

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2020-2021 German 211 A1-2: Intermediate German I
(Fall Term: Remote Delivery)**

Instructor: _____

Time: _____

Office: _____

Place: _____

Office Hours: _____

E-Mail: _____

Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

Course Prerequisites and Placement: GERM 112 or consent of Department

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

This is an intermediate German course intended for students who have completed German 30 in high school or German 112 (pre-requisite) or have comparable prior knowledge of German (completed Level A2 - CEFR). It is also open to students whose background has provided them with oral skills and a grasp of basic structures, but who have a relative lack of writing skills. Students who have any other background in German, or have doubts and questions about their background and skill level need to consult the Coordinator of the German Language Program (Dr. Claudia Kost: ckost@ualberta.ca) about their placement. Native speakers may not enroll in this course. Students with credit in German 10 German Language Arts (German 15) may not enroll in this course and should take German 303/304.

For questions about higher level German courses or the German program, please contact the German Undergraduate Academic Advisor Dr. Claudia Kost (ckost@ualberta.ca).

Technology Requirements (minimum): It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course. Please check out the university's requirements for remote learning:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/information-services-and-technology/services/software-hardware-vendors/technology-requirements.html>

In order to participate in German 211 this fall, you need a computer/laptop/tablet with Internet access, a microphone and a camera for participation in class.

Experiential Learning Component

this course has a significant experiential learning component (15% or more of the course grade)

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.? Yes No, not needed

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material available

- Exam registry – Students' Union
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (*please specify*)
- NA

Course Description and Objectives: *Willkommen!* German 211 is an exciting and challenging intermediate German language course. It is designed to further your skills beyond the beginner's level, in communicating in written and spoken German, understanding written and oral texts, and responding to them with increasing accuracy, maturity, and fluency. We will also read a short crime novel.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- engage in somewhat more complex conversations, asking and answering questions on a variety of familiar topics
- read and understand texts such as simple short stories
- write simple connected texts on topics that are familiar or of personal interest, such as letters and short stories
- describe experiences, plans and events using various time frames in oral and written form
- express themselves more effectively and more accurately in German
- recognize and describe a range of cultural aspects of the German-speaking countries and be more aware of the differences and similarities between the cultures of the German-speaking countries and North-American cultures

Learning a language is a complex, long-term and highly rewarding process. It is important that you identify your own motivations and objectives in undertaking this course. This course requires regular attendance, participation and effort, as well as constant review and practice in and out of class. The course is designed to allow you to take an active part in each class, to hear, respond to, read, and speak a lot of German. It is also important for you to explore the ways in which you learn best and to find opportunities for outside practice according to your interests. The strategies you develop for dealing with spoken and written language are as important to communication and language acquisition as is your knowledge of the language itself. Your constant personal involvement both in and out of class will be essential to your success.

Course Format: The learning outcomes for this course will be achieved through a combination of instructor-led presentations, group- and pair-work, working with the textbook and other audiovisual materials.

Required Texts:

1. H. Funk, C. Kuhn, L. Nielsen, & B. Winzer-Kiontke, *Studio [21] B1.1*. Cornelsen, Berlin, 2016. (ISBN: 978-3-06-520606-8)
2. Felix & Theo. *Tödlicher Schnee*. Langenscheidt.

Additional Course Fees

Yes No

Important Dates: [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: September 1, 2020
 Add/Delete Date: September 15, 2020
 50% Withdrawal Date: October 2, 2020
 Fall Term Reading Week: November 9-13, 2020
 Withdrawal Date: November 30, 2020
 Last Day of Class: December 7, 2020

Components of Course Grade (see “Explanatory Notes”):

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----|--|
| Participation/Attendance | 10% | |
| Writing Assignments (4x10%) | 40% | (Sept. 21; Oct. 9; Oct. 26; Nov. 27, 2020) |
| Oral Exam (in pairs) (2x10%) | 20% | (Oct. 5-9 and Dec. 1-7, 2020) |
| eClass Discussion Forum | 15% | (ongoing) |
| Reflective Journal | 15% | (ongoing) |

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Participation/Attendance 10%: Active in-class participation is crucial for learning a language. This is true whether we meet in a physical room or remotely like this Fall term. For German 211, this means we will have a mixture of synchronous meetings (via Zoom video conferencing) and asynchronous meetings where you work on assignments independently (e.g., forum discussions on eClass). During the video conferencing sessions, you are expected to participate just like in a regular classroom: interacting with your classmates and the instructor, doing a variety of activities. You will need a microphone so that everyone can hear you and we also encourage you to switch on your camera (because nobody wants to talk to a black screen 😊). In-class participation includes not only evidence of individual preparation and attention, but also contributing to group work. You are also expected to attend class regularly and punctually. If you must miss a class, contact another student (or the instructor) to find out what you missed. It is your responsibility to make up work and

learn the material for classes you miss. For more detail, please consult the section *Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components* below.

Writing Assignments 40% (4x10%): You will write four longer assignments in this semester (each worth 10%), ranging in length from 250-400 words, and based on the topics dealt with in class (double-spaced, total number of words indicated, approx. one inch margins). Each writing assignment will involve various kinds of revisions. Your writings will be evaluated with respect to content, comprehensibility, vocabulary choice/range, complexity, and grammatical accuracy.

Oral Exams 20% (2x10%): The oral exams are designed to assess your communicative abilities in German. The exams take 10-15 minutes and will take place outside of class time. The exams will resemble the oral activities that you have done in class up to that point. You will receive details about signing up and preparing as we approach each exam. The oral exams will be done in pairs and will be administered Oct. 5-9 and Dec. 1-7, 2020.

eClass Discussion Forum 15%: During the semester, you will engage in discussions about various course topics using eClass discussion forums. You will be asked to post responses as well as comment on your classmates' responses. Your instructor will specify what they expect you to do for these discussions and give you detailed instructions.

Reflective Journal 15%: During the semester, you will write a personal reflective journal in which you share your thoughts about your language learning process with your instructor. Your instructor will specify what they expect you to write about in this journal and give you detailed instructions.

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale

| Descriptor | Letter Grade | Grade Point Value | % |
|---|--------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students. | A+ | 4.0 | 97-100 |
| | A | 4.0 | 93-96 |
| | A- | 3.7 | 90-92 |
| Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students. | B+ | 3.3 | 87-89 |
| | B | 3.0 | 83-86 |
| | B- | 2.7 | 80-82 |
| Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course. | C+ | 2.3 | 77-79 |
| | C | 2.0 | 73-76 |
| | C- | 1.7 | 70-72 |
| Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter. | D+ | 1.3 | 65-69 |
| | D | 1.0 | 60-64 |
| Failure. | F | 0.0 | 0-59 |

Use of German

This is a German course, therefore it will be taught in German. However, the instructor may occasionally use English if it is deemed pedagogically appropriate. Furthermore, to benefit from this course and to acquire a greater understanding of the language, students are expected to speak German as much as possible in class.

Here are some tips for a successful, rewarding German language course:

- Organize your study time. If you organize your study time well, and then stick to your plan, you will find that your language-learning experience is not only successful, but also very rewarding.
- Speak aloud whenever you are reading or practicing. It might help you to memorize or internalize new material better.
- Have patience with yourself, with others in the class, with your instructor, and with the material. Do not give in to frustration; remind yourself that if it were always easy there would be no challenge in it, and ultimately it is the challenge which leads to your own feeling of success.
- Study with fellow students in class, speak aloud with them as much as possible, and exchange ideas on study methods (and share any good insights with the class!). However, always do your homework on your own!
- Try to use your German whenever you have the opportunity. Watch a German movie, read a German newspaper on the Internet, come to office hours, talk to other students studying German, go to a German restaurant or bakery and order in German, ...

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University calendar.”

Student Responsibilities:

Academic Integrity:

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Language and Translation Courses:

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student’s own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of cheating that violates the Code of Student Behaviour.

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students, faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy has been or is being violated to:

- * Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- * If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

Sexual Violence Policy:

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

Territorial Statement:

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.”

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular daily attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted.

Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

In this course, GERM 211, students are expected to attend class via video conferencing, be prepared to interact in German in a variety of situations, keep up with the material, and submit various assignments.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Assignments are normally due on the day originally announced. Your instructor, *if consulted in advance*, may consider extensions in special cases before deducting grades or refusing to give credit. Your instructor will spell out the details of how he or she deals with late assignments. In general, you can expect to receive a late assignment back *corrected* but with the mark diminished due to unacceptable lateness.

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

