

GERMAN 301: SECTION 001
CONVERSATION AND COMPOSITION
THEMA: ENTSCHEIDUNGEN TREFFEN
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

SYLLABUS AND COURSE POLICIES



Class Meeting Time: MWF 11:15-12:05
Classroom: Dey Hall, Room 402

Instructor: Dr. Claire E. Scott

Office: Dey Hall, Room 421 (on the right side of the faculty office corridor)

Office Hours: Monday 2:00-3:00pm, Thursday 12:00-1:00pm, or by appointment

Email: clairesc@email.unc.edu

Course Description

GERM 301 is an advanced language course that provides students an opportunity to work on the four fundamental language skills, i.e., speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Conducted entirely in German in an interactive seminar format, GERM 301 introduces students to a variety of literary texts and films from the German-speaking world; gives students a framework to develop their oral communication skills by discussing these materials in class; and provides students the opportunity to develop their writing skills by composing essays in a variety of different genres and rewriting their work based on instructor feedback. As a fifth-semester German course, GERM 301 integrates review and advanced study of German grammar.

Prerequisite

GERM 204 or the equivalent. Please direct any questions you have may have about placement to the Director of the Elementary Language Program, Dr. Tin Wegel. She can be reached in her office, 414 Dey Hall, or by email at wegel@email.unc.edu

Required Texts and Materials

- Hilke Dreyer and Richard Schmitt, *A Practice Grammar of German*, new edition (Ismaning: Hueber, 2001), available for purchase at UNC Student Stores.
- Bjerg, Bov, *Auerhaus*, available for purchase at UNC Student Stores.
- All other texts are available to be downloaded from the course Sakai site.
- We will be screening several films over the course of the semester and you will be responsible for viewing these films on your own, as part of your regular homework.

Suggested Course Materials

Success in an advanced language course where vocabulary acquisition is a priority depends on your ability to use a dictionary effectively. Some students find online bilingual dictionaries such as <http://www.dict.cc/> or <http://dict.leo.org/> helpful; others prefer to use print copies of a dictionary (such as the *Harper Collins Concise German Dictionary*), which are inexpensive and available for purchase on Amazon and elsewhere.

Sakai and Email

Students should check the course website at <http://www.unc.edu/sakai> regularly for updates, announcements, and details about assignments. This syllabus is subject to change, and any and all updates will be posted to Sakai. Announcements will also be sent out through Sakai to your official UNC email account, so you should plan on checking your email regularly. If you are ever having problems accessing Sakai or your UNC email, please call 919.962.HELP for assistance.

Instructor Availability

I am always happy to meet with you one-on-one in my office, either during my regularly scheduled office hours or by appointment. Please email me whenever you have questions or require help. I check my email regularly during the work week and will usually answer emails within 24 hours.

Policy on Computers and Electronic Devices

Research has shown that using laptops in the classroom impedes rather than facilitates learning.¹ Furthermore, 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 me about a specific situation regarding the use of technology in the classroom, I will deduct points from your participation grade if I 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.

¹ See, for instance, [Faria Sana, Tina Weston, and Nicholas J Cepeda, "Laptop multitasking hinders learning for both users and nearby peers," *Computers and Education* 62 \(March 2013\): 24-31.](#)

Homework

Regular and timely completion of homework assignments will be key to your success in this course. You should plan on putting in at least 90 minutes of homework time before every class. Homework assignments are spelled out in detail below and generally consist of: 1) reading and grammar exercises in the *Practice Grammar of German*; 2) reading required texts or viewing required films; and 3) writing exercises in response to the required texts and films.

For your grammar homework, you will be asked to read grammar explanations in your book and then complete grammar exercises on a separate sheet of paper. After completing the exercises, please go onto Sakai and use the posted answer keys to check your work in a different color. **In order for your grammar homework to be considered complete, it must be apparent that you have taken the time to check your own answers.**

Homework must be brought to class in a hard copy format with your name on it. **Late homework assignments will only be accepted under special circumstances.** If you must turn in a homework assignment late, please be in touch with me to work out the details.

While doing your homework you should keep a running list of new German words you encounter so that you will have the vocabulary you need to participate in class discussions. Think in advance about what you might want to say in class and **take the time beforehand to look up any vocabulary that you think you might need.**

Homework is a learning experience, and it is not my expectation that your homework will be perfect. To receive full credit, homework should represent your best effort and be done neatly and conscientiously.

Vocabulary and Grammar Quizzes

There will be five vocabulary and grammar quizzes throughout the semester. The quizzes will be announced on the syllabus and together we will generate a list of the topics that will be covered before each quiz. You will have 15 minutes in class to complete each of these quizzes.

Class Participation

GERM 301 is not a lecture course. Regular and active participation in class is a must, and it is imperative that you come to class on time, well prepared, and ready to participate in all activities and discussions. This primarily includes interacting with your instructor and your peers in a meaningful manner that proves that you have done the reading/viewing and that you are trying to practice the vocabulary and grammar. You will receive a grade for class participation every two weeks, so that you will be able to track your progress throughout the semester.

Essays

In addition to the regular writing required for homework, you will produce two short (300-400 word) essays over the course of the semester. For the essays (due September 21st and October 29th) you will write an initial version and a rewrite. The initial version will be worth 100 points and the rewrite will be worth 50 points, for a total score on each essay out of 150 points. Topics for the essays as well as more detailed instructions will be announced in class and on Sakai well in advance of the due dates. Late papers will be accepted, but will be penalized five percentage points for every day late. No late papers will be accepted more than one week after the due date.

Please note that while you are encouraged to use a German spell-checker, you are not permitted to make use of online translation services such as Google Translate. Online translation services not only produce low-quality German prose, but **the use of online translation services constitutes a violation of the honor code** for this course. Essays that show signs of having used translation machines will receive a zero and incur possible disciplinary action.

Exams

GERM 301 requires a midterm, given in class on October 10th, and a final exam, scheduled for December 11th at 12:00pm, in our regular classroom. Students who miss a scheduled exam may take a make-up exam if they present special written permission from the Dean of Students. More details about the exams will be discussed in class and posted on Sakai well in advance of the exam dates.

Presentation

Each student will work together with a partner to give one oral presentation in class (around 5 minutes long with 5 minutes for questions/discussion). In your presentation you will select a passage from one of the texts we have read/watched. You will then take your classmates through a close reading of that passage, telling us why you think it is important and what it illustrates about the text as a whole. You may also want to consider how this passage relates to our course theme “Entscheidungen treffen” or how the genre of the text is relevant. Other aspects to consider include the vocabulary and grammatical structures present in your passage.

Please select a partner and a topic for your presentation and submit a short outline by November 7th. After receiving feedback, you will submit a draft of your presentation (including a Power Point and a handout) to me by November 19th. After Thanksgiving break you will sign up to meet with me to discuss my feedback on your draft. The presentations will be scheduled for Friday, November 30th and Monday, December 3rd. More guidelines for these presentations will be posted on Sakai.

Attendance Policy

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 301 attendance policy allows you a total of only two unexcused absences during each semester without a severe grade deduction. **After the third 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 unexcused absence will result in another one-third drop. **Any unexcused absence will also result in a 0 (zero) for that day’s participation grade.**

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 me 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.

Tardiness is distracting to me 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 me 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 me as soon as possible. Each situation is unique and these attendance policies will be enforced at my discretion. If you are absent for any reason (excused or unexcused), **all assigned homework should still be completed as scheduled and turned in on the day of your return to class.**

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

Grade Breakdown

- 15% Homework
- 10% Class participation
- 30% Exams (15% for each)
- 15% Vocabulary and Grammar Quizzes
- 20% Essays (10% for each)
- 10% Presentation

Final 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%

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.

Honor Code

All UNC students pledge “not to lie, cheat, or steal” as a part of the University’s honor code. The honor code is strictly enforced in this course. You are required to sign the following pledge on all written work: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this assignment.” For more information about the honor code see: <https://studentconduct.unc.edu>.

To meet this standard in this course, please note the following:

- 1) Although your writing must be your own work, you are permitted and encouraged to discuss the content of your papers with me and/or your classmates/peers.
- 2) The use of Google Translate and other translation software is never permitted.
- 2) You must give citations for ideas that are not your own, whether or not those ideas have been written down, published somewhere, or posted on the Internet. If you are ever unclear as to what constitutes plagiarism, please consult with me or take a look at the UNC Writing Center’s very helpful document on this subject: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/plagiarism/>.

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 for everyone. If you feel comfortable doing so, you are encouraged to let me know 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 me or to all of your in-class interactions with your peers.

Accessibility Policy

Students with disabilities are an essential part of the campus community and contribute significantly to The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill through their talents, abilities, and skills. The University and the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures is therefore committed to assuring that students with disabilities can fully participate in University life and that its programs, activities, and services are accessible. The University facilitates accessibility by providing reasonable and appropriate accommodations and services to students and applicants for admission who have a documented disability.

In order to receive disability accommodations, students must register with Accessibility Resources and Services (ARS). For more information follow this link: <https://ars.unc.edu/about-ars/policies/student-and-applicant-accommodations/registration-and-documentation>

ARS will contact me on your behalf regarding the accommodations they have made, but if you feel comfortable doing so, please feel free to email/meet with me to discuss these accommodations in person.

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/>

Important Due Dates:

Quizzes

Quiz 1: Wednesday, September 5

Quiz 2: Wednesday, September 19

Quiz 3: Wednesday, October 3

Quiz 4: Wednesday, October 24

Quiz 5: Friday, November 9

Essays

Essay 1: Friday, September 21

Essay 2: Monday, October 29

Presentation

Presentation Topic: by November 7th

Presentation Draft: by November 19

Presentation Meetings: November 26-28

Presentations: November 30, December 3

Exams

Midterm: Wednesday, October 10

Final Exam: Tues. December 11, 12:00pm

WOCHE	DATUM	IM KURS	HAUSAUFGABEN
Woche 1	Mittwoch 22. August	Einführung in den Kurs	Keine Hausaufgabe
	Freitag 24. August	“Bin ich schön?” Kurzgeschichte von Doris Dörrie	Lesen: „Bin ich schön?“ S. 311-318 Schreiben: HA 1 Grammatik: Word Order Lesen: S. 140-143 Schreiben: S. 144, Ü1; S. 145, Ü4
Woche 2	Montag 27. August	“Bin ich schön?”	Lesen: „Bin ich schön?“ S. 319-326 (nur den ersten Absatz auf S. 326) Schreiben: HA 2 Grammatik: Sentence Coordinates Lesen: S. 150-156 Schreiben: S. 156, Ü5
	Mittwoch 29. August	“Bin ich schön?”	Lesen: „Bin ich schön?“ S. 326-333 Schreiben: HA 3 Grammatik: Sentence Coordinates / Subordinate Clauses Lesen: S. 157-160; 165-169 Schreiben: S. 160, Ü1; S. 169, Ü3
	Freitag 31. August	Kirschblüten Film von Doris Dörrie	Schauen: <i>Kirschblüten</i> Schreiben: HA 4 Grammatik: Declination of the Adjective Lesen: S. 230-238 Schreiben: S. 241, Ü18b

Woche 3	Montag 3. September Labor Day	Kein Kurstreffen	Keine Hausaufgabe
	Mittwoch 5. September	Quiz 1 “Die Wüste Gobi” Kurzgeschichte von Tanja Dückers	Lesen: „Die Wüste Gobi“ S. 51-58 Schreiben: HA 5 Grammatik: Wiederholen Sie die Grammatik
	Freitag 7. September	“Die Wüste Gobi”	Lesen: „Die Wüste Gobi“ S. 59-64 Schreiben: HA 6 Grammatik: <i>The Passive</i> Lesen: S. 120-123 S. 124, Ü4
Woche 4	Montag 10. September	„Herr Gröttrup setzt sich hin“ Kurzgeschichte von von Sharon Dodua Otoo	Lesen: „Herr Gröttrup“ S. 1-4 Schreiben: HA 7 Grammatik: <i>The Passive with Modal Verbs</i> Lesen: S.126-127 Schreiben: S.127, Ü10
	Mittwoch 12. September	„Herr Gröttrup setzt sich hin“	Lesen: „Herr Gröttrup“ S. 5-7 Schreiben: HA 8 Grammatik: <i>Reflexive Verbs</i> Lesen: S. 60-63 Schreiben: S. 65 Ü7; S. 65-66 Ü8
	Freitag 14. September	„Herr Gröttrup setzt sich hin“	Lesen: „Herr Gröttrup“ S. 8-11 Schreiben: HA 9 Grammatik: Wiederholen Sie die Grammatik

Woche 5	Montag 17. September	<i>Aus dem Nichts</i> Film von Fatih Akin	Schauen: <i>Aus dem Nichts</i> Schreiben: HA 10 Grammatik: <i>Verbs with a Prepositional Object</i> Lesen: S. 86-92 Schreiben: S. 88 Ü1; S. 93, Ü3
	Mittwoch 19. September	Quiz 2 <i>Aus dem Nichts</i> Writing Workshop	Schreiben: Erster Aufsatz Grammatik: Wiederholen Sie die Grammatik
	Freitag 21. September	Erster Aufsatz „Töten“ Kurzgeschichte von Daniel Kehlmann	Lesen: „Töten“ S. 25-31 (Absatz endet auf S. 32) Schreiben: HA 11 Schreiben: Erster Aufsatz Grammatik: <i>Verbs with a Prepositional Object</i> Schreiben: S. 93 Ü4
Woche 6	Montag 24. September	„Töten“	Lesen: „Töten“ S. 32-38 Schreiben: HA 12 <i>Verbs with the Accusative</i> Lesen: S. 79-80 Schreiben: S. 80, Ü1
	Mittwoch 26. September	„Sommerhaus, später“ Kurzgeschichte von Judith Hermann	Lesen: „Sommerhaus, später“ S. 139- 144 (nur den ersten Absatz) Schreiben: HA 13 Grammatik: <i>Verbs with the Dative</i> Lesen: S. 81 Schreiben: S. 82, Ü2, Ü3

	Freitag 28. September	Dr. Scott ist weg. Kein Kurstreffen, aber es gibt Hausaufgabe auf Sakai!	Schreiben: Aufgabe auf Sakai Grammatik: Wiederholen Sie die Grammatik.
Woche 7	Montag 1. Oktober	„Sommerhaus, später“	Lesen: „Sommerhaus, später“ S. 144-150 Schreiben: HA 14 Grammatik: <i>Verbs with the Dative and Accusative</i> Lesen: S. 83 Schreiben: S. 84, Ü5
	Mittwoch 3. Oktober	Quiz 3 „Sommerhaus, später“	Lesen: „Sommerhaus, später“ S. 151-156 Schreiben: HA 15 Grammatik: Wiederholen Sie die Grammatik
	Freitag 5. Oktober	<i>Wilkommen bei den Hartmanns?</i> Film von Simon Verhoeven	Schauen: <i>Wilkommen bei den Hartmanns?</i> Schreiben: HA 16 Grammatik: <i>Adjectives and Participles as Nouns</i> Lesen: S. 247-249 Schreiben: S. 250, Ü4
Woche 8	Montag 8. Oktober	Vorbereitung auf die Zwischenprüfung	Grammatik: Wiederholen Sie die Grammatik
	Mittwoch 10. Oktober	Zwischenprüfung	Grammatik: Wiederholen Sie die Grammatik
	Freitag 12. Oktober University Day	Kein Kurstreffen	Keine Hausaufgabe

Woche 9	Montag 15. Oktober	<i>Feuergesicht</i> Theaterstück von Marius von Mayenburg	Lesen: <i>Feuergesicht</i> S. 9-23 Schreiben: HA 17 Grammatik: <i>Relative Clauses</i> Lesen: S. 198-199 Schreiben: S. 199-200, Ü1
	Mittwoch 17. Oktober	<i>Feuergesicht</i>	Lesen: <i>Feuergesicht</i> S. 24-40 Schreiben: HA 18 Grammatik: <i>Relative Clauses</i> Schreiben: S. 201, Ü4
	Freitag 19. Oktober Herbstferien	Kein Kurstreffen	Keine Hausaufgabe
Woche 10	Montag 22. Oktober	<i>Feuergesicht</i>	Lesen: <i>Feuergesicht</i> S. 41-58 Schreiben: HA 19 Grammatik: <i>Relative Clauses</i> Lesen: S. 201- 206 Schreiben: S. 202-203, Ü5; S. 207, Ü8
	Mittwoch 24. Oktober	Quiz 4 <i>Feuergesicht</i>	Lesen: <i>Feuergesicht</i> S. 59-69 Schreiben: HA 20 Grammatik: Wiederholen Sie die Grammatik
	Freitag 26. Oktober	Writing Workshop	Schreiben: Zweiter Aufsatz

Woche 11	Montag 29. Oktober	Zweiter Aufsatz <i>Auerhaus</i> Roman von Bov Bjerg	Lesen: <i>Auerhaus</i> S. 7-35 Schreiben: HA 21 Grammatik: <i>Adverbs with Dative or Accusative</i> Lesen: S. 250-253; 255-256 Schreiben: S. 256, Ü1
	Mittwoch 31. Oktober	<i>Auerhaus</i>	Lesen: <i>Auerhaus</i> S. 36-50 Schreiben: HA 22 Grammatik: <i>Adverbs with Prepositions</i> Lesen: S. 257 – 258 Schreiben: S. 258, Ü1
	Freitag 2. November	<i>Auerhaus</i>	Lesen: <i>Auerhaus</i> 50 (unten)-73 Schreiben: HA 23 Grammatik: <i>The "Zustandspassiv"</i> Lesen: S. 259 Schreiben: S. 259, Ü1
Woche 12	Montag 5. November	<i>Auerhaus</i>	Lesen: <i>Auerhaus</i> S. 74-90 Schreiben: HA 24 Grammatik: <i>Comparative and Superlative</i> Lesen: S. 242-245 Schreiben: S. 245, Ü1b und c; S. 246, Ü2
	Mittwoch 7. November	<i>Auerhaus</i>	Lesen: <i>Auerhaus</i> S. 91-111 Schreiben: HA 25 Schreiben: Presentation Topic Grammatik: <i>Comparative and Superlative</i> Schreiben: S. 247, Ü6

	Freitag 9. November	Quiz 5 <i>Auerhaus</i>	Lesen: <i>Auerhaus</i> 112-130 Schreiben: HA 26 Grammatik: Wiederholen Sie die Grammatik
Woche 13	Montag 12. November	<i>Auerhaus</i>	Lesen: <i>Auerhaus</i> S. 131-149 Schreiben: HA 27 Grammatik: <i>Prepositions: Accusative</i> Lesen: S. 304-308 Schreiben: S. 309, Ü1
	Mittwoch 14. November	<i>Auerhaus</i>	Lesen: <i>Auerhaus</i> S. 150-178 Schreiben: HA 28 Grammatik: <i>Prepositions: Dative</i> Lesen: S. 309-317 Schreiben: S. 317-318, Ü1
	Freitag 16. November	<i>Auerhaus</i>	Lesen: <i>Auerhaus</i> S.179-191 Schreiben: HA 29 Grammatik: <i>Prepositions: Accusative or Dative</i> Lesen: S. 319-326 Schreiben: S. 326, Ü1
Woche 14	Montag 19. November	<i>Auerhaus</i>	Lesen: <i>Auerhaus</i> S. 192-205 Schreiben: HA 30 Schreiben: Presentation Draft Grammatik: <i>Prepositions: Genitive</i> Lesen: S. 328-329 Schrieben: S. 329-330, Ü1; S. 331, Ü1

	Mittwoch 21. November Thanksgiving	Kein Kurstreffen	Keine Hausaufgabe
	Freitag 23. November Thanksgiving	Kein Kurstreffen	Keine Hausaufgabe
Woche 15	Montag 26. November	<i>Auerhaus</i> Presentation Meetings	Lesen: <i>Auerhaus</i> S. 207-226 Schreiben: HA 31 Grammatik: Wiederholen Sie die Grammatik.
	Mittwoch 28. November	<i>Auerhaus</i> Presentation Meetings	Lesen: <i>Auerhaus</i> S. 227-236 Schreiben: HA 32 Grammatik: Wiederholen Sie die Grammatik.
	Freitag 30. November	Präsentationen	Schreiben: Präsentation
Woche 16	Montag 3. Dezember	Präsentationen	Schreiben: Präsentation
	Mittwoch 5. Dezember	Vorbereitung auf die Abschlussprüfung	Wiederholen Sie die Kursmaterialien.
	Dienstag 11. Dezember 12:00pm	Abschlussprüfung	