

Course Schedule (Meeting Time & Location)

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays at 12:35-01:55 PM

RM 491 - 680 Sherbrooke West (= also listed as 688 Sherbrooke W. on Minerva)

Course Goals

Learning a foreign language is an inspiring and challenging experience. This class will enable you to learn the phonetic and grammatical structures of a new language and inform you about current cultural issues at stake in the German-speaking countries. Our emphasis will lie on providing you with a stimulating communicative context, while giving you equal opportunities for developing your listening, speaking, writing and reading skills. A selection of short texts and web-based exercises will complement the cultural content addressed in the textbook.

The course aims at introducing you to cultural aspects of the German-speaking countries and practicing German through communicative exercises, however, truly mastering a new language will come only over time.

Prerequisites

- For students with little or no prior knowledge of German.
- Students with prior knowledge of German must obtain permission of the German Language Program Director, Sun-Young Kim. Email: sun-young.kim2@mcgill.ca. If you have any questions or concerns about the course, please contact Dr. Morrison: maria.morrison@mcgill.ca.
- GERM 202 D1+D2 equals GERM 200, the intensive version of the course. If you take GERM 202, you may not take GERM 200 and vice versa.

Credits: 6 credits

Instructor: Dr. Maria Morrison

E-mail: maria.morrison@mcgill.ca

Office hours: By appointment after class on the following days. I am also available via zoom.

- Mondays at 2:00-3:00 PM
- Thursdays at 11:30 AM -12:30 PM

If none of the suggested times work for you, please email me or just speak to me after class.

Required Materials

- 2 different Options available at McGill's Le James Bookstore: <https://lejames.ca/textbooks>:
 - KONTAKTE ISE (Printed Textbook + CONNECT with 2-yr access): Erwin Tschirner et al., Kontakte, McGraw-Hill, 9th edition. \$139.95 + tx.
 - KONTAKTE ISE (EBOOK + CONNECT with 2-yr access): Erwin Tschirner et al., Kontakte, McGraw-Hill, 9th edition. \$99.00 + tx.
- Worksheets and articles with additional readings and grammar exercises on myCourses and CONNECT (publisher's online workbook).



Recommended Texts

- ENGLISH GRAMMAR FOR STUDENTS OF GERMAN, Zorach C., Olivia & Hill Press, 6th edition. Available at Le James (<https://lejames.ca/textbooks>) and from the publisher: <https://www.oliviahillpress.com/english-grammar-for-students-of-german>
- Recommended online dictionaries:
 - <https://dict.leo.org/german-english/>
 - <https://dict.leo.org/franzoesisch-deutsch/>

N.B.: In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Evaluation

Forms of Assessment	Percentages
Attendance & Participation	8%
Homework (incl. quizzes)	22%
Tests	25%
Oral Evaluations	10%
Essays	10%
Final Exam	25%

Course Requirements & Assignments

Table of Contents

Instructional Method: Flipped Classroom	2
Participation & Progress (8%)	3
Appropriate & Inappropriate Use of Personal Mobile Devices	4
Copyright	4
Homework (22%)	4
Tests (25%)	4
Oral Evaluations (10%)	5
Essays (Aufsätze – 10%)	5
Policies regarding Academic integrity	5
Final Exam (25%)	5
Extracurricular activities	6

Instructional Method: Flipped Classroom

The class consists of four meetings and assignments that you are expected to complete on your own. Following the flipped classroom model and the principle of learning by doing, **you will study the**

grammatical concepts and learn about cultural topics independently before participating in class meetings. I will guide you through this process through a list of activities you should complete before each class meeting. This will allow us to reserve the meetings for practicing and developing your communicative skills, to discuss cultural topics, and to answer your questions on the course materials.

If at some point in the semester the class needs to be delivered remotely due to extraordinary circumstances, I will notify you ahead of time and provide a Zoom link.

The Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures endeavours to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with your instructor and the [Office for Student Accessibility and achievement](https://www.mcgill.ca/access-achieve/) (<https://www.mcgill.ca/access-achieve/>): 514-398-6009. If you have a documented disability, please contact the [SAA](#) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining recommended accommodations. This letter should be given to the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Please note that last minute requests for accommodations might not be approved.

Participation & Progress (8%)

Class time is valuable because you will be able to interact with other students, ask questions, and practice your oral communication skills. During class, we will use many partner- and group activities, which are to be completed entirely in German. You will not be graded on error-free speech, but on your continuous efforts to speak in German. You will progress swiftly if you concentrate on speaking and writing in the target language. This course will provide you with a welcoming, respectful as well as active and fast-paced environment for learning German this year.

Active participation means all of the points below and will account for participation grade:

- attending class
- arriving to class on time
- completing all preparatory and required work before class
- always having all the necessary material in class (book, photocopies, readings, etc.)
- answering questions and volunteering answers on a regular basis
- making a concerted effort to use German at all times
- being engaged in all in class activities
- volunteering effective comments and questions that advance the level and depth of classroom dialogue in a variety of activities (discussions on assigned readings, roleplays, other types of cooperative work, etc.)
- participating in the Q & A period of peers' oral presentations
- asking questions to clarify doubts or to receive a second explanation on the material studied in class
- showing steady progress in written and oral assignments and exams
- learning from and self-correcting mistakes

Policy on Absences: You may miss up to two (2) classes without an excuse. If you have more than two unexcused absences, you must present acceptable documentation that justifies the time of your absence within a week. **Otherwise, 5 % per absence will be deducted from your participation grade.** If you are unable to attend class for any reason, please do not hesitate to contact me!

Absences for religious reasons are excused, but you inform me ahead of time. For further information see: [University Holy Days Policy](#).

Appropriate & Inappropriate Use of Personal Mobile Devices

- Phones or similar devices must be off during class time! No texting is allowed. Exceptions will be made for activities that require the use of personal devices (e.g. textbook partner activities, Kahoot, etc.)
- The use of computers is not allowed unless specified by the instructor.

Copyright

© Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

Homework (22%)

Plan on spending at least **1.5-2 hours on studying and preparing** for the class per day (more on some days, less on other days). I expect you to have **read through the textbook selections** and handouts as indicated on the weekly homework schedule **before each class meeting**. If you cannot attend a live session, you must study the lecture slides and complete the activities in the slides (posted on myCourses) carefully on your own, so that you can follow the course contents. The following types of assignments must be submitted on time over the course of the term:

- **Connect (eWorkbook):** Complete the online exercises (including grammar, reading, writing, listening, and speaking exercises) for each day as indicated in the Connect assignment calendar. Please note that 10% per day are deducted for late homework. The clock starts ticking at midnight (Montreal time)!
- **Quizzes** (1% per quiz): The short quizzes will be written in class, unless indicated otherwise. Functioning as comprehension checks, they will indicate to you and us how well you studied your vocabulary and how well you understand grammatical concepts. Quizzes will be written at the beginning of class. Do **not** arrive late. There are no makeup quizzes.
- **Worksheets or Web-based Activities on Connect and myCourses:** Unless otherwise indicated by the instructors, worksheets will be graded on a scale of 0-10:
 - 9-10: on time, complete, very well-presented, and evidence of effort and creativity, exceeds expectations
 - 7-8: on time, complete, well-presented, and evidence of effort
 - 5-6: partially complete, evidence of carelessness, late with permission
 - 0: late or not completed (i.e. error-filled, sloppy, not well presented)

Tests (25%)

You will write **four** tests. The semester overview (= Semesterübersicht) lists all test dates. Consult with the instructor ahead of time if you have a legitimate excuse for missing a scheduled test. Make-ups should not be taken for granted and vacation plans do not constitute grounds for deferring or re-scheduling tests.

Oral Evaluations (10%)

- **Mini-Referat (Show and Tell)** (5%) Before Spring Break, you will be required to do a short presentation of approximately two minutes to the class on a topic of your choice. The presentations will take place during regular class time.
- **Interview** (5%), at the end of March / beginning of April. You and a partner will sign up for an interview outside of regular class time. Information will be posted on myCourses.
- **N.B.:** If you do not have a webcam on your laptop/computer, you could use another device with a built-in camera, such as a smartphone or tablet for completing an oral assessment. Please contact your instructor if none of these options are available to you or if you have privacy concerns, so that we can find an appropriate solution together. Alternative methods of completing the oral assessments may include using audio instead of video.

Essays (Aufsätze – 10%)

- You will write **two** essays in two drafts (60% for the first draft; 40% for the second draft). The semester overview lists all due dates.
- **You must submit both drafts of each essay. You must submit a second draft regardless of your grade on the first. If you do not, you will receive 0% on the second draft.** In addition, there must be evidence that you made effort to improve your draft. If you do not correct your own mistakes in an acceptable manner, points will be deducted.
- **Please remember the following points when you write your essay:**
 - It is a violation of the honour code to have your essays proofread by someone else.
 - It is a violation of the honour code to use translation software or online translation tools.

Policies regarding Academic integrity

“McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the [Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures](#)” (Approved by Senate on 29 January 2003) (See [McGill’s guide to academic honesty](#) for more information).

« L’université McGill attache une haute importance à l’honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l’on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon [le Code de conduite de l’étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires](#) » (Énoncé approuvé par le Sénat le 29 janvier 2003) (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le [guide pour l’honnêteté académique de McGill](#).)

Final Exam (25%)

The final exam will be written during the exam period in April. You must write and pass the final exam to pass the course. Do not make any travel plans before the Exam Office releases the final exam schedule. According to the Senate regulations, instructors are not permitted to make special arrangements for final exams (see section 5.2.1, [General University Information and Regulations](#)).

Extracurricular activities

During the semester, you can take advantage of culturally relevant opportunities to earn bonus points. If you do at least 3 extracurricular events during each semester, you can earn bonus points (up to a total of 6%) toward your class participation grade. For more information, see “Extracurricular activities” on myCourses.

Grading scale

Grade	Percentages
A	100%-85%
A-	84%-80%
B+	79%-75%
B	74%-70%
B-	69%-65%
C+	64%/-60%
C	59%-55%
D	54%-50%
F	49%-0%