiarism, or submits work that is otherwise not their own may be subject to punitive grading up to and including receiving a failing grade for the assignment or for the course grade. Cases of academic dishonesty may be referred to the Office of the Dean of Students for further adjudication and/or record keeping. For further information regarding student conduct, see Sections II and III of the Purdue University Regulations.

Federal Compliance

Students are respectfully reminded that instructors are unable to discuss specific grade information by e-mail to protect students' educational records in compliance with FERPA regulations.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all qualified students enrolled in this course are entitled to "reasonable accommodations." Any students with disabilities which could affect classroom performance should schedule an appointment to speak privately with the instructor before the end of the second week of classes.

College of Liberal Arts Classroom Civility Statement

Purdue University is committed to fostering diversity and inclusion and welcomes individuals of all ages, religions, sex, sexual orientations, races, nationalities, languages, military experience, disabilities, family statuses, gender identities and expressions, political views, and socioeconomic statuses.

Please respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by everyone in this course. Behaviors that threaten, harass, discriminate or that are disrespectful of others will not be tolerated. Inappropriate behaviors will be addressed with disciplinary action, which may include being referred to the Office of the Dean of Students. Please visit Purdue's Nondiscrimination policy for more information: http://www.purdue.edu/purdue/ea_eou_statement.html

Emergency Situations

In the event of a campus or medical emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. In such an event, monitor your @purdue email address, our course's Blackboard, and Purdue University's homepage for further information.

GER 312 Participation Grading Criteria

An **A** student:

- ◆ is on time and has all their materials with them
- ◆ is attentive to what is going on in class
- ◆ always prepared for class
- ◆ displays a positive attitude and enthusiasm for the subject
- ◆ works well with other students in groups
- ◆ stays on-task when working in groups or alone
- ◆ asks questions when they do not understand something
- ◆ almost always volunteers to answer open questions
- ◆ almost always volunteers/answers when going over assigned work

A **B** student:

- ◆ is almost always on-time and has their materials with them
- ◆ is attentive to what is going on in class
- ◆ mostly prepared for class
- ◆ displays a positive attitude and shows interest in the subject
- ◆ works well with other students in groups
- ◆ stays on-task when working in groups or alone
- ◆ asks questions when they do not understand something
- ◆ sometimes volunteers to answer open questions
- ◆ sometimes volunteers/answers when going over assigned work

A **C** student:

- ◆ is generally on time and has their materials with them
- ◆ is attentive to what is going on in class most of the time
- ◆ usually or sometimes prepared for class
- ◆ works ok with other students in groups
- ◆ sometimes gets off-task when working in groups
- ◆ does the bare minimum when working alone
- ◆ does not ask questions when they do not understand something
- ◆ rarely volunteers to answer open questions
- ◆ displays an indifferent attitude and is generally just a warm body

A **D/F** student:

- ◆ is often late to class and often forgets to bring the necessary materials
- ◆ does not pay attention to what is going on in class
- ◆ usually does not prepare for class
- ◆ chats with other students when they are supposed to be doing group work
- ◆ does little or nothing when they are supposed to be working alone
- ◆ never volunteers to answer open questions
- ◆ never volunteers when going over assigned work
- ◆ is uncooperative in group work
- ◆ is disruptive to instructor and/or other students in the class
- ◆ displays an attitude that indicates that they would rather be anywhere else

Sprichst du Deutsch?



Schedule Fall 2014 – so far...

08/28	Einführung und Kennenlernen
09/04	Stereotypen deutschsprachiger Länder
09/11	Reisen und Auswandern
09/18	Leben und Arbeiten in Deutschland
09/25	Umweltverschmutzung und Umweltschutz
10/02	Multikulturelles Deutschland
10/09	Wirtschaft und Politik
10/16	Multikulturelles Deutschland
10/23	Essen, Trinken, und Feiern
10/30	Präsentationen
11/06	Präsentationen
11/13	Präsentationen
11/20	Präsentationen
11/27	--- Thanksgiving Break ---
12/04	Flirten, Komplimente und Beleidigungen
12/11	Wiederholung

* Schedule is subject to change according to the needs and interests of the class.