

**GERMAN 65 SYLLABUS
INTERMEDIATE GERMAN
Fall, 2003**

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Required Texts: Moeller, Liedloff, et al. *Kaleidoskop*, 6th ed. Houghton Mifflin, 1998
Sparks, Vail, *German in Review*, 4th ed. Heinle & Heinle, 2003
Christine Nöstlinger, *Die Ilse ist weg*, Langenscheidt 1991
Handouts

Recommended Text: German - English Dictionary (e.g. Harper Collins)

Course Content: The Intermediate German course (65-66) is a two-semester sequence designed to build upon the knowledge and skills you have already gained through the successful completion of two semesters of college level German, two years of high-school level German, or the equivalent. Emphasis will be placed upon further development of the four skills (reading, listening, speaking, and writing), as well as on expanding your insights into the cultural aspects of the German-speaking world. You will also receive a comprehensive review of German grammar in the *German in Review* textbook. The textbook *Kaleidoskop* will provide the thematic framework of the course, which will integrate a number of other texts from a variety of genres and media. (The same textbooks will be used for German 66.)

In German 65 you will also be reading a short novel, written by Christine Nöstlinger, a leading Austrian writer of stories for children and young people. *Die Ilse ist weg* is the story of a 15-year old girl who runs away from home, told from the perspective of her little sister. Reading a longer, sustained work such as this will increase your vocabulary and hasten your acquisition of the German language in a fun, pleasurable way.

Class Participation: The class meets three hours per week, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Because acquiring a second language requires constant, regular practice, **attendance is mandatory** and will count for a significant portion of your grade. Missing one-fourth of the class sessions (or more) is automatic grounds for a failing grade in the class. Your instructor will record a daily grade for class participation. This will be based on the **quality and quantity of your contribution to the class**. Attendance alone will not guarantee a good grade. You are expected to come **PREPARED** for class, and to be **INVOLVED** in class activities. In other words, your class participation should have a positive and productive influence on class dynamics. Should you have to miss a class or exam due to illness or any other legitimate reason, please inform your instructor via phone or email before class. Make-up tests and exams are possible **only** in the case of an excused absence. More than three unexcused absences will result in a lower grade.

Homework: Making significant gains in your language proficiency will require that you put in a good deal of time outside of class. You should expect to spend approximately 2-3 hours on homework assignments for each hour of class. Homework assignments will consist of reading and listening to texts, preparing grammar, watching videos/films, as well as regular written assignments, including communication through email. Since we only meet three hours per week, preparation before class is essential to ensure that no time is wasted in the instructional hour. Therefore, **homework assignments must be completed on time.**

You may be assigned extra video and audio assignments, which can be completed in the Language Labs on West (Languages Bldg.) or East (Carr Bldg.) Campus. Some films may be viewed in Lilly Library. Please inform yourself of the operating hours of the Language Labs and Lilly.

Also in the Language Lab are computers equipped with several programs for reviewing German grammar and vocabulary, as well as several interactive games, readings, and other multimedia software (see icons under “Language Applications”). You are encouraged to avail yourself of these, especially if you require extra practice.

Kaffeestunde: Students in the German program meet weekly for an afternoon Kaffeeklatsch. You will be expected to attend at least three times per semester – this is a *required* part of your Homework grade. After each visit, you should write up a brief report on BlackBoard of the discussion(s) you took part in. Kaffeestunde is a GREAT way for you to get a chance to practice your German with students of all ability levels, and you should try to attend as often as you can, not just three times per semester.

Film Series: If there is a German film series this semester, each attendance at a showing can count as a Kaffeestunde-equivalent, provided that you write up a review of the movie in BlackBoard after its presentation.

Course Website: The Syllabus, as well as your daily assignments will also be posted on the Website for this course. Your instructor will give you instructions for accessing this website. Other course documents and announcements will also be posted on this Website. You should check this site every day for news, updates, assignments, etc. You will also be asked to post your own work, or carry on discussions outside of class on the “Discussion Board” of the “Communication” menu. The Website should be easy to navigate, but please do not hesitate to ask your instructor if you need help.

Essays and Exams: There will be periodic written tests (approximately one test every two to three weeks). There will also be periodic major essays (1 to 2 pages) throughout the semester (marked *AUFSATZ* on your syllabus). These will be graded on terms of content (integration of new vocabulary; organization and presentation of topic) and structure. That is, you should see each essay as an opportunity to review the content/grammar material, and to use it in effective written communication. You will be given an opportunity to rewrite your essays to improve the grade.

You are expected to strictly adhere to the Duke Undergraduate Honor Code. Specifically, you may neither give nor receive aid in the completion of exams, quizzes, or any work prepared

outside of class that is to be submitted for a grade, unless this is specified as group / collaborative work by your instructor. It is especially important that you not get help from someone else when writing compositions. Your instructor cannot help you, and your German will not improve, if the work you submit is not your own.

Oral Presentations: You will be assigned periodic oral reports/presentations throughout the semester. These will be graded on pronunciation, grammar, and fluency as well as overall coherence and comprehensibility. Topics will be assigned by your instructor.

Final Grade: Your final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Tests

25%

Essays & Rewrites

20%

Class Participation (attendance, degree of preparation, activity in class, email):

10%

Quizzes:

5%

Homework:

15%

Oral Presentations:

5%

Final Exam

20 %

Please note that class participation and homework accounts for 25% of your grade. That means that if you attend class regularly, participate actively, and complete all homework assignments on time, you are virtually assured a good grade in this class! You will also perform better on essays and tests.

Please feel free to ask your instructor for extra help or for materials for extra practice! It is absolutely essential that you let your instructor know if you are having problems, feel overwhelmed, or under-challenged. It is better to deal with these situations early in the semester, rather than waiting until it may be too late.

Remember, the more you immerse yourself in the language, the more you will be able to just “pick it up” naturally. There are a number of opportunities to do this -- browse through Germany and things German via the Internet (Click on “German Links” from the German Department Website at <http://www.german.duke.edu>), watch German news on Scola in the Language Lab, read the German magazines and newspapers in the Current Periodicals section of Perkins Library (*Focus*, *Stern*, *Spiegel*, *FAZ*, *taz*, etc.), or visit the *Stammtisch* and speak German with other students over dinner (times to be announced).

Think about joining the German Club and Delta Phi Alpha (German Honor Society), and/or participating in the many events they sponsor. This kind of extra-curricular activity is sure to improve your German, not to mention your grade!

Viel Spaß, viel Glück und viel Erfolg in Deutsch 65!

German Essay Writing Handout

This is not a comprehensive list of all German grammar, but rather a list of common mistakes made in second year composition. Forewarned is forearmed! Be proactive – after you finish composing your essay, you're not done until you run through your essay with this checklist in mind!

1. There should never be commas (clauses) that exist without a verb. In German you omit the comma and put the verb second.

Wrong way: Heute, ich gehe ins Kino.
Right way: Heute gehe ich ins Kino.

Wrong way: Auch, einige Leute finden Rapmusik nicht schön.
Right way: Auch finden einige Leute Rapmusik nicht schön.

2. Do not forget that some conjunctions kick the active verb to the end of the clause. Relatedly, do not confuse „das“ with „dass,“ and make sure you put the comma BEFORE the conjunction.

Wrong way: Ich denke, dass Durham ist schön.
Right way: Ich denke, dass Durham schön ist.

Wrong way: Ich denke, das Durham schön ist.
Right way: Ich denke, dass Durham schön ist.

Wrong way: Ich denke dass, Durham schön ist.
Right way: Ich denke, dass Durham schön ist.

3. The main sentence keeps the verb second even if a relative clause starts the sentence. That entire first clause is considered to be „position one.“

Wrong way: Obwohl wir Deutsch lernen, wir sind noch Amerikaner.
Right way: Obwohl wir Deutsch lernen, sind wir noch Amerikaner.

4. Use „man“ correctly. Keep using „man“ in a sentence and do not switch off with „du“ or „er.“ Also, the direct object of „man“ is „einen“ (and thus „einem“ for dative).

Wrong way: Man glaubt, dass er viele Emails schicken kann.
Right way: Man glaubt, dass man viele Emails schicken kann.

There are many more pitfalls common to second year composition, but these are some of the more common mistakes that you are now not allowed to make (forewarned is forearmed!)

German Special Characters in Word

You will need to create several essays this semester in German. Some of you may also desire to do nightly homework using MS-Word. Your life will be greatly simplified if you prepare your software to use German symbols easily.

** Feel free to skip all this if you know how to customize your keyboard in MS-Word

1. MS-Word comes packaged with the ability to make umlauts, but it requires several keystrokes. For a lower-cased umlaut a (ä), you would need to hold CTRL, SHIFT, and colon (:), and then let go of all those keys and type a.
2. It's easier if you customize – plus then you can have ß easily available too.
3. Click TOOLS, then CUSTOMIZE
4. Click on the word KEYBOARD at the bottom of the box that appears
5. A new box pops up. On the left side is a menu that can be scrolled. Scroll down to the bottom, and click COMMON SYMBOLS
6. Now that field in the middle of the box displays a long list of symbols (near the top should be Em Dash and En Dash). Scroll through that list until you see the symbols you need for German, which include:
 - Ä
 - ä
 - Ö
 - ö
 - Ü
 - ü
 - ß
7. You're going to do this next step for each of those letters, one at a time. Start with Ä. Click it once to highlight it. See the box down and to the left labeled "press new shortcut keys"? Move your mouse here and click once so you have a blinking cursor. Now comes the customized part (the exact keys you use are up to you, but these are mine): hold down ALT and SHIFT and then type a. Critical: you must now click the "ASSIGN" button on the right hand column. That's it! Capital Umlaut A is now assigned this new shortcut. Whenever you want to type Ä in the future, you just hold down SHIFT and ALT and then press a when typing a document.
8. But before you leave these boxes, do the other letters on the list. For lower-cased ä, repeat all the steps but don't use SHIFT when creating the new shortcut – just make it ALT and a. Don't forget to click ASSIGN each time.
9. Repeat for ö, Ö, ü, Ü.
10. I use ALT + ss for the ß.
11. Now you can close all those boxes.
12. Typing umlauts and ß in Word documents is now really easy – it's just a matter of ALT plus the letter (and maybe shift if you want a capitalized version of it)

Essay Feedback Sheet

Korrekturen

- B Buchstabierung: you spelled it wrong
- E Endung: adjective ending is wrong (may also be a “case” problem)
- F Fehlt: something is missing (word or phrase)
- FF Falsche Freunde: you tried to take English word/phrase and directly translate but it doesn’t work.
- G Geschlecht: der/die/das
- K Kasus: nominative/accusative/dative
- Pl Plural: either wrong ending, or should be plural
- S Struktur: need a new sentence or clause structure
- V Verb: verb form is wrong, such as conjugation
- WW Wort Wahl: you chose the wrong word
- WS Wort Stellung: wrong word order
- Z Zeit: wrong tense somehow

** PLEASE REMEMBER TO DOUBLE-SPACE ESSAYS AT ALL TIMES