

GERMAN 204: Advanced Intermediate German
Sections 001, 002 and 003, Spring 2018
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Course Policies

Course Instructors

Sections 001 and 002:

Dr. Claire E. Scott

Office Hours: Mondays 9am-10am, Wednesdays 3pm-5pm, and by appointment

Office: 421 Dey Hall

Email: clairesc@email.unc.edu

Section 003:

Andrea Larson

Office Hours: Mondays 12:15-1:15pm, Wednesdays 10:00-11:00am, and by appointment

Office: 415 Dey Hall

Email:

Placement into German 204

If you passed German 203 at Carolina, you do not need to take a placement exam. If you took German in high school or at another institution of higher education, you must take the German placement exam at <http://languageplacement.unc.edu/german/>

Any questions about the German placement exam should be directed to the Language Program Director, Dr. Tin Wegel. She can be reached by email at wegel@email.unc.edu.

Course Goals

German 204 continues to develop the four major language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a highly authentic cultural context. This course will provide you with an ever-expanding set of vocabulary items and grammar rules, as well as cultural knowledge, so that you will feel comfortable conversing in German about a wide range of topics, including your family, your studies, your likes and dislikes, your hobbies and even historical events. You will learn to interpret German language texts from a variety of sources and media and enhance your knowledge of cultural differences and similarities between German-speaking countries and your own.

Required Textbook and Software

Lee Forester et al., *Weiter geht's! Intermediate German Language and Culture*. 1st ed. Holland, MI: Evia Learning, Inc., 2007. 978-1-886553-55-2

Your textbook must include both the 236-page textbook and the code for downloading the interactive software (edition 3.5). German 204 will cover units 6-10.

The textbook is available at the campus bookstore. A copy of the *Weiter geht's* textbook is also available in the reserve section of the Undergraduate Library. To purchase *Weiter geht's* at cost directly from the publisher, visit <http://www.weitergehts.com>

For technical problems with the software, visit the “Support” section at <http://www.weitergehts.com> or go to: <https://evialearning.freshdesk.com/support/home>

Dictionaries

Consider purchasing a German-English, English-German dictionary or familiarize yourself with online dictionaries. Examples of reliable online dictionaries include:

<http://www.dict.cc>

<http://en.pons.com/translate>

<https://dict.leo.org/>

Please note that using Google Translate for assignments is considered plagiarism and is therefore a violation of the honor code.

For additional grammar exercises and explanations the following websites are recommended:

- <https://coerll.utexas.edu/gg/gr/about.html>
- <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~german/Grammatik/Grammatik.html>

Attendance

GERM204 meets three times a week (MWF). According to the UNC Undergraduate Bulletin, it is your obligation to attend classes. The class attendance policy states: “Regular class attendance is a student obligation, and a student is responsible for all the work, including tests and written work, of all class meetings. No right or privilege exists that permits a student to be absent from any class meetings except for excused absences for authorized University activities or religious observances required by the student’s faith. If a student misses three consecutive class meetings, or misses more classes than the course instructor deems advisable, the course instructor may report the facts to the student’s academic dean.” For more information please see:

<http://www.catalog.unc.edu/policies-procedures/attendance-grading-examination>

The Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures takes this university policy extremely seriously. Acquiring proficiency in a foreign language necessitates interaction with other people in the target language and you simply cannot do that on your own. Therefore, the GERM 204 attendance policy allows you a total of only two unexcused absences during each semester without a severe grade deduction. **After the second unexcused absence, your final grade will be lowered by one-third of a letter**, i.e. an A drops to an A-, a C- to a D+, for example. Any subsequent absence will result in another one-third drop.

Any unexcused absence will result in a 0 (zero) for that day's participation grade (a 15 percentage point deduction from the participation grade for that unit) **and a 0 (zero) for any quiz given on that day**. This means that you may fail this course if you accumulate too many absences, even if your test scores and homework grades account for a satisfactory grade. All assigned homework should still be completed as scheduled and turned in on the day of your return to class.

Excused absences are generally permitted under the following circumstances: illnesses requiring that you see a doctor, university sponsored activities/travel, religious observances, or family/personal emergencies. In order to excuse your absence you must write your instructor an email describing the nature of your absence as soon as you are aware that you will not make it to class. You should also be prepared to provide documentation about the reason for your absence.

In the event of an excused absence you will still be responsible for turning in that day's homework upon your return. However, you will be excused from participation and any quiz given in class on that day.

Tardiness is distracting to your instructor and to your fellow students, so please do your best to make it to class on time. Being late, especially repeatedly, will result in a significant reduction of your class participation grade.

If you do miss a class, please do not hesitate to contact your instructor to arrange a meeting about what you missed. A prolonged absence from class due to medical reasons and/or circumstances beyond your control should be communicated to your instructor as soon as possible. Each situation is unique and these attendance policies will be enforced at your instructor's discretion.

The most important thing to remember about missing class is that communicating with your instructor about your absence is the best way to ensure that you stay on track in the course.

Homework

Individual homework assignments are outlined in the syllabus. They include:

1. **Interactive software homework (IS)** for which you have to work through different modules, such as listening to audio interviews or watching short videos and responding to questions as prompted. After completing each subunit (e.g. 6.1, 6.2, 6.3), you are required to upload a PDF of your responses to the “Assignments/Aufgabe” section in Sakai. The due dates for each PDF are listed in the syllabus.
2. **Textbook homework (WG)** must be written in your book. Your instructor will check this portion of the homework regularly and what you read for homework will prepare you for our in-class discussions.
3. **Grammar worksheets (GW)** must be downloaded from Sakai, printed out, completed by hand, and then checked in a different color against the answer keys (on Sakai). This homework must be turned in during class as indicated on the syllabus.
4. Over the course of the semester you will complete **two 200-220 word essays (ES) and two rewrites**. These essays should be typed, double-spaced, and turned in as a hard copy during class on the dates listed in the syllabus. Please also remember to highlight any grammatical structures as indicated in the prompt.

Part of learning a language means making mistakes. Those mistakes will likely not result in a failing grade. If you complete your homework and turn in assignments in a timely fashion, you will receive a satisfactory homework grade. Late or incomplete work will receive a lower grade than homework handed in on-time and complete, so please contact your instructor prior to any due date if you have questions about an assignment.

Instagram Project

As a part of this class, we will collectively cultivate an Instagram handle (@uncdeutsch204) in order to explore the relevance of our in-class discussions within the global community of German-speakers and German language-learners. At the start of each chapter your instructor will provide you with a hashtag relevant to the content and/or themes of that chapter. At some point before the unit test, each student is responsible for posting one image using the hashtag. You may choose to interpret the hashtag literally, artistically, creatively, etc. **Remember to “sign” your post with your first initial and last name.** Instagram postings will be graded for completion and counted as regular homework assignments.

Written Tests and Quizzes

Unit Tests: At the conclusion of Units 6, 7, and 9, tests will be given in order to assess your mastery of the new material.

Midterm: There will be a midterm focusing on the material from unit 8.

Final Exam: The final exam will cover the new material for Unit 10 as well as pull cultural content and grammatical topics from Units 6-9 (Thursday, May 3, 2018 from 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM; room TBA).

Vocabulary Quizzes

Quizzes will be given at random a few times each unit. The topic of the quiz will correspond to the subunit listed under “Im Kurs” for that day on the syllabus. No quizzes will be given on review days or film discussion days. No make-up quizzes will be given in cases of lateness or absences. In the case of lateness or unexcused absences you will receive a 0 (zero) for any missed quizzes. **Vocabulary lists and quizlets are posted on Sakai to help you study the vocabulary.** These lists are also available on the interactive software.

Make-up exams for unit tests, the midterm, and the final exam, will be permitted only in exceptional cases and only with prior notice. A make-up exam for the final exam will be offered the day after the regularly scheduled final exam date (i.e. on Friday, May 4, 2018; 12-3pm, room TBA), but requires specific steps to be taken by you. <http://www.catalog.unc.edu/policies-procedures/attendance-grading-examination/>

Grade Breakdown

30%	Unit Tests (3)
10%	Midterm Exam
15%	Final Exam: Thursday, May 3, 2018 from 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM
5%	Vocabulary Quizzes
15%	Class Participation
15%	Homework (grammar worksheets, interactive, textbook exercises, instagram)
10%	Essays (2) and Rewrites (2)

Grading Scale

A	100%-93%	C+	79% - 77%
A-	92% - 90%	C	76% - 73%
B+	89% - 87%	C-	72% - 70%
B	86% - 83%	D+	69% - 67%
B-	82% - 80%	D	66% - 63%
As stipulated in the Undergraduate Bulletin, no grades of A+ or D- are awarded at UNC.		F	62% - 0%

Permanent Grades are Defined as Follows:

A: Mastery of course content at the highest level of attainment that can reasonably be expected of students at a given stage of development. The A grade states clearly that the student has shown such outstanding promise in the aspect of the discipline under study that he/she may be strongly encouraged to continue.

B: Strong performance demonstrating a high level of attainment for a student at a given stage of development. The B grade states that the student has shown solid promise in the aspect of the discipline under study.

C: A totally acceptable performance demonstrating an adequate level of attainment for a student at a given stage of development. The C grade states that while not yet showing any unusual promise, the student may continue to study in the discipline with reasonable hope of intellectual development.

D: A marginal performance in the required exercises demonstrating a minimal passing level of attainment for a student at a given state of development. The D grade states that the student has given no evidence of prospective growth in the discipline; an accumulation of D grades should be taken to mean that the student would be well advised to not continue in the academic field.

F: For whatever reasons, an unacceptable performance. The F grade indicates that the student's performance in the required exercises has revealed almost no understanding of the course content. A grade of F should warrant questioning whether the student may suitably register for further study in the discipline before remedial work is undertaken.

Sakai

The German 204 syllabus is subject to change. If that is the case, the updated syllabus will be posted on Sakai. Every student enrolled in German 204 is required to use the course Sakai site on a regular basis to upload interactive software homework, practice vocabulary, access grammar explanations, worksheets and answer keys, and check for important announcements pertaining to this course. Information on events sponsored by the department including *Kaffeestunde*, *Filmabende*, and *Feiern in der Deutschabteilung* will also be advertised on Sakai.

The Honor Code

The Honor System forms a bond of trust among students, faculty, and administrators. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill operates under a system of self-governance, as students are responsible for governing themselves. As such, our University is transformed into a powerful community of inquiry and learning. The Honor Code embodies the ideals of academic honesty, integrity, and responsible citizenship, and governs the performance of all academic work a student conducts at the University. Acceptance of an offer of admission to Carolina presupposes a commitment to the principles embodied in our century-old tradition of honor and integrity.

Email Policy

Your instructor will check email daily Monday through Friday and will make every effort to answer you within 24 hours (often my response time will be much shorter than that). On the weekends, however, they might not be able to answer you as quickly. Please make sure that your emails are clear, concise, and proofread. Please address your instructor by name and title and sign your name to all email correspondence.

Name/Pronoun Policy

Learning a foreign language requires an interactive classroom environment. Therefore, it is important that we strive to make the classroom a respectful and inclusive place. If you feel comfortable doing so, you are encouraged to let your instructor know during the first week of class what name you prefer to be called and if you prefer the use of masculine, feminine, or gender neutral pronouns. These preferences can be applied just to your interactions with your instructor or to all of your in-class interactions with your peers.

Technology Policy

One of the most important skills while learning a foreign language is the ability to improvise when you cannot remember a specific word or phrase. In order to build this skill and avoid distraction, you are asked to **refrain from using electronic devices during class time**. Unless you have spoken with your instructor about a specific situation regarding the use of technology in the classroom, they will deduct points from your participation grade if they see you using laptops, cell phones etc. during class. On the rare occasion that such devices are required for class, you will be notified in advance.

Resources

If you are experiencing a situation or life event that is negatively affecting your performance in class, you are encouraged to take advantage of the appropriate campus resources, some of which are listed below:

<https://studentaffairs.unc.edu>

<https://campushealth.unc.edu/services/counseling-and-psychological-services>

<http://safe.unc.edu/learn-more/policies-regulations/>

<http://carolinacupboard.strikingly.com>

<http://diversity.unc.edu/campus-resources/>