Course Title

Advanced German: Composition & Conversation
Contemporary German Cultures

Course Number
GERM-UA.9111001

Summer 2017

Instructor Contact Information
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Course Details
Sommer 2017
Mondays and Thursdays 9.45am – 12.30pm
Wednesday 5 July & Wednesday 12 July 9.45am – 12.30pm
NYU Berlin in der Kulturbrauerei

Prerequisites
Intermediate German II or Intensive Intermediate German.

Units earned
4

Course Description
This course aims to explore post-war and contemporary history and culture in East and West Germany. Taking as a historical and geographical framework the emergence of the two German states and then the contemporary, reunified nation, students will encounter works of literature, film, photography, music, art, and architecture, each linked to a specific time and place. Classes are taught entirely in German and focus on the key aspects of language learning — speaking, reading, writing, and listening.

Course Objective
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, discussions, and writing. Conversation & Composition is a reading and writing intensive course. Emphasis is placed on refining written expression and developing the ability to express, discuss, and argue opinions.
Assessment Components

Preparedness and active class participation  20%
Class presentation / session leading    15%
Four take-home grammar quizzes    20%
Three compositions (3 p., 1000 words each)  25%
Final paper (4 p., 1500 words)    20%

Your active participation in the course is crucial and will be assessed by your instructor throughout the semester. You are expected to adequately prepare for each session. Failure to submit or fulfill any required component may result in failure of the class, regardless of grades achieved in other assignments.

NYU Berlin uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

\[ \begin{align*}
B+ &= 87-89 \\
C+ &= 77-79 \\
D+ &= 67-69 \\
F &= \text{below 65} \\
A &= 94-100 \\
B &= 84-86 \\
C &= 74-76 \\
D &= 65-66 \\
A- &= 90-93 \\
B- &= 80-83 \\
C- &= 70-73
\end{align*} \]

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 NYUB’s Academic Office 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 Director or Assistant 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 lecturer or to the Academics Office, 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 (excluding weekends and public or religious holidays), unless an extension has been approved (with a doctor’s note or by approval of NYU Berlin’s administration), 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 days (excluding weekends and public or religious holidays) following the submission date receives an F.

(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).
NYU Berlin takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. Your lecturer may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form.

It is also an offense 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)


Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)


Books can be bought or ordered at any bookstore like Dussmann in Friedrichstraße 90, for example. 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: [http://guides.nyu.edu/global/berlin](http://guides.nyu.edu/global/berlin) or follow the link on NYU Berlin's website (Academics/Facilities & Services).

Films

- Anna und Jörg Winger: *Deutschland 83* (Episode 1, 2015)
- Yasemin Şamdereli: *Almanya, Wilkommen in Deutschland* (2011)

Additional helpful Equipment

- For online German–English dictionaries use: [www.pons.de](http://www.pons.de) or [dict.leo.org](http://dict.leo.org) (both include pronunciation and the past tense forms of verbs)
- For flash cards use [www.anki.com](http://www.anki.com) (How to best make use of this tool will be discussed in class if desired)
- *Genusly* is a useful gender-marking tool: [www.genusly.com](http://www.genusly.com) (marks German nouns in different colors according to their gender)
- *University of Iowa* provides an excellent technical overview of German sounds and where and how they are produced anatomically at [uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics](http://uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics)
- There are several important newspaper and news media websites in Germany. [www.tagesschau.de](http://www.tagesschau.de), [www.spiegel.de](http://www.spiegel.de), [www.faz.net](http://www.faz.net) are among the most popular ones. See also [www.nzz.ch](http://www.nzz.ch), and [www.derstandard.at](http://www.derstandard.at).
See Deutsche Welle, Germany’s international broadcaster (www.dw.de) for lots of interesting articles on politics and cultural topics.

Semesterplan
—subject to change—

Session 1 on Tue 20 Jun 2017
Einführung, Berlin-Texte, Organisatorisches

Session 2 on Thu 22 Jun 2017
Stunde null, Nachkriegszeit, Kulturgeschichte
Wir Wunderkinder: "Lied vom Wirtschaftswunder": https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGBVB3KBPN8

Grammatik-Thema I

Session 3 on Mon 26 Jun

Abgeben: Grammatik-Quiz I

Session 4 on Thu 29 Jun
* Field Trip Bernauer Straße: Gedenkstätte Berliner Mauer *
Informationen: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYU_v0YhnIE
http://www.berliner-mauer-gedenkstaette.de/de/

Kurz-Präsentationen

Session 5 on Mon 3 Jul
Alltag in der DDR: Anpassung und Widerstand
Wolf Biermann: „Ermutigung“, Kölner Sporthalle 1976: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0e6q6tLRzGM

Abgeben: Composition 1

Session 6 on Wed 5 Jul
TV-Serie: Deutschland 83, Episode 1 (DVD).
Grammatik-Thema II

Session 7 on Thu 6 Jul
* Exkursion Haus der Geschichte, Ausstellung „Alltag in der DDR“
Kurz-Präsentationen

Session 8 on Mon 10 Jul
Die BRD in den 60er Jahren: 68er-Bewegung, Aufstand gegen die Eltern generation
Nazi-Prozesse in Frankfurt und Jerusalem, Deutscher Herbst
Das GRIPS-Theater, Musical Linie 1, Song “Wilmersdorfer Witwen” (1986).
Informationen dazu: http://gymnasium-selm.de/schulleben/kultur/musical/linie-1/
und: https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilmersdorfer_Witwen
Abgeben: Grammatik-Quiz II
Abgeben: Composition 2

Session 9 on Wed 12 Jul
“Papas Kino ist tot”. Der Neue deutsche Film und das Oberhausener Manifest:
http://www.kurzfilmtage.de/archiv/manifest/
Film: Alexander Kluge, Abschied von gestern (1966)
Grammatik-Thema III

Session 10 on Thu 13 Jul
David Bowies Konzert vor dem Reichstag 1987, https://youtu.be/OC7FInBt1q4
Dazu: http://www.musicours-berlin.de/de/bowie-berlin-walk
Session 11 on Mon 17 Jul
Migration in Ost- und Westdeutschland, Gesellschaftskritik, Migration heute
“Migration in Ost- und Westdeutschland von 1955 bis 2004”
Till Daldrip, „Das Jahr, das Deutschland veränderte“, *Die Zeit*, 9. März 2016:
http://www.zeit.de/politik/ausland/2016-03/fluechtlingskrise-deutschland-bilanz-fluechtlingspolitik-zaesur
Abgeben: Grammatik-Quiz III
Abgeben: Composition 3

Session 12 on Thu 20 Jul
sowie Zaimoglu: „Ich fühle mich pudelwohl hier“, *Der Spiegel*, 25.10. 2010
http://www.spiegel.de/spiegel/print/d-74735328.html
Grammatik-Thema IV

Session 13 on Mon 24 Jul
Berlin in den 90ern und „Nullerjahren“
Abgeben: Grammatik-Quiz IV

Session 14 on Thu 27 Jul
Final session. Welche Farbe hat Berlin? Farewell
Abgeben: Final Composition (hardcopy)
Classroom Etiquette
To be discussed in class.

Suggested Co-Curricular Activities
Please use the opportunity to take part in the Tandem Program, the Language Trainings and the Tutoring Program at NYU Berlin.

Your Instructor
Nikolai Preuschoff studied German Literature, Philosophy and Art History in Freiburg, Paris, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and in Berlin. Between 2012 and 2016, he taught at the Department of German at University College Cork in Ireland. His PhD thesis on W.G. Sebald and Walter Benjamin ("Mit Walter Benjamin. Melancholie, Geschichte und Erzählen bei W. G. Sebald") was published in 2015 by Winter Verlag, Heidelberg.