Course Title

Composition & Conversation

Course Number
GERM-UA 9111001

Summer 2016

Syllabus last updated on: 15 Jun 2016

Instructor Contact Information
Wolfgang Neuber
wn7@nyu.edu

Course Details
8 July-15 August
10.00 am-12.30pm (for the specific days, please see below!)
Location of class: tbc

Prerequisites
Successful completion of Intermediate German II, Intensive Intermediate German or approval by the Coordinator of the Language Program.

Units earned
4

Course Description
Conversation & Composition is designed for post-Intermediate students of German with a solid grasp of German grammar and vocabulary, who wish to extend their knowledge of the German language, history, and culture through reading, watching films, discussion, and writing. Conversation & Composition is a reading and writing intensive course. Emphasis will be placed on refining written expression and developing the ability to express, discuss, and argue opinions. Grammar will be discussed either in separate units or as needed.

Course Objective
This course will give you an overview of German political, social and cultural history during the 20th and 21st centuries. Focuses will be on the last days of the Kaiserreich, WWI, the Weimar Republic, the Third Reich and WWII, the variant developments in East and West Germany until the fall of the wall and on life in Berlin today. What are the important incidents and changes in German culture and society after 1945? How has the city of Berlin developed since the fall of the wall? These, and similar questions, will accompany us throughout the semester. During the course of the semester, we will explore narratives, which are related to our topics from a variety of genres: narrative prose, newspaper/magazine article, TV/radio documentary, music, film, photo, and other visual material. The class is entirely taught in German and
emphasises the language skills necessary to communicate effectively in a foreign language – speaking, reading, viewing, writing, and listening.

**Assessment Components**

Class Participation, counting 15% of the total grade.

7 weekly Response Papers of 1-1.5 pages each, counting 25% of the total grade; papers will be collected in hard copy at the beginning of classes (due dates please see below). You will be required to identify ideas or arguments that has surprised, perplexed or inspired you.

Class Presentation on the last day (15 August) of about 10 minutes length, counting 20% of the total grade.

One final research paper of 10 pages to be submitted on the last day (15 August), counting 40% of total grade.

Failure to submit or fulfil any required component may result in failure of the class, regardless of grades achieved in other assignments

**Assessment Expectations**

**Grade A:** The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers well-structured arguments in his/her work. The student writes comprehensive essays / answers to exam questions and his/her work shows strong evidence of critical thought and extensive reading.

**Grade B:** The candidate shows a good understanding of the problem and has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy.

**Grade C:** The work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However, the work fails to organize findings coherently and is in need of improvement.

**Grade D:** The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research.

**Grade F:** The work shows that the research problem is not understood; there is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible.

**Grade Conversion**

Your instructor may use one of the following scales of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

- **B+ = 87-89**
- **C+ = 77-79**
- **D+ = 67-69**
- **F = below 65**
- **A = 94-100**
- **B = 84-86**
- **C = 74-76**
- **D = 65-66**
- **A- = 90-93**
- **B- = 80-83**
- **C- = 70-73**
Alternatively:

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
A &=& 4.0 \\
A^- &=& 3.7 \\
B^+ &=& 3.3 \\
B &=& 3.0 \\
B^- &=& 2.7 \\
C^+ &=& 2.3 \\
C &=& 2.0 \\
C^- &=& 1.7 \\
D^+ &=& 1.3 \\
D &=& 1.0 \\
F &=& 0.0.
\end{array}
\]

**Attendance Policy**

Participation in all classes is essential for your academic success. Your attendance in both content and language courses is required and will be checked at each class meeting. As soon as it becomes clear that you cannot attend a class, you must inform your professor by e-mail immediately (i.e. before the start of your class). Absences are only excused if they are due to illness, religious observance or emergencies. If you want the reasons for your absence to be treated confidentially and not shared with your professor, please approach the summer program director Tom Ertman (te11@nyu.edu).

Unexcused absences affect students’ grades: Missing one week's worth of classes (consecutive or non-consecutive) without an excuse leads to a deduction of 2% of the overall grade and may negatively affect your class participation grade. Three unexcused absences in one course may lead to a Fail in that course. Furthermore, your Professor is also entitled to deduct points for frequent late arrival to class or late arrival back from in-class breaks. Being more than 15 minutes late for class counts as an unexcused absence. Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to arrive at the announced meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Exams, tests, deadlines, and oral presentations that are missed due to illness always require a doctor's note as documentation. It is the student's responsibility to produce this doctor's note and submit it to the Program Director Tom Ertman; until this doctor's note is produced the missed assessment is graded with an F. In content classes, an F in one assignment may lead to failure of the entire class.

**Attendance Rules on Religious Holidays**

Members of any religious group may, without penalty, excuse themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Students who anticipate being absent because of any religious observance should notify their instructor AND the Program Director Professor Tom Ertman in writing via e-mail one week in advance before being absent for this purpose. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Program Director will re-schedule a make-up examination or extend the deadline for assignments. Please note that an absence is only excused for the holiday but not for any days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. See also http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-calendar-policy-on-religious-holidays.html
Late Submission of Work
(1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

(2) Late work should be submitted in person to the instructor or to the Program Director, who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff may also personally accept the work, and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above.

(3) Work submitted late receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100 point scale for each day it is late, unless an extension has been approved (with a doctor's note or by approval of the Program Director), in which case the 2 points per day deductions start counting from the day the extended deadline has passed.

(4) Without an approved extension, written work submitted more than 5 weekdays following the submission date fails and is given a zero.

(5) End of semester essays must be submitted on time.

(6) Students who are late for a written exam have no automatic right to take extra time or to write the exam on another day.

(7) Please remember that university computers do not keep your essays - you must save them elsewhere. Having lost parts of your essay on the university computer is no excuse for a late submission.

Provisions for Students with Disabilities
Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980 or see their website (http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-andwellness/students-with-disabilities.html) for further information.

Plagiarism Policy
The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism. Proper referencing of your sources avoids plagiarism (see as one possible help the NYU library guide to referencing styles: http://nyu.libguides.com/citations).

NYUB takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy. Your instructor may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form.

It is also an offence to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.

For a summary of NYU Global's academic policies please see: www.nyu.edu/global/academic-policies
Required Text(s)
Most required texts will be provided on NYU Classes.

Books can be bought at Dussmann in Friedrichstraße 90, where the books are pre-ordered for students. Additionally, one copy of each book is kept in the Reading Room of NYU Berlin's Academic Center, for you to read in the center but not to take out.

NYU Berlin Library Catalogue: All resources, that are available in the Reading Room of the Academic Center or St. Agnes, can be found using this link: http://guides.nyu.edu/global/berlin or by following the link on NYU Berlin's website (Academics/Facilities & Services).

Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)
None.

Internet Research Guidelines
To be discussed in class.

Additional Required Equipment
A good dictionary.

Semesterplan

Session 1 – Friday, 8 July
Vorstellungsrunde, Einführung, Seminarplan, Vorwissen.
Einführung in die Geschichte Deutschlands

Session 2 – Monday, 11 July
Das Kaiserreich
Heinrich Mann: Professor Unrat (Text auf NYU Classes)

Session 3 – Wednesday, 13 July
Grammatik: Modalverben in subjektiver Bedeutung
Erster Weltkrieg
Ernst Jünger: In Stahlgewittern (Text auf NYU Classes)
Response Paper 1 due.

Session 4 – Monday, 18 July
Weimarer Republik
Brecht: Im Dickicht der Städte (Text auf NYU Classes)
Session 5 – Wednesday, 20 July
Grammatik: Partikel
*Weimarer Republik*
Film: M (Regie: Fritz Lang; 1931) – Vorführung und Diskussion
Response Paper 2 due.

Session 6 – Monday, 25 July
*Drittes Reich*
Texte aus Deutschland und dem Exil (Texte auf NYU Classes)
Response Paper 3 due.

Session 7 – Tuesday, 26 July
*Berliner Architektur im Dritten Reich*
Exkursion (Treffpunkt Berlin Hauptbahnhof, Nordausgang: Invalidenstraße): Das Germania-Projekt (zur Vorbereitung: https://deutschlandundddiedieostmark.wordpress.com/category/giesler/)

Session 8 – Wednesday, 27 July
*Das geteilte Deutschland I*
Renaudot: Der Siebentehe Juni (Text auf NYU Classes)
Schneider: Warum und wie feiert … (Text auf NYU Classes)
Dokumentation zum Jahr 1953: http://www.bpb.de/mediathek/872/60-x-deutschland-das-jahr-1953
Response Paper 4 due.

Session 9 – Monday, 1 August
*Das geteilte Deutschland II*
Film: Der geteilte Himmel (Regie: Konrad Wolf; 1964) – Vorführung und Diskussion
Response Paper 5 due.

Session 10 – Tuesday, 2 August
*Berlin in den 80er Jahren – Punk, Protest und Hausbesetzungen*
Bitte sehen Sie sich folgende kurze Filme im Netz (youtube) an
1) Ideal: Ich steh auf Berlin https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTygF2V0MtY
2) Der Tod von Klaus Jürgen Rattay https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ouT_vFwEGdw

Session 11 – Wednesday, 3 August
*Mauerfall*
Sven Regener: Herr Lehmann (Kapitel 1 und 20)
Thomas Brussig: Helden wie wir (Kapitel 1 und 7)
Response Paper 6 due.

Session 12 – Monday, 8 August
*Deutsche Poptexte* (Texte auf NYU Classes)
Udo Lindenberg, Tocotronic, Herbert Grönemeyer

Session 13 – Tuesday, 9 August
Zeitgeschehen I
Wählen Sie aus dem Feuilletonteil der “Frankfurter Allgemeinen Zeitung” oder der “Süddeutschen Zeitung” einen Artikel der letzten Tage; analysieren Sie ihn und geben Sie ihn mit eigenen Worten wieder
Response Paper 7 due.

Session 14 – Wednesday, 10 August
Zeitgeschehen II
Wählen Sie eine Sendung der “heute-Nachrichten” (ZDF, 19 Uhr) oder der “Tagesschau” (ARD, 20 Uhr) der letzten Tage (siehe die jeweilige Mediathek); analysieren Sie sie und geben Sie sie den Inhalt mit eigenen Worten wieder

Session 15 – 15 August
Classroom presentations: Ein paar Wochen in Berlin
Research Papers due
Final discussion / farewell

Classroom Etiquette
Electronic devices of any kind may not be used in class.

Required Co-Curricular Activities
None.

Suggested Co-Curricular Activities
None.

Your Instructor
Wolfgang Neuber has been Full Professor of German Literature at Free University in Berlin since 2000 and has taught at NYU Berlin since 2015. He was Visiting Professor of Literature at NYU in Abu Dhabi from 2010 to 2015.
https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wolfgang_Neuber
http://www.geisteswissenschaften.fu-berlin.de/we04/institut/mitarbeiter/neuber/index.html