

# GERMAN 264

## German Reading and Composition

**Instructor:** Dr. James Frankki  
**Office:** Smith-Kirkley 210  
**Office Hours:** MWF 11:30-12:45 and by appointment  
**Phone:** (936)-294-1406 ; cell: 1-405-742-7336

**Required Texts / Supplies:** *Kaleidoskop* textbook (7th ed.) with a workbook /lab/video manual. Writing implements, notebook and a pocket dictionary for in class use. (The last item is optional, but highly recommended).

### **Prerequisites.**

German 263 (or equivalent) must have been completed with a grade of not less than C. Those who have not completed German 263, or have taken an equivalent course should consult with me individually as soon as possible to determine proper placement.

### **Description of the Course.**

During the semester all aspects of the German language will be taught, to include: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Emphasis will be on practical aspects of language learning, focusing on developing reading and writing skills. Cultural topics will include chapters on each of the following topics: free time activities, communication, family, and modern Germany. The course includes some discussions of cultural traditions practiced in the German-speaking countries of Europe. (Germany, Austria and Switzerland, et al.).

The course has two delivery methods: an on-line BLACKBOARD website for information outside class meetings and an in class student-centered format. Course information regarding class content, schedules and assignments will be posted on the course website on a daily and weekly basis. *\*Each of you will be expected to check this website on a regular basis -prior to coming to class.* Face-to-face classes will alternate between lectures, small group activities and discussions, and will be conducted primarily in German. Active participation in discussions is expected in most class periods and will account for a portion of your grade. It is not expected that you speak perfect German during discussions, but it is expected that you make an attempt. Be flexible-- if you get "stuck" and can't remember a word, think of another way to communicate the same idea.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. To increase **AWARENESS** of and **APPRECIATION** for German language and culture.
2. To expand your **VOCABULARY** in German which can be used in daily activities, when traveling through German-speaking countries, and when reading the newspaper. The focus will be on the vocabulary pertinent the cultural topics of each chapter or unit.

3. **GRAMMAR.** To review present tense verbs, imperatives, modals, the future tense, the various forms and usage of the past tense, the use of infinitives with “zu”, sentence word order, conjunctions, and the use of the nominative and accusative cases.
4. To exhibit competent use of the **SURVIVAL LANGUAGE SKILLS** needed when visiting or living in a German-speaking country.
5. To **LISTEN** to and comprehend standard German spoken at normal speed by native speakers in common situations.
6. To **SPEAK** standard German without notes and be understood by a native speaker.
7. To **READ** informational tracts, letters, e-mails and beginning literary texts (to include: short stories, fairy tales and poetry).
8. To **WRITE** in standard German with a minimum of grammatical errors and still be understood by a native speaker.

### **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 ( %)

100-90 = A, 89-80 = B, 79-70 = C, 69-60 = D, below 60 =F

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

Attendance	5%
Participation / class discussion	10%
Homework (including lab work)	20%
Oral Exam	10%
Chapter Tests (6)	35%
Final Exam	20%

**Attendance.** 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. Your **participation grade** will be determined by how well you are prepared for class, and the effort you put into classroom activities. **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 with corrections. Unless otherwise instructed you will be expected to complete all the workbook and lab exercises for each unit. Incomplete homework will be returned and no credit will be awarded until the work is completed and returned. *\*Failure to complete all homework prior to taking the exam may also result in a failing grade for that chapter. (You will not be allowed to take the exam).* **Chapter Exams\*\*** will be based on all material in the textbook, and class discussions. They will include listening exercises and dictations. An **Oral Exam** will be conducted in person in my office, based on a prepared situation.

Note: There will be no make-up exams, unless arrangements have been made prior to exam time. In case of illness an E-mail or phone message prior to exam time will be required, and a doctor’s note may be requested upon your return to class. Homework must also be completed prior to taking the exam. (See above: “Homework”)

**\*There is no extra credit for this course.**

**SCHEDULE.** During the fall semester we will complete *Thema* 1-4 and *Kapitel* 1-4. Below is a tentative schedule, which may vary at times 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 and /or on the blackboard website.

Week 1-2	<i>Kapitel</i> 1	(pp. 236-252)
Week 3-4	<i>Thema</i> 1	(pp. 3-30)
Week 5-6	<i>Kapitel</i> 2	(pp. 253-267)
Week 7-8	<i>Thema</i> 2	(pp. 31-51)
Week 9-10	<i>Kapitel</i> 3	(pp. 267-282)
Week 11-12	<i>Thema</i> 3	(pp. 52-84)
Week 13-14	<i>Kapitel</i> 4	(pp. 282-298)
Week 15-16	<i>Thema</i> 4	(pp. 85-106)

## **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.

## **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 f 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.

## **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.**