

German 328: Advanced German Grammar
Fall 2009
MWF 10-11, BUR 337

Course Description:

German 328 is designed to help you refine your command and understanding of German grammar. The course focuses primarily on formal accuracy, but class activities will include communicative applications of grammatical points. German 328 is **not** a course in composition, conversation, or stylistics, although there are elements of such courses in German 328. (The department offers other courses dedicated to these topics.)

Texts/Readings:

-Frank E. Donahue, *Deutsche Wiederholungsgrammatik* (required)

-A German-English dictionary of your choice

The *Deutsche Wiederholungsgrammatik* is available at the University Co-Op.

Instructor: Marc Pierce

Office: BUR 368

Office hours: MW 11-12 and by appointment. You should also feel free to stop by at any time – if I am too busy to see you I will say so.

E-mail: mpierce@mail.utexas.edu (NB: I do not have e-mail at home. Please plan accordingly.)

Phone: 232-6360 (office), 471-4123 (Germanic Department)

Daily Assignments:

Each chapter in the textbook contains a number of exercises, including mechanical grammatical exercises, guided communication exercises, and free communication exercises that require use of the target grammar. You are expected to have completed all of the fill-in exercises for the assigned section(s) in writing **before** class. The **Gruppen-** and **Partnerarbeiten** do not need to be written out, but you must be prepared to go over them in class. Since the answers to the exercises can be found in the back of the textbook, the exercises will normally not be collected.

In class we will normally review the grammar theory, answer questions about grammar, do grammatical exercises, and then move to communicative activities.

The vocabulary in the textbook reinforces the vocabulary foundation established in UT's 506-507-312K-312L course sequence. The "new vocabulary load" is therefore very reasonable, which will help you keep your attention focused on improving your grammatical accuracy. Make sure to invest the time necessary to learn any new vocabulary that appears in the homework assignment. **This is crucial to your success in this course.** If you do not own a German-English dictionary, purchase one now. Make sure to memorize the gender and plural form of a noun, and the simple past and past participles of irregular verbs. If your dictionary does not give you this information, then you should obtain a different dictionary, otherwise you will be extremely frustrated.

Prerequisites:

You must have completed fourth semester German here at UT or have earned credit for fourth semester German through a placement exam, AP exam, or transfer credit. You are expected to have had formal instruction in elementary and intermediate German and to be familiar with standard grammatical terminology. If you learned German naturally, e.g. from a relative or while living in Germany, but have never studied the language formally, you will need to learn the terminology as you go along. The textbook was written to assist you in this.

If you are already fluent, your accuracy may still need some honing. Avoid thinking, “I don’t need to study that because I know it already.” Fluency is **not** the same as accuracy.

Grading/Requirements:

Tests (4 x 20%): 80%
Participation: 20%

NB: plus/minus grades will be assigned in this class.

Grading:	A+: 98+	A: 93-97	A-: 90-92
	B+: 88-89	B: 83-87	B-: 80-82
	C+: 78-79	C: 73-77	C-: 70-72
	D+: 68-69	D: 63-67	D-: 60-62
	F: 59 or less		

Tests:

Four tests will be given over the course of the semester. Tests typically cover four or more chapters of the textbook and consist of items similar to those on the homework assignments and in-class exercises. Each test is worth 20% of your semester grade. Because the tests are increasingly cumulative, there is no final exam in this class. **The instructor also reserves the right to give short quizzes, both announced and unannounced, about the material we have covered.** If such quizzes are given, they will form part of your participation grade.

Absences on test days:

If you miss a test without documentation and advance notice, you will have to take the test the next class day. In addition, your test grade will be docked by **10% per class day** after the scheduled day of the test (e.g. if the test is given on Monday and you do not take it until Wednesday, your test grade will be docked 10%). This penalty is to protect those who take the test on time: they have less time to prepare for it.

Participation:

Participation includes attendance, asking questions, answering my questions, and taking part in class discussions. Attendance is crucial. **Unexcused absences will result in poor grades for participation! Absences will be unexcused except in cases of *documented* emergency (normally medical or family).** You will need to sign in at the beginning of each class. Please notify me as soon as possible by e-mail or phone if it is necessary for you to be absent from class. In accordance with University of Texas policy, you may be excused from class to participate in religious observances and official obligations like club or varsity sports. In such cases, written documentation must be presented to the instructor at least one week before the absence takes place.

Participation grade profiles:

- A: volunteers frequently and is well-prepared
- B: volunteers several times and is well-prepared
- C: does not usually volunteer but is usually well-prepared
- D: does not volunteer and is generally poorly prepared
- F: consistently unprepared

A word to the wise:

As much learning takes place in class as at home. You can learn a lot when we go over the exercises in class. Attendance and participation are therefore **crucial** for your success in this class. You must not only come to class, but you must have also done the assignment fully and prepared yourself to give answers when called on. Do not miss a single class and always come thoroughly prepared and ready to contribute.

How to prepare for class:

1. Read the assigned section in the textbook slowly and carefully, making sure that you understand completely every step of the way. Take the time to learn anything that you didn't already know.
2. Complete all of the fill-in exercises in the textbook. These will be covered quickly in class, and it is extremely important that you have answers ready to go when called upon. Non fill-in exercises will be done in class. You should try answering them before class, however, so that you will not have to think long about an appropriate response in class.
3. Write down any questions that you have and be prepared to ask them in class.
4. Skim the assigned sections in the textbook before class to refocus your attention.

A good rule of thumb at UT is that you should spend two hours outside of class doing homework and preparing for the next class session for every hour of instructional time. You may find that you need more or less than two hours. However much time you need, please prepare well so that class time can be used with maximum efficiency.

Classroom Etiquette:

Cell phones must be turned off in class; computers may be used only for note-taking. Students who use electronic devices for non-class related activities and create a disturbance will be asked to leave for the remainder of that class. We must all do our best to make class a pleasant and valuable experience for everyone. Please conduct yourselves accordingly.

The class will be conducted in English and German. Grammatical explanations will normally be given in English; communicative activities will be done in German. As a rule, you should respond to me either in the language I address you in, or in German.

Tutorial Help:

If you need help with something, see me. You may also need to do extra work; I am happy to help you with this (by supplying you with extra exercises and going over them with you, etc.). The German Department has a list of approved tutors, and free tutorial assistance is available in the Graduate Tutorial Study Hall on the 3d floor of Burdine (BUR 386). Be sure to bring your textbook to the Graduate Tutorial Study Hall so that the graduate student mentor can assist you properly.

Study Groups:

If possible, find one or two other students in the class who are willing to get together to go over things and help each other. This has proven very valuable for some students in the past, as your classmates may understand certain aspects of German grammar better than you do, and vice versa.

Note: if all students prepare for class as outlined above, we will stay on schedule with ease. If not, we may not finish a chapter completely. In general, however, we will stick to the course schedule, because professors you will have in subsequent courses expect you to have covered the grammar thoroughly.

Students with disabilities:

The University of Austin provides appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities upon request. Students with a documented disability who require academic accommodations should contact the Service for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations. These letters must be given to the instructor. For details, see <<http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/index.php>>.

Academic assistance:

Academic Assistance is provided by the UT Learning Center, in Jester Center, Room A332A. It offers help with college-level writing, reading, and learning strategies. It is free to all currently enrolled students.

The University of Texas Honor Code:

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

A final note:

The instructor takes issues of academic honesty very seriously. All work in this course *must* be your own. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to standard university procedures (at a minimum, cheating on a test will result in the student receiving a zero as a test grade). Discussion of assignments between students in the course is always acceptable, but all students must write out their own work unless a specific group assignment, to which all members have clearly contributed, is made. Please consult the instructor if you have concerns or questions.

Regular Semesterplan for German 328
Fall 2009
(subject to revision)

Chapter numbers refer to Donahue, *Deutsche Wiederholungsgrammatik*

W, 8/26: Course orientation and student diagnosis
 F, 8/28: Chapter 1

M, 8/31: Chapter 2
 W, 9/2: Chapter 3
 F, 9/4: Finish chapter 3

M, 9/7: **No class, Labor Day**
 W, 9/9: Chapter 4
 F, 9/11: Chapter 5

M, 9/14: Chapter 6
 W, 9/16: Begin chapter 7
 F, 9/18: Finish chapter 7, chapter 8, part 1

M, 9/21: Chapter 8, part 2
 W, 9/23: **Test on chapters 1-8**
 F, 9/25: Chapter 9

M, 9/28: Chapter 10, part 1
 W, 9/30: Chapter 10, part 2
 F, 10/2: Chapter 11, part 1

M, 10/5: Chapter 11, part 2
 W, 10/7: Chapter 12
 F, 10/9: Chapter 13, part 1

M, 10/12: Chapter 13, part 2
 W, 10/14: **Test on chapters 9-13**
 F, 10/16: Chapter 14

M, 10/19: Chapter 15, part 1
 W, 10/21: Chapter 15, part 2
 F, 10/23: Chapter 16, part 1

M, 10/26: Chapter 16, part 2
 W, 10/28: Chapter 17
 F, 10/30: Chapter 18

M, 11/2: Chapter 19
W, 11/4: Chapter 20
F, 11/6: **Test on chapters 14-20**

M, 11/9: Chapter 21, parts 1 and 2
W, 11/11: Chapter 21, parts 3 and 4
F, 11/13: Chapter 22, part 1

M, 11/16: Chapter 22, part 2
W, 11/18: Chapter 23 [entire]
F, 11/20: Chapter 24, part 1

M, 11/23: Chapter 24, part 2
W, 11/25: **No class, Thanksgiving break**
F, 11/27: **No class, Thanksgiving break**

M, 11/30: Review of chapters 21-24
W, 12/2: General review, evaluations, loose ends
F, 12/4: **Test on chapters 21-24**