GERM 202: Beginners German Fall 2020 - Winter 2021

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.kim2@mcgill.ca).

Credits: 6 credits

(Virtual) Meeting Times & Locations
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 50 minutes per class. In the fall semester, all class meetings will take place online.

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<td>Sec. 1</td>
<td>10:35 CRN 21963</td>
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<td>Kathrin Spiller</td>
<td>Maria Morrison</td>
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<td>Sec. 2</td>
<td>12:35 CRN 21964</td>
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<td>Maria Morrison</td>
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<td>Sec. 3</td>
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<td>Katrin Rohrbacher</td>
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<td>Maria Morrison</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:maria.morrison@mcgill.ca">maria.morrison@mcgill.ca</a></td>
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- The instructors’ names, Zoom links for virtual class meetings, contact information, and virtual office hours will be posted on myCourses.
- This is a full-year course. Students must stay in the same section in both fall and winter terms.
- Mode of delivery, times and instructors may change in the winter semester, but not your individual section number (E.g. If you are in section 1 in the fall term, you must stay in section 1 in the winter term). Please verify the information on Minerva before January 4th, 2021.

Required Materials
- KONTAKTE + ONLINE ACCESS CODE to CONNECT: Erwin Tschirner et al., Kontakte, McGraw-Hill, 8th edition. $89 + tx. The package is available on the McGill Website: https://lejames.ca/textbooks
- Worksheets and articles with additional readings and grammar exercises on myCourses and Connect.

N.B.: GERM 202 is a full-year course. Students must stay in the same section in both Fall and Winter semesters.
Recommended Texts:
- Recommended online dictionaries:
  - https://dict.leo.org/german-english/
  - https://dict.leo.org/französisch-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

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Course Requirements

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Mode of Delivery & Technical Requirements
Classes will meet remotely during the regularly scheduled class times. All students are required to have access to a computer, the internet, a microphone, and a webcam. We will use Zoom and the link to the meetings will be posted on myCourses. Please do the following before you join the course:
- Create a basic account by clicking on the following link: https://mcgill.zoom.us/ You must sign in with your McGill username/password. Having a Zoom account will help you facilitate virtual meetings for collaborative assignments.
- Read this article on getting started. If the link does not work, go to: https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362033-Getting-Started-on-Windows-and-Mac
- Contact your instructor if you do not have a webcam or microphone, so that we can find a solution together and make appropriate accommodations.

N.B.: GERM 202 is a full-year course. Students must stay in the same section in both Fall and Winter semesters.
Remote Learning Resources
Since learning remotely is a new skill that we all have to acquire, I would encourage you to look at the resources that McGill’s Teaching and Learning Services compiled: https://www.mcgill.ca/tls/students/remote-learning-resources
Consider looking at all the tips, particularly the following points:
- 5 Strategies for Success
- Study Tactics
- Learning Strategies Inventory
- Learning with Zoom

Instructional Method: Flipped Classroom
The class consists of three (virtual) class meetings (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays) and asynchronous activities that you are expected to complete on your own. While we do not take any attendance, we strongly recommend that you attend all Zoom sessions. This time is valuable because you will be able to interact with other students, ask questions, and practice your oral communication skills. Following the flipped classroom model and the principle of learning by doing, you will study the grammatical concepts and learn about cultural topics individually at home before participating in class meetings. We will guide you through this process through a list of activities you should complete before each live session. 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. During these live sessions, your instructor 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.

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 Students with Disabilities (https://www.mcgill.ca/osd/): 514-398-6009. Students with a documented disability should contact the OSD as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations. This letter should be given to the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Please note that it might not be possible to accommodate last minute requests for accommodations.

Recordings
Generally, virtual class meetings will not be recorded. If a portion of a Zoom session be recorded on rare occasion, you will be notified through a “pop-up” box in Zoom during a meeting. You can turn off your camera, so that only your name appears on screen. If you do not feel comfortable being in a class that is recorded, you may leave the meeting by logging off Zoom. In the latter case, you should watch the recording later so that you do not miss any content. The recordings will be uploaded to myCourses.

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 (40%)  
Plan on spending at least **1-1.5 hours on studying and preparing** for the class per day (more on some days, less on other days). We 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 and mini-quizzes) 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)!

- **Worksheets or Web-based Activities on Connect and myCourses:** Unless otherwise indicated by the instructors, worksheets will be graded on a scale of 1-10:
  - 9-10: on time, complete, 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
  - 0: late or of poor quality (i.e. error-filled, sloppy, not well presented)

Tests (36%)  
You will write six tests (three tests per term). – There is no final in this course. – The semester overview lists all test dates. Unless otherwise specified, you will write all tests on the platform Connect. These timed tests (60 minutes + grace period) will be completed outside regular class meeting times and within a window of approximately 32 hours. 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 (12%)  
- **Interview** (4%, in Fall only). During the last week of the semester, you and a partner will sign up for an interview outside of regular class time. Information will be posted on myCourses.

- **Video Assignments** (Videobeiträge) (4%: 1 in Fall, 1 in Winter). You will make two short videos and participate in online discussions about them. Prompts will be posted under “Video Assignments” on myCourses. The assignments will be graded for their required length, completion, punctuality, and language.

- **Presentation** (4%): You have the option of presenting alone or with a partner on a topic related to the course. More information will be distributed in the Winter semester.

Essays (Aufsätze – 12%)  
- You will be assigned **four essays** (two essays per term) that you will write in two drafts (60% for the first draft; 40% for the second draft). The semester overview lists all due dates.
• Submit your essays as Word-Documents (.doc or .docx-format) on myCourses’ Assignments. You will submit two drafts of each essay; you must submit a second draft regardless of your grade on the first. Your essays will be graded for both content and grammar/style.

• 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” (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity and Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures, Section C. Academic Offenses, p. 5 for more information).

• Please remember the following points when you write your essay:
  o It is a violation of the honour code to have your essays proofread by someone else.
  o It is a violation of the honour code to use translation software or online translation tools.

• Include the following sentence at the bottom of your first draft to acknowledge that you read the academic honour code before you begin writing the essay: “I will be fair and honest in my coursework. I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid on any assignments, quizzes, or exams.”

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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 the semester, you can earn bonus points (up to a total of 6% per term) toward your homework grade. For more information, see “Extracurricular activities” on myCourses.

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