

GERMAN 141

ELEMENTARY GERMAN

Instructor: Dr. James Frankki
Office: Smith-Kirkley 210
Office Hours: MWF 9-10 and by appointment
Phone: (936)-294-1446

Required Texts / Supplies: *Deutsch Na Klar* (5th ed.) with ancillary materials. (A workbook is packaged with the textbook). Writing implements, notebook paper and a pocket dictionary for in class use. (The last item is optional).

Description of the Course

This course is intended to be an introduction to German language and culture for students who have no previous background or instruction in German. Students who have recently completed one or more years of high school German should consider enrolling for a more advanced course. During the semester all aspects of the German language will be taught, to include: listening, speaking, reading and writing. There will be an emphasis on practical aspects of language learning and daily oral practice in the classroom. The course also includes discussions of the cultural traditions found in the German-speaking countries of Europe (Germany, Austria and Switzerland, et al.).

The course has two delivery methods: an on-line BLACKBOARD for information outside class meetings and an in class student-centered format. Classes will be activity and participation oriented with a minimum of lecture time. Lectures and discussion will be conducted in both English and German, but by the end of the semester will be predominately in German. Since language is a social skill and activity, participation is expected in every class period. Mistakes are natural and will occur frequently in the beginning. Do not be concerned about saying everything perfectly the first time. Be flexible--think of another way to send the same message if you get "stuck." Remember: you will be evaluated based on the **effort** you put into the classroom exercises and your attitude, not on whether you get the answers right the first time.

*There is a lab session required for this course, for which you must sign up separately.

COURSE GOALS and OBJECTIVES

1. To increase **AWARENESS** of and **APPRECIATION** for German language and culture.
2. To acquire a minimal **VOCABULARY** in German which can be used in commonly encountered social situations in German speaking countries.
3. **GRAMMAR**. to learn about nouns and gender, definite and indefinite articles and personal pronouns; to be able to conjugate regular, stem-changing, irregular verbs, modals and separable prefix verbs; to understand the forms of negation; to be able to use

the various forms of the imperative; to be able to distinguish between the nominative, accusative and dative cases; to learn and use the accusative and dative prepositions.

4. To exhibit use of the **SURVIVAL LANGUAGE SKILLS** needed when visiting or living in a German-speaking country, e.g., counting, telling time, communicating personal information, describing daily activities, shopping, etc.

5. To be able to carry on minimal **SOCIAL CONVERSATIONS**, such as asking for the time, asking for directions, buying clothing or food, conveying personal information or talking about the weather.

6. To **LISTEN** to and comprehend standard German spoken at average speed by native speakers by concentrating on known vocabulary and making educated guesses at the rest.

7. To **SPEAK** without notes (or read aloud) standard German with a minimum of pronunciation errors and still be understood by a native speaker.

8. To **READ** and comprehend standard German by concentrating on known vocabulary and cognates and through the use of contextual guessing. With the assistance of a dictionary, to be able to comprehend a high percentage of standard German.

9. To **WRITE** at a survival level in standard German with a minimum of grammatical errors and to still be understood by a native speaker.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Please refer to Academic Policy Statement 810213.

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The university and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT

Please refer to <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

CELL PHONES & PAGERS

Please refer to Section 5.2.22 of the Code of Conduct.

GENERAL STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MATERIAL, whether presented in the textbook, presented in class, or in the lab sessions, whether you are in class or not. If you should miss a class period for any reason, please contact your classmates or myself to ensure that you are prepared for the next class period.

YOU ARE PERSONALLY & SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR ACTIVITIES (ASKING QUESTIONS OR DOING HOMEWORK) IN ORDER TO MEET YOUR PERSONAL EXPECTATIONS AND DESIRE FOR SUCCESS/GRADE. Probable daily time needed for homework outside class will be a minimum of one to two hours per hour spent in class (3-6 hours per week). You are responsible for all material found in the

syllabus, the textbook or additional material learned in class. You are expected to take notes in class.

GENERAL FACULTY RESPONSIBILITIES

I INTEND TO BE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS, ADVISE, ETC., DURING AND OUTSIDE OF CLASS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. Please note my office hours and feel free to drop in during this time with any questions you may have. I am also available at other times on an appointment basis, which may be set up by e-mail or phone, or simply asking me at the end of class.

I INTEND TO RETURN ASSIGNMENTS WITH COMMENTARY AND/OR GRADES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, usually within several days to a week.

INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS

Students will be asked to complete a confidential course/instructor evaluation form towards the end of the semester.

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

GRADES (Based on 1000 points total)

1000-934=A, 933-900=A-, 899-867=B+, 866-834=B, 833-800=B-, 799-767=C+, 766-734=C, 733-700=C-, 699-667=D+, 666-600=D.

Your performance in this class will be based on the following criteria:

Participation/ Attendance:	10%
Homework and Lab work	20%
Quizzes:	10%
Oral Exams	10%
Chapter Tests (5 + introduction)	50%

Your **participation/attendance** grade will be determined by your physical presence in each class, how well you are prepared for class, and the effort you put into classroom activities. Please notify me in advance (by E-mail, or call) if you are unable to attend class. More than one unexcused absence will result in a reduction of your participation / attendance grade by 10% (one full letter grade) per infraction. **Homework** will be graded on a system of +, ++, +++. You will receive a "plus" for turning in your assignment, two "pluses" for turning it in completed and on time, and three "pluses" for turning it in on time, completed and substantially correct. Unless otherwise instructed you will be expected to complete all the workbook and lab exercises. **Quizzes** will generally be announced 1-2 days in advance, but not always. **Chapter exams** will be based on all material in the textbook which was discussed in class and may include a

short listening component or dictation. **Oral exams** (2) will be conducted in person in my office or via telephone. ***There is no extra credit for this course.**

SCHEDULE. During the fall semester we will cover the introductory chapter (*Einführung*) through *Kapitel 5* according to the following schedule. This schedule is tentative and at times may vary by a day or two. Detailed and specific information pertaining to each class period will be posted on a regular basis on the blackboard web site for this class. Deviations from the posted schedule will be announced in class.

Week 1	<i>Einführung</i> (pp. 1-19)
Week 2-4	<i>Kapitel 1</i> (pp. 20-49)
Week 5-7	<i>Kapitel 2</i> (pp. 50-81)
Week 8-10	<i>Kapitel 3</i> (pp. 82-111)
Week 11-13	<i>Kapitel 4</i> (pp. 112-143)
Week 14-16	<i>Kapitel 5</i> (pp. 144-173)

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

“Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the University. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. The students should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. **NOTE: No accommodation can be made until the student registers with the counseling Center**