

## GERM 307: Fall 2024 – Winter 2025

### Intermediate German

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**Meeting Times & Locations:** 3 hours/week. The meeting times and location are posted on Minerva.

#### **Instructor – Fall 2023**

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#### **Instructor – Winter 2024**

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#### **Course Description**

The course is designed to review German grammar and further develop students' linguistic and cultural competencies. Students will practice their German reading and speaking skills by reading and discussing a variety of texts, and they will practice their listening and cultural competencies by watching and working with short films. The themes in the textbook will provide a springboard for in-class activities, assignments, and vocabulary building. Students will practice grammatical structures and phrases that allow them to express opinions, agreements, and disagreements in communicative situations encountered in work, school and travel. By learning about German, Austrian, and Swiss cities featured in the textbook, students will get to know regional differences in German-speaking countries.

#### **Course Goals:**

- strengthen students' communicative skills in speaking and writing
- improve receptive skills in listening and reading
- build vocabulary
- provide a thorough grammar review
- expose students to important historical, cultural, social and political topics in the German-speaking countries through selected readings and class discussion

#### **Prerequisites**

German 200 or German 202 (202 D1 & D2) or equivalent. Students who did not study German at McGill must obtain permission of the German Language Program Director, Sun-Young Kim ([sun-young.kim2@mcgill.ca](mailto:sun-young.kim2@mcgill.ca)).

**N.B.:** GERM 307 (intensive intermediate German) and GERM 300 (full-year intermediate German) are equivalents.

**Credits:** 6 credits. This is a full-year course, and you must complete both terms to earn credits.

#### **Required Texts:**

- Handouts and links on MyCourses, to be downloaded and printed out
- Barske, Tobias, et al. **DENK MAL! 4<sup>th</sup> ed.** Vista Higher Learning, 2024. (18-month code for the virtual textbook and Supersite Plus). Available on the website of the university bookstore: <https://lejames.ca/textbook>



**N.B.:** GERM 307 is a full-year course. Students must stay in the same section in both Fall and Winter semesters.

**Recommended Texts:**

- ENGLISH GRAMMAR FOR STUDENTS OF GERMAN, Zorach C., Olivia & Hill Press, 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Also available on the website of the university bookstore: <https://le.james.ca/textbook>
- Recommended online dictionaries: <https://dict.leo.org/german-english/> (EN); <https://dict.leo.org/franzoesisch-deutsch/> (FR)

**Student Accessibility and Achievement**

The Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures endeavors to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with us and the [Student Accessibility & Achievement](#). If you have a documented disability, please contact Student Accessibility and Achievement as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining recommended accommodations. Please note that last minute requests for accommodations might not be approved.

**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
Participation	8%
Homework	18%
Tests (6% x 6) & Quizzes (3% x 4)	48%
Oral Assessments (7% x 2)	14%
Essays (3% x 4)	12%

**Course Requirements, Assignments & Important Policies**

**Table of Contents**

*Instructional Method: Flipped Classroom* ..... 3

*Participation (8%)*..... 3

    Attendance Policies ..... 3

*Homework (18%)*..... 4

*Tests (36%) & Quizzes (12%)*..... 4

*Oral Evaluations (14%)*..... 4

*Essays (Aufsätze – 12%)*..... 5

*Extracurricular activities*..... 5

*Important Policies* ..... 5

    Policy for Assessments.....5

    Use of Mobile Devices in Class .....5

    Academic Integrity .....5

    Plagiarism and Cheating.....6

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Generative AI-Tools.....	6
Copyright.....	6
<i>Helpful Resources.....</i>	<b>6</b>
Wellness .....	6
Workload management skills .....	6
<i>Appendix: Rubric for Class Participation &amp; Daily Oral Performance.....</i>	<b>7</b>

### **Instructional Method: Flipped Classroom**

The class consists of three meetings per week **and** assignments that you are expected to complete on your own before coming to class. 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.** We 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 the class needs to be delivered remotely due to extraordinary circumstances at any point in the semester, we will notify you ahead of time and provide a Zoom link.

### **Participation (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 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 term. You will find the grading rubric on the last page of the syllabus.

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

1. not using your mobile phones in class
2. not using your devices for personal purposes (doing other coursework, looking up words, etc.)
3. completing all preparatory and required work before class
4. always having all the necessary material in class (book, photocopies, readings, etc.)
5. answering questions and volunteering answers on a regular basis
6. being engaged in all in-class activities, including spontaneous partner or group activities that are based on homework assignments
7. making a concerted effort to always use German
8. giving constructive comments that advance the level and depth of classroom dialogue (discussions on assigned readings, roleplays, other types of cooperative work, etc.)
9. asking questions to clarify doubts or to receive a second explanation on the material studied in class

### **Attendance Policies**

You are expected to attend all class meetings in order to fully participate in all class activities. Please note the attendance policy that applies after the add/drop deadline:

- You are allowed 4 unexcused absences (2 per semester) in full-year classes without penalty.

- After a total of 4 unexcused absences, 1 point per absence will be deducted from the your final mark on 100%, unless official documentation is provided within 1 week of the absence or the **NOTE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- Every two unexcused lateness or early departure will count as one absence.
- If you are unable to attend class for any reason, please do not hesitate to contact your instructors.
- Absences for religious reasons are excused, but you inform the instructors ahead of time. For further information see: [University Holy Days Policy](#).

### Homework (18%)

The weekly homework schedule lists detailed assignments for each day, and it will be posted on myCourses (see Module “Homework”). Plan on spending at least **1-1.5 hours on studying and preparing** for the class per class day (more during some weeks, less during others). We expect you to have **read the textbook selections** and handouts, and to have completed exercises as indicated on the weekly homework schedule **before each class meeting**. If you miss a class, you are expected to 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:

- **Online workbook (VHL-Supersite):** daily readings, short films, grammatical, writing, and/or listening exercises. Deadlines for the exercises are posted on the Supersite. No late homework will be accepted without a legitimate excuse.
- **Worksheets & other (online) activities:** You will find the instructions on individual activities in the- homework schedule. : Unless otherwise indicated by the instructors, worksheets will be graded on a scale of 0 to 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: on time, partially complete, evidence of carelessness; late with permission
  - 0: late or not completed

### Tests (36%) & Quizzes (12%)

You will write **six tests** (6% x 6 tests = 36%) and **four quizzes** (3% x 4 quizzes = 12%). The semester overview lists all test and quiz dates.

### Oral Evaluations (14%)

Detailed information about each oral evaluation will be posted on **myCourses > Content > Mündliche Aufgaben** in a timely manner.

- **Video Presentation (7%):** This assignment consists of a short video presentation on myCourses **and** an online discussion with your peers. The purpose of this interactive exercise is to allow you to practice speaking and writing in a more informal setting and participate in collaborative learning. You may work on the assignment alone or in pairs.
- **Poster-Projekt: Presentation on Cities/History/Cultural Artefact (7%):** Presentation in class. The topics of these presentations will be culled from the overall thematic context of the course.

**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 the video assessments. 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.

### Essays (Aufsätze – 12%)

You will write **four** essays in class (**two** essays per term, each worth 3%). The semester overview lists all due dates. Your essays will be graded for content, grammar, and style. More information about each essay will be posted on myCourses ahead of time.

### 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 (2% per activity and up to a total of 6% per semester) toward your homework grade. For more information, see “Extracurricular activities” on myCourses.

## Important Policies

### Policy for Assessments

This policy concerns all tests, compositions, and oral assessments: Consult with us ahead of time if you have a legitimate excuse for missing an assessment. Provide us with official documentation, such as a medical note for illness. Make-ups should not be taken for granted, and vacation plans do not constitute grounds for deferring.

### Use of Mobile Devices in Class

In support of individual and collective positive classroom experiences, there must be freedom from distraction for fellow students and the instructor. According to research on the use of mobile devices in university classes, these devices can distract students from engaging in class and retaining critical information. Their use can also harm the learning experience of their peers. For more information, view the slides on the following website. The last slide lists resources for taking notes by hand: [Against Laptops & Phones in Class](#).

**Mobile computing and communications devices (laptops, tablets, smartphones) are permitted in class ONLY for specific activities with learning apps (e.g. Kahoot!, LearningApps, Slido, etc.).**

**No audio or video recording of any kind is allowed in class without the explicit permission of the instructor.**

Mobile computing and communications devices are not to be used for video or voice calls without the explicit permission of the instructor. **Texting is NOT allowed during class. If you use make calls or text during class, we will reduce your participation grade.**

### 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](#) and <http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity> 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 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](#) et <http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity>.)

### Plagiarism and Cheating

Everyone will be evaluated based on their own work. Keep the following points in mind when you complete your homework at home, correct the second draft of your compositions at home, and prepare for oral presentations:

- **When you have your work proofread or written by someone else, you are not academically honest.**
- **When you use translation software or online (translation or generative AI) tools, you are not academically honest.**

McGill's handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities explains what plagiarism and cheating means: [Plagiarism and Cheating](#), Articles 16-19. Please read the articles carefully to avoid these academic offenses. If there is reasonable doubt that you plagiarized or cheated, you are free, without penalty of grade, to choose an alternative way of attesting to the authenticity of your work. Some alternatives are:

- 1) taking an oral examination directed at issues of originality,
- 2) providing a written report regarding the process of completing the work.

### Generative AI-Tools

Unless expressly stated otherwise by the course instructor for a particular task, students may not use any generative AI-tools, such as Chat GPT, to complete any of their assignments.

### 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.

## Helpful Resources

### Wellness

Many students may face mental health challenges that can impact not only their academic success but also their ability to thrive in our campus community. Please reach out for support when you need it; [wellness resources](#) are available on campus, off campus, and online. If you need urgent care, you can reach a counsellor 24/7 through [GuardMe](#) or the [My SSP app](#) on your mobile device.

### Workload management skills

If you are feeling overwhelmed by your academic work and/or would like to further develop your time and workload management skills, don't hesitate to seek support from [Student Services](#). Consult resources from [Teaching and Learning Services](#) (TLS) on topics such as time management, study strategies, group work, exam prep, and more. TLS also offers opportunities to connect with an academic peer mentor through [Stay on Track](#) and to attend workshops. For further individualized support check out the programs and resources from [Student Accessibility & Achievement](#).

Appendix: Rubric for Class Participation & Daily Oral Performance

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Attentiveness</b> (timeliness, materials, preparedness, attentiveness, etc.)	<b>Contribution</b> (answering, engaging, asking questions, comments)	<b>Use of German</b> (effort in language use)
<b>A</b> Excellent	Always on time and pays attention - Always brings necessary materials and demonstrates preparedness - Never uses devices for non-class activities.	- Regularly volunteers insightful answers that lead to productive discussions. - Always eager to contribute in all activities - Asks clarification questions when uncertain about instructions or materials - Provides constructive comments and asks engaging questions - Always answers open-ended questions in a complete sentence with detail.	- Consistently speaks in German during class - Uses increasingly complex structures and vocabulary over time.
<b>B</b> Good	- Usually on time and pays attention most of the time. - Brings necessary materials and demonstrates preparedness. - Seldom uses device for non-class activities.	- Frequently participates in in-class and group activities and volunteers - Occasionally asks clarification questions when uncertain about instructions or materials - Comments are useful and advance discussions; questions show good comprehension - Answers question asked without elaborating much.	- Uses German consistently, with occasional lapses to native language under difficulty.
<b>C</b> Satisfactory	- Sometimes late or leaves early - Occasionally forgets material or is unprepared. - Occasionally distracted by devices	- Does not volunteer frequently - Sometimes contributes to discussions - Asks questions that demonstrate basic understanding - Answers are brief, not in complete sentences	- Generally uses German, but often reverts to native language - Shows effort, but lacks consistency
<b>D</b> Needs improvement	- Frequently inattentive or distracted - Often late or unprepared	- Rarely contributes or participates in activities - Seldom asks questions - Seldom provides answers - Minimal contribution to advancing discussions	- Primarily relies on English or French - German used only occasionally.
<b>F</b> Unsatisfactory	- Consistently late or absent without justification. - Lacks necessary materials - Regularly distracted by personal device use.	- Does not participate in discussions - Does not volunteer or ask questions. - Does not provide constructive comments - Disrupts classroom dialogue.	- Rarely uses German - Primarily communicates in native language - Shows minimal effort.