

## German 223: Scientific German Spring 2015

School of Languages and Cultures  
Department of German and Russian

Instructor: **Christina Weiler**

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**Office Hours:** Monday and Friday 10:30-11:30am, and by appointment

### Course Description

GER 223 is an alternative course to GER 202; it covers the same grammar concepts as GER 202 but its uses authentic materials with a focus on science and engineering. Please note that you do not have to be studying science or engineering in order to take Scientific German. The course is ideal for internship candidates and anybody interested in authentic, practical German. One of the advantages of taking GER 223 instead of GER 202 is that it counts as the first course for the “Certificate of Achievement in German for Specialized Purposes.” This certificate offered at Purdue has the same number of credits as a German minor, but it focuses on our scientific and business German classes. This course is designed for students who have had German 201 or the equivalent.

### Course Objectives

This course is designed for students who have had German 201 or the equivalent. The main goal of GER 223 is to learn German at an intermediate level with authentic materials. By the end of the semester, you should be able to understand and contribute to conversations on concrete and predictable topics. However, you will also become familiar with and discuss more abstract topics related to science and engineering such as inventions and their global impact. You will be able to read a variety of texts at the intermediate level, and you will express your opinions both orally and in writing. We emphasize all modes of communication in GER 223: interpersonal, presentational, and interpretive communication through speaking/listening and reading/writing. Throughout this process, you will learn more about German science and engineering and have fun with the language while improving your language-learning strategies.

In the intermediate sequence of classes at Purdue, we use a communicative-based approach to language learning. This recognizes that we gain the ability to communicate in a language both through exposure to the language and active practice in or review of the language. Throughout the semester, you will be exposed to new vocabulary and grammar at the same time that you will review previously covered structures and words. Your instructor will help you along as you practice both new and old material. The course focuses on providing as much input in German as possible through various means.

To achieve the goals of the course requires regular practice with the language, both in class and individually, and a willingness to experiment with new patterns of sounds and words, much of which can only be done in the classroom in communication with others. Thus, you are responsible for much of your own learning: your continuous **participation** and regular **attendance** are a vital part of your commitment to learning and progress. You should expect to work at least one hour a night at home in preparation for the next class. The quality of language learning will depend largely on the amount and quality of your effort.

## Course Schedule

Heavilon Hall 128 | MWF 09:30 - 10:20am

## Online Resources

- Blackboard Learn

## Required Texts and Materials

- Texts and Materials on Blackboard to be printed for class
- It is *highly recommended* that students obtain a bound Bilingual English>German dictionary. Student may also check out dictionaries from the HSSE library.

## Grading

Grades will be calculated on 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

Overall course grades are calculated using the following weighted categories:

Attendance and Participation	20%
Homework	15%
Quizzes	10%
4 Projects	20%
Two Tests (10% each)	20%
Final Exam	15%

## Attendance Policy

Class meets three times each week (MWF) for 50 minutes. **Your attendance 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. **If you miss a session unexcused, you will receive a zero for both attendance and participation that day.** 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.

**Excused Absences.** Absences may only be excused at the discretion of your instructor with approval of the Course Coordinator for legitimate personal, family, or medical emergencies, or for university related events. **Students must document their request to have an absence excused in an email 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 Course Coordinator reserves the right to limit the number of excused absences granted to any student in a semester.

**Unexcused Absences.** In the event of an unexcused absence, students forfeit the ability to make-up any work completed during their absence (quizzes, exams and projects). Students are, however, still responsible for finding out what information was covered in their absence. Instructors are not obligated to respond to students' emails regarding information/missed work for unexcused absences. **Any student exceeding 8 unexcused absences will automatically receive a failing grade (F) for the course.** Students are responsible for monitoring their absences throughout the semester.

### **Active Participation**

Students are expected to prepare all assigned work before each class in order to be able to actively participate. Your concentrated engagement in class activities and willingness to practice your skills by volunteering information in class are crucial in your development of your proficiency in German and to being successful in this course. It is not sufficient to simply be present in class. Your participation will be graded according to the criteria listed on pg. 7 of this syllabus.

### **Electronic Devices**

Electronic devices, such as cell phones, pagers, tablet PCs, digital recorders, beepers, palms, MP3 players, digital cameras or laptops, are not to be used during class unless the instructor authorizes their usage for a class-related purpose.

### **Homework**

You should expect to spend approximately one hour preparing for the next day's German class by completing assigned work, review of material and regular practice of vocabulary. All work is due on the date assigned by your instructor. **No late homework will be accepted.** There are two types of homework for GER 201.

**Daily Homework.** Your instructor will assign daily homework assignments to be completed before the next day of class. These may take different forms. To keep up with class and prepare for the next day's lesson, it is important that you do these daily tasks.

### **Quizzes**

Students will write short in-class quizzes on vocabulary and/or grammar from assigned material. Quizzes may be announced or unannounced. **If you miss a quiz due to an unexcused absence or lateness, you will receive a zero for that quiz. No make-up quizzes are allowed.**

### **Projects**

During the course of the semester, you will complete **four projects** that serve as assessments of your progress in different skill areas (see schedule):

1. Aufsatz
2. Präsentation einer deutschen Erfindung
3. Präsentation einer selbst entwickelten Erfindung
4. Präsentation eines wissenschaftlichen Artikels

Your instructor will provide you with a detailed description of each project in advance.

**Exams**

Students will write two tests and a final exam. Students will be notified of the final exam schedule once this has been released by the Registrar. Only students with official university exam conflicts will be allowed to arrange a make-up exam. **Please wait to make end of semester travel arrangements until after the final exam schedule is announced.**

**Extra Credit**

Students in 223 can earn extra credit by attending a **German Movie Night** film screening (introduction/screening/short discussion; must sign attendance list) and completing a short writing assignment. Your instructor will provide more information on the movie night schedule and extra credit activity.

**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.

**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.

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

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.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance**

In accordance with the (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 bring any relevant problems to my attention immediately! Visit Purdue's Nondiscrimination policy for more information: [http://www.purdue.edu/purdue/ea\\_eou\\_statement.html](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, and your course's Blackboard page, and Purdue University's homepage for further information.

**Communicating with Your Instructor**

Please feel free to contact me anytime via email at [weilerc@purdue.edu](mailto:weilerc@purdue.edu). In case of an emergency, you can also text or call me at 352-871-3378. In addition, I encourage you to come by my office in SC G054 during my office hours. If you want to meet with me outside my office hours, please do not hesitate to email me to arrange an appointment. If you are having any kind of difficulties, it is best that you let me know as soon as possible! Please remember that I am here to help!

## 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
- ◆ often 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

### 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

**GER 223: Tentative Schedule**

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Wk. 1</b>	1/12 Einführung und Kennenlernen	1/14 Teil 1: Deutschland, Land der Wissenschaft und Technik	1/16
<b>Wk. 2</b>	1/19 MLK Jr. Day (no classes)	1/21	1/23
<b>Wk. 3</b>	1/26 Projekt 1: Aufsatz	1/28	1/30
<b>Wk. 4</b>	2/2	2/4 Review	2/6 <b>Test 1</b>
<b>Wk. 5</b>	2/9 Projekt 2: Präsentation einer deutschen Erfindung	2/11 Projekt 2	2/13 Projekt 2
<b>Wk. 6</b>	2/16 Projekt 2	2/18 Projekt 2	2/20 Projekt 2
<b>Wk. 7</b>	2/23 Projekt 2	2/25 Projekt 2	2/27 Projekt 2
<b>Wk. 8</b>	3/2 Projekt 2	3/4 Projekt 2	3/6 Projekt 2
<b>Wk. 9</b>	3/9 Review	3/11 <b>Test 2</b>	3/13 Teil 2: Aktuelles aus Wissenschaft und Forschung
<b>Wk. 10</b>	3/16 Spring Vacation	3/18	3/20 →
<b>Wk. 11</b>	3/23 Projekt 3: Präsentation einer selbst entwickelten Erfindung	3/25 Projekt 3	3/27 Projekt 3
<b>Wk. 12</b>	3/30 Projekt 4: Präsentation eines wissenschaftlichen Artikels	4/1 Projekt 4	4/3 Projekt 4
<b>Wk. 13</b>	4/6 Projekt 4	4/8 Projekt 4	4/10 Projekt 4
<b>Wk. 14</b>	4/13 Projekt 4	4/15 Projekt 4	4/17 Projekt 4
<b>Wk. 15</b>	4/20 Projekt 4	4/22 Projekt 4	4/24 Projekt 4
<b>Wk. 16</b>	4/27	4/29	5/1 Review

The **Final Exam** will take place during finals week (Mon.-Sat., 5/4-5/9); schedule TBA by Registrar.