

## GERM 307: Fall 2023 – Winter 2024

### Intermediate German

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**Instructor – Fall 2023:** Dr. Sun-Young Kim  
Office hours: M & W, 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Email: [sun-young.kim2@mcgill.ca](mailto:sun-young.kim2@mcgill.ca)  
680 Sherbrooke West, rm. 477

**Instructor – Winter 2024:** Dr. Maria Morrison  
Office hours: TBA  
Email: [maria.morrison@mcgill.ca](mailto:maria.morrison@mcgill.ca)  
680 Sherbrooke West, rm. 475

#### Course Description

This intensive intermediate German language course builds on skills acquired in beginners' German and covers the content of German 307D1 and D2 in one term. 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. GERM 307 is a full-year course. You must complete both terms.

#### Required Texts:

- Handouts and links on MyCourses, to be downloaded and printed out
- Barske, Tobias, et al. **DENK MAL! 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.** Vista Higher Learning, 2020. (18-month code for the virtual textbook and Supersite Plus). Available on the website of the university bookstore: <https://lejames.ca/textbook>



#### 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://lejames.ca/textbook>
- Recommended online dictionaries: <https://dict.leo.org/german-english/> (EN); <https://dict.leo.org/franzoesisch-deutsch/> (FR)

#### Student Accessibility and Achievement

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

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
Attendance & Participation	10%
Homework	16%
Tests (6% x 5) & Quizzes (3% x 4)	42%
Oral Assessments (5% x 4)	20%
Essays (3% x 4)	12%

## Course Requirements, Assignments & Important Policies

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### 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.

### Attendance & Participation (10%)

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:

- 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 always use German
- being engaged in all in class activities on a regular basis
- 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
- demonstrating that you are learning from mistakes (e.g. through self-correction)

### Attendance Policies

- You may miss up to four (4) classes over the course of the year. If you miss more than four classes, you must present an authorized notification specifying the exact date(s) and 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 us.
- Absences for religious reasons are excused, but you inform the instructors ahead of time. For further information see: [University Holy Days Policy](#).

### Homework (16%)

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, mini-quizzes & other (online) activities:** You will find the instructions on individual activities in the homework schedule. Unless otherwise indicated, worksheets on myCourses will be graded on a scale on a scale of A to F:
  - A: on time, complete, very well-presented, and evidence of effort and creativity, exceeds expectations
  - B: on time, complete, well-presented, and evidence of effort
  - C: partially complete, evidence of carelessness
  - D: late with permission or of poor quality (i.e. error-filled, sloppy, not well presented)
  - F: late or not completed

### Tests (30%) and Quizzes (12%)

You will write **six** tests (3 per term, 5% per test) and **four** quizzes (2 per term, 3% per quiz). The semester overview lists all test and quiz dates.

### Oral Evaluations (20%)

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

- **Video 1: Presentation on Idiomatic Expressions (5%):** 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.
- **Interview: Wer, wie, wo, was, wann und warum? (5%)** Toward the end of the fall semester, you will do an in-person interview in pairs **outside of class regular class time**. For the interview, each participant will watch an assigned video at home. At the interview, each participant will ask the other questions about the video.
- **Video 2: Presentation: Wer, wie, wo, was, wann und warum? (5%)** This second video will be an individual presentation on an assigned video.
- **Poster-Projekt: Presentation on Cities/History/Cultural Artefact (5%):** 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, quizzes, essays, 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 are permitted in class under the following conditions:

- When “No technology time” is in effect
- For specific activities with learning apps
- Certain events may be exceptions to the usage generally permitted (e.g., guest speaker)

### Wellness

Your mental health is important to us! We realize that balancing your academic life with your work and private life can be a daunting task, especially if you are dealing with mental health issues. Therefore, if you struggle with anxiety or depression, it is important to let us know immediately and to keep the lines of communication open. The university has a wealth of resources on the [Student Wellness Hub](#) to support students' mental health, including [workshops](#) and aides for [self-directed care](#). If you need immediate care, you can reach a counsellor 24/7 through [keep.meSAFE](#) or the [My SSP app](#) on your mobile device.

### 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 on the basis of 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) 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.

## 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.

## Rubric for Class Participation and Daily Oral Performance

	Attendance**	Attentiveness	Contribution	Use of German
<b>A</b>	Student misses no more than 2-4 classes.	Student always pays attention, (i.e. student's cell phone remains turned off in backpack) brings required handouts, etc. before class, stays consistently engaged (e.g student responds to questions class, etc.)	The student is always eager to contribute in class, during partner and small-group activities, and asks questions. The student is prepared when called upon and always answers open-ended questions in a complete sentence with some detail.	The student attempts to consistently speak in German during class time.
<b>B</b>	Student misses no more than 5 classes.	The student pays attention most of the time, (i.e. student's cell phone remains in backpack) student responds to questions contributes in groups.	The student is eager to contribute in class and in break-out room activities and occasionally asks questions. The student is mostly prepared when called upon and answers the question asked without elaborating.	The student tries to speak German most of the time.
<b>C</b>	Student misses no more than 6-7 classes.	The student pays attention sometimes and at other times is clearly distracted. (i.e., if you are checking your cell phone in class, you will receive a C for that day's participation) Student leaves early.	The student is occasionally eager to contribute in class, in group and pair work activities and ask questions sometimes. The student volunteers answers sometimes. The student does not answer open-ended questions in complete sentences but in 2 or 3 word phrases.	The student sometimes speaks in German, but often switches to English or French.
<b>D</b> <b>F</b>	<b>D</b> – Student misses up to 9 classes. <b>F</b> – Student misses 12 or more classes.	The student rarely pays attention.	The student almost never contributes in class, in group and pair work activities, never asks questions or volunteers answers.	The student speaks German only occasionally but speaks English or French most of the time.

### N.B.:

\*Please see the list of expectations on p. 3.

\*\*If a student accumulates more than 4 absences, 5% per absence are deducted from the A&P grade.