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Office hours:
M 12:30-2:00
W 10-11:00
302 Decio

GE 30305 – Contemporary Germany: Society, Politics, and Culture

MWF, 11:30-12:20, O'Shaughnessy 338

This course provides an introduction to the society, politics, and culture of contemporary Germany. Our main focus is on Germany after 1989, but we will also look back as far as 1945 and draw comparisons to other German-speaking countries, as well as the United States. Topics include social values and the German Basic Law, government and media, as well as issues currently in the news. We will also look at selected literary works, essays, and films in German in order to become familiar with fundamental techniques of interpretation.

At the same time, our class aims to improve your German across the four basic categories of language use: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course is open to students who have completed four semester of college-level German, or who have shown equivalent competency using a placement exam. Over the course of the semester, we will build up your vocabulary and knowledge of idiomatic expressions, and we will expand your ability to use German grammar flexibly and accurately. You'll also try your hands at a series of increasingly difficult writing and speaking assignments. By the end of the course, you will be able to write a short college-level paper in German, as well as deliver an independent presentation on an academic topic.

Learning Goals:

Upon successful completion of this class, you will be able to

- identify and explain some of the main social and cultural developments in Germany since 1989, including but not limited to: reunification and its aftermath, the transition to a multicultural society, the country's leading role in the European Union, the contemporary refugee crisis, and the transition to renewable forms of energy
- identify the salient features of the German political system and of the German media, drawing evaluative comparisons to their American counterparts
- engage in German conversations on a variety of topics
- formulate and express coherent arguments about both literary texts and social issues
- write a five-page academic paper in German
- give a ten-minute academic presentation in German

Required Texts:

- Jamie Rankin, *Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik*, 6th Edition (Heinle, 978-1305078840). NOTE: You may either purchase or rent this book. Further details will be provided on the first day of class.
- A good bilingual dictionary (such as Collins or Oxford)

Recommended Texts:

- Hagen Schulze, *Germany: A New History* (Harvard University Press, 978-0674005457).

Supplementary Materials:

Many additional course materials will be distributed via email. These supplementary materials will include audio and film clips, which you are expected study in your own time. If you do not own the technical equipment to do so, you can use either the library’s media center or the CSLC (=Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures) on the third floor of De Bartolo Hall.

Grade Breakdown:

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|---------------|-----|---|-----|
| Composition: | 50% | Three shorter papers at 10% each: | 30% |
| | | Final paper: | 20% |
| Conversation: | 50% | Three oral assignments at 10% each: | 30% |
| | | Attendance and participation in class discussion: | 20% |

Please note that this class does not have a final exam. Instead, the final paper will be due on the day for which the exam is scheduled.

The following percentages apply:

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| 100-95 | A | 82-80 | B- | 72-70 | D |
| 94-90 | A- | 79-78 | C+ | 69 and below | F |
| 89-86 | B+ | 77-75 | C | | |
| 85-83 | B | 74-73 | C- | | |

Class Requirements:

Shorter Writing Assignments: You will write three shorter (~800 words) compositions over the course of the semester. The first will be a rhetorical analysis of a political speech, the second a report on a social or political issue, the third a literary analysis of a short story. Writing assignments should be typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced, all margins 1 inch. Rewrite Policy: I will hand back all written assignments with grammatical markings and comments as needed in the class period after they were due. Students have until the following class period to hand in a rewrite if they choose to do so. Be aware that I rarely adjust grades by more than one step (i.e. from a B to a B+, or a B+ to an A-) as a result of revisions. Strive to do your best work from the very beginning, and remember that you can always meet with me before the deadline to get feedback.

Final Paper: At the end of the semester, you will write a 1,300-word paper on one of the suggested topics or another topic that I approve. This paper will require external research in Hesburgh Library and an engagement with at least one secondary source. It will be due on the day of our final exam, Dec. 13. We will hold paper conferences during reading period to help you prepare.

Oral Assignments: There will be three in-class oral assignments, each valued at 10% of your final grade. The first will be a political debate in which you will play a pre-assigned role. The second will be a video that you will produce outside of class with some of your fellow students. The third will be an 8-10 minute academic presentation. For all of these assignments, you are expected to do preparatory work at home. Further details will follow at the beginning of every unit.

Attendance and Participation: This is a conversation class, so regular attendance and active participation in our discussions is important. Structured activities will only get you so far; class time represents the best opportunity for you to improve your spoken German. The base-line expectation is that you will speak up during every class period. Attendance policy: Standard departmental policy allows you to take three unexcused absences without penalty. Additional unexcused absences will lower your overall grade for this class by 2% for every unexcused absence after the third. Please be aware that as per university policy, a slip from the health center does not normally excuse an absence. Absences can only be excused by Student Affairs. Tardiness in excess of 5 minutes will also count towards absences: 3 late arrivals = 1 absence.

Academic Code of Honor

The Department of German and Russian Languages takes Notre Dame's Academic Code of Honor very seriously. The Academic Code of Honor asks that whatever work you submit in this class (essays, homework assignments, oral presentations etc.) must be your own. This also implies that you are not allowed to use online translators for your assignments. Furthermore, if you wish for additional help with the writing assignments, you must work with a tutor appointed by the department, *not with a German-speaking friend*. Many activities in this class may require consultation of authentic German texts, but that does not mean that you can copy passages or sentences from someone else's text without clearly marking it as a citation. While this class will frequently require collaboration with others, each member of the group must contribute roughly the same amount to the final product of your collaboration. Simply signing off on someone else's work counts as plagiarism – and besides, it is not much fun for anyone involved. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the Academic Code of Honor.

(<http://nd.edu/~hnr/code/docs/handbook.htm>; <http://nd.edu/~hnr/code/docs/studentguide.pdf>) If you have any questions, please ask me or one of your academic advisors.

Disability Accommodations

Any student who has a documented disability and is registered with Disability Services should speak with me as soon as possible regarding accommodations. Students who are not registered should contact the Office of Disability Services - <http://disabilityservices.nd.edu/>.

Technology Snafu Warning

This course relies heavily on access to computers. At some point during the semester you will almost certainly have a problem with technology: your laptop will crash, a file will become corrupted, a server will go down, or something else will occur. These are facts of life, not emergencies. Technology problems will not be accepted as excuses for unfinished work. Count on “stuff” happening and protect yourself by doing the following:

- Plan ahead – start early, particularly if scarce resources are required
- Save work often – at least every ten minutes
- Make regular backups of files in a different location from the originals
- Save drafts of work at multiple stages
- Practice safe computing when surfing the web and checking email
- On your personal computer, install and use software to control viruses and malware

On another technological note...

I will expect that you use correct German punctuation and spelling in your written assignments, including the symbols ä, ö, ü, and ß. This is very simple on Macs and fairly easy on PCs. If you do not know how to make these symbols on your computer, please consult with me or ask the staff in the language lab for help.

| Datum | Vorbereitung | In der Stunde |
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Stichwort 1: „Vergangenheitsbewältigung“

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| Mittwoch 23. August (1) | | Einführung in den Kurs |
| Freitag 25. August (2) | (1) Ankommen-App herunterladen (2) Einen kurzen Text aus der App lesen und persönliche Reaktion darauf schreiben (3) Hagen Schulze, “A Divided Nation” lesen | Multimedia-Vorlesung zum Thema Mauerbau |
| Montag 28. August (3) | Erstellen Sie zusammen mit einem Partner ein kurzes Personenprofil eines Menschen, der am 13. August 1961 dabei war | Multimedia-Vorlesung zum Thema Mauerfall und Wiedervereinigung |
| Mittwoch 30. August (4) | Den Film <i>From Us to Me</i> sehen | Film diskutieren |
| Freitag 1. September (5) | Claudia Rusch, „Der Stempel“ | Über „Der Stempel“ diskutieren Wie man deutsche Zitate in einen Text einbaut |
| Montag 4. September (6) | Lesen Sie Richard von Weizsäckers Rede zum Ende des Zweiten Weltkrieges, Teil I-IV | Richard von Weizsäckers Rede diskutieren |
| 17 Uhr, 1050 Nanovic Hall: Diskussion mit Dr. Horst Köhler, deutscher Bundespräsident von 2004-2010. | | |
| Mittwoch 6. September (7) | Lesen Sie Richard von Weizsäckers Rede zum Ende des Zweiten Weltkrieges, Teil V-IX | Richard von Weizsäckers Rede diskutieren |

| Datum | Vorbereitung | In der Stunde |
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| Stichwort 2: „Verfassungspatriotismus“ | | |
| Freitag 8. September (8) | (1) Grammatikübungen machen (2) In der App den Eintrag zur deutschen Verfassung lesen und mit einer amerikanischen Civics-Broschüre vergleichen | (1) Grammatik (2) Deutsches Grundgesetz einleitend diskutieren |
| Montag 11. September (9) | (1) Lesen Sie die Prämbel sowie die Artikel 1-5 des deutschen Grundgesetzes (2) Informieren Sie sich über die ersten fünf Artikel des Grundgesetzes mit Hilfe einer Broschüre vom BAMF | Artikel 1-5 des deutschen Grundgesetzes diskutieren |
| Mittwoch 13. September (10) | (1) Lesen Sie die Artikel 6-20 des deutschen Grundgesetzes | Im Stil der BAMF Broschüre einen Artikel des Grundgesetzes präsentieren |
| Freitag 15. September (11) | Schreiben Sie ihre erste schriftliche Aufgabe! Erforschen Sie Ihre politische Einstellung mit Hilfe des Wahl-O-Mates | Erste schriftliche Aufgabe: Eine stilistische Analyse von Richard von Weizsäckers Rede schreiben |

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Stichwort 3: „Streitbare Demokratie“

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| Montag 18. September (12) | Recherchieren Sie im Internet die wichtigsten Positionen Ihrer Partei | Über das deutsche Wahlsystem sprechen |
| Mittwoch 20. September (13) | Analysieren Sie die Internetpräsenz und die Werbespots Ihrer Partei | Die Werbestrategien der einzelnen Parteien besprechen |
| Freitag 22. September (14) | Bereiten Sie sich auf die erste mündliche Aufgabe vor | Erste mündliche Aufgabe: Wahldebatte |
| Bundestagswahl | Bundestagswahl | Bundestagswahl |
| Montag 25. September (15) | (1) Verfolgen Sie den Ausgang der Wahl (2) Informieren Sie sich in der App über Medien in Deutschland | Über den Ausgang der Wahl diskutieren |
| Mittwoch 27. September (16) | Informieren Sie sich über eine großsprachige deutsche Tageszeitung | In Partnerarbeit eine große Tageszeitung diskutieren |
| Freitag 29. September (17) | Grammatik | Grammatik |
| Montag 2. Oktober (18) | Schauen Sie sich die deutschen Fernsehnachrichten auf www.tagesschau.de an | Über die GEZ und das deutsche Nachrichtensystem diskutieren |
| Mittwoch 4. Oktober (19) | Internetforen und die Präsenz deutscher Medien in sozialen Netzwerken studieren | Über „Fake News“ und Gruppendynamiken im Internet diskutieren |
| Freitag 6. Oktober (20) | Kein Unterricht Drehen Sie ein Video über den Wahlausgang | Kein Unterricht Zweite mündliche Aufgabe: Nachrichtenvideo |

| Datum | Vorbereitung | In der Stunde |
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| Stichwort 4: „Leitkultur“ | | |
| Montag 9. Oktober (21) | Beginnen, Sie, Ihre zweite schriftliche Aufgabe zu planen | Wie man eine effektive These formuliert und ein Argument strukturiert |
| Mittwoch 11. Oktober (22) | Lesen Sie in Ausschnitten den WSI-Report „Die Gastarbeiter“ | Über den WSI-Report diskutieren |
| Freitag 13. Oktober (23) | Schreiben Sie Ihre zweite schriftliche Aufgabe | (1) Zweite schriftliche Aufgabe einreichen (2) Weiter über den WSI-Gastarbeiter Report diskutieren |
| Herbstferien | | |
| Montag 23. Oktober (24) | Emine Sevgi Özdamar „Der Hof im Spiegel“ | Özdamar diskutieren |
| Mittwoch 25. Oktober (25) | Emine Sevgi Özdamar „Friedhöfe in Deutschland“ | Weiter Özdamar diskutieren |
| Freitag 27. Oktober (26) | Grammatik | Grammatik |
| Montag 30. Oktober (27) | Schauen Sie sich den Film <i>Auf der anderen Seite</i> von Fatih Akin an! | Über <i>Auf der anderen Seite</i> diskutieren |

| Datum | Vorbereitung | In der Stunde |
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| Stichwort 5: „Populismusdebatte“ | | |
| Mittwoch 1. November (28) | Doris Dörrie: „Neue Schuhe für Frau Hung“ | Über Doris Dörrie und die Flüchtlingskrise diskutieren |
| Freitag 3. November (29) | Grammatik | Grammatik |
| Montag 6. November (30) | Christian Wulf : „Vielfalt schätzen – Zusammenhalt fördern: Rede zum 20. Jahrestag der Deutschen Einheit“ | Diskussion: Gehört der Islam zu Deutschland? |
| Mittwoch 8. November (31) | Ausschnitte aus Thilo Sarrazin, <i>Deutschland schafft sich ab</i> | Über Thilo Sarrazin diskutieren |
| Freitag 10. November (33) | Schreiben Sie Ihre dritte schriftliche Aufgabe | (1) Dritte schriftliche Aufgabe einreichen (2) Besuch in der Hesburgh Library |
| Montag 13. November (34) | Crister S. Garrett: „ Populismus : eine Generationenaufgabe“ | Über den Populismus diskutieren |
| Mittwoch 15. November (35) | Jan-Werner Müller: Auszüge aus <i>Was ist Populismus?</i> | Weiter über Populismus diskutieren |
| Freitag 17. November (36) | Grammatik | Grammatik |

| Datum | Vorbereitung | In der Stunde |
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Stichwort 6: „Energiewende“

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| Montag 20. November (37) | Angela Merkel : „Der Weg zur Energie der Zukunft“ | Über Merkels Rede diskutieren |
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Erntedankfest

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| Montag 27. November (38) | Saša Stanišić: „Die immens schönen tragischen blöden glückseligen deutschen Flüsse“ | Über Stanišić diskutieren |
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| Mittwoch 29. November (39) | Bereiten Sie Ihre dritte mündliche Aufgabe vor | Dritte mündliche Aufgabe: Populismus in Europa |
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| Freitag 1. Dezember (40) | Bereiten Sie Ihre dritte mündliche Aufgabe vor | Dritte mündliche Aufgabe: Populismus in Europa |
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Sonntag, 3. Dezember, 15.00 im DePac: Doris Dörrie, *Fukushima Mon Amour*

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| Montag 4. Dezember (41) | Fangen Sie die Arbeit an Ihrer abschließenden Hausarbeit an! | Über Doris Dörrie diskutieren |
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| Mittwoch 6. Dezember (42) | Navid Kermani : „Rede vor dem Bundestag anlässlich der Feierstunde „65 Jahre Grundgesetz“ | Über Kermani diskutieren |
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| Mittwoch 13. Dezember | | Abschließende Hausarbeit |
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