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GERM 201-01, Intermediate German, Fall 2006

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German 201

Instructor: Prof. Michelle Mattson

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Office Hours: by appointment

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COURSE OBJECTIVES:

German 201 is designed to review and expand your knowledge of German language structure – grammar and syntax – and to extend your comprehension and communicative abilities in the language. This course will also work to enhance your knowledge of German culture in the 20th century.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Moeller, Adolph, Mabee and Berger, *Kaleidoskop*. 7th edition. Houghton Mifflin, 2005.

Moeller and Berger, *Kaleidoskop. Student Activities Manual*. Houghton Mifflin, 1995. 7th edition.

GRADING:

Participation and homework preparation	15%
Heimat (video assignments)	10%
Compositions (four, each 250 words)	15%
Chapter Tests	45%
Final Exam	15%

EXPLANATION OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

1. Homework Preparation and Participation (15%): Central to your success in German 201 will be regular attendance, preparation and participation. Anticipate spending approximately 2 hours on preparation for each class hour, although time will vary with assignments. It is important that you be present and prepared every class day, and that you actively participate in class. Classroom activities give you the chance to speak, write, and read German, to listen to spoken German, and to understand and apply grammatical structures. Your visible, audible, constructive contribution to the class as a whole guarantees that you will receive participation credit, and more importantly, improves your language learning. The preparation and participation grade will be based on your participation in class discussions and partner/group activities, some of which require (written) preparation before class.

A. Homework assignments: For each unit, I will post an assignment grid on our WebCT site. The pages listed for each day represent the work that should be done for (before) class that day. Any quizzes will count as part of your homework grade and may or may not be announced in advance. There will be no make-up quizzes.

B. Attendance:

Since attendance is crucial both to learning and participating, I will take attendance and grade participation daily. However, I realize that you may occasionally have legitimate reasons to be absent from class. More than three unexcused absences and more than five absences in total will lower your final grade by a minor letter grade (e.g., from A- to B+). Additional absences will lower your participation grade. Repeated tardiness will also begin to count as additional absences. A word of caution: If you miss more than 30% of the semester's class sessions, you will fail this course.

If you are ill or have another legitimate excuse to miss class (i.e., conference participation, family emergencies – documentation may be required), you must notify me either via telephone (x3524) or via e-mail (mattsonm@rhodes.edu).

2. Heimat Video Screenings (10%):

During the semester, we will view and discuss Edgar Reitz's serial film, *Heimat*. This work gives us many different insights into twentieth-century German history through everyday life in Germany's Hunsrück region. The videos will be available at Barret Library on reserve and in the Language Center (Buckman). Please take notes while watching in order to keep track of themes, characters, or questions that occur to you. I will post written assignments to accompany each viewing on WebCT. You will be expected to turn those in the Tuesday following the week's viewing. We will also discuss various aspects of the work and the questions it raises regarding German society and culture. I will include questions about *Heimat* on unit tests and the final exam.

3. Compositions (15%):

Compositions: In addition to regular homework assignments, you will be required to write four short, typewritten (double-spaced) compositions (250 words each). Topics may come from the textbook, ancillary materials, or even the *Heimat* series. They will be announced in advance. Whenever possible, I will give you a choice of topics for each chapter. I will correct your first draft according to a correction code and return it to you for revisions. A copy of the correction key is available at our WebCT site. You will usually have a week to revise and submit your final copy. You will receive half credit for each draft. These will be evaluated in terms of fluency, accuracy, grammar and content. Work turned in late will be marked down. Composition Guidelines (with formatting specifications) are also available on the WebCT site.

Tentative Composition Due Dates (subject to revision if necessary):

Aufsatz 1

First Version: Wednesday, September 13

Second Version: Friday, September 22

Aufsatz 2

First Version: Friday, October 6 (first hour)

Second Version: Friday, October 13

Aufsatz 3

First Version: Friday, November 3

Second Version: Wednesday, November 15

Aufsatz 4

First Version: Monday, November 27

Second Version: Wednesday, December 6

4. Chapter Tests (45%):

An exam will be given after the completion of each chapter. NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN (with the exception of a written medical excuse from a physician or in the case of a documented personal emergency). All exams will be given on Friday, usually in hour second hour, except chapter 5 (see below)

Tentative Chapter Test Dates: (Subject to revision if necessary.)

Test 1 September 8

Test 2 September 29

Test 3 October 20

Test 4 November 10

Test 5 **Monday**, December 4

5. Final Exam: The final exam will be comprehensive (including chapter 5 of *Anders gedacht*). The video, *Heimat*, as well as the readings, vocabulary, and grammar will be covered. **The final is required for successful completion of the course. Our final is scheduled for Saturday, December 9th at 8:30 a.m. Please make your holiday travel plans accordingly!**

Academic Honesty: Be aware that your work for this course should conform to Honor Code. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on assignments or examinations, plagiarizing (misrepresenting as one's own anything done by another), submitting the same or substantially similar papers (or creative work) for more than one course without prior consent of all instructors concerned, sabotaging another's work, and unauthorized collaboration (such as substantial rewriting of an essay by another) on assignments or exams. Note: The use of internet translators is expressly forbidden in this class. You may use an on-line dictionary, such as Leo (<http://dict.leo.org/>), but it can be confusing and offer you simply too many options.