Course Title

Advanced German: Composition & Conversation
Contemporary German Cultures

Course Number GERM-UA9111D01

Summer 2019

Instructor Contact Information
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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Details
Summer 2019
Wednesdays and Thursdays 1.30pm – 4.15pm
NYU Berlin Kulturbrauerei, BLAC 203

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 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 15%
Class presentations / session leading 20%
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:

- 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

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)

NYU Berlin Library Catalogue: http://guides.nyu.edu/global/berlin or follow the link on NYU Berlin’s website (Academics/Facilities & Services).

Films
- Rainer Werner Fassbinder: Angst essen Seele auf (1973)
- 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 or dict.leo.org (both include pronunciation and the past tense forms of verbs)
- For flash cards use 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 (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

– There are several important newspaper and news media websites in Germany. www.tagesschau.de, www.spiegel.de, [www.faz.net](http://www.faz.net) are among the most popular ones. See also www.nzz.ch, and www.derstandard.at.

– See **Deutsche Welle**, Germany’s international broadcaster ([www.dw.de](http://www.dw.de)) for lots of interesting articles on politics and cultural topics.

**Semesterplan**

—subject to change—

**Woche 1: Einführung, Willkommen in Berlin, Nachkriegszeit und Mauerbau**

Grammatik: Tempora (Perfekt, Präteritum, Plusquamperfekt, Futur I und II)

1. **Sitzung, Mittwoch, 5. Juni**
Einführung, Willkommen in Berlin, Stunde Null, Nachkriegszeit, Wirtschaftswunder
Lyrik: Günter Eich: "Inventur" (1945)
Musik: Wir Wunderkinder: "Lied vom Wirtschaftswunder": [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGBV3KBpH8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGBV3KBpH8)

Essay - Thema 1 wird verteilt (Abgeben: Mittwoch, 12. Juni)


2. **Sitzung, Donnerstag, 6. Juni**
17. Juni 1953, Bau der Mauer 1961, Deutsche Teilung
Zum 17. Juni: [https://www.mdr.de/zeitreise/siebzehnter-juni112.html](https://www.mdr.de/zeitreise/siebzehnter-juni112.html)
Lyrik: Bertolt Brecht: „Die Lösung“ [https://www.deutschelyrik.de/die-loesung.html](https://www.deutschelyrik.de/die-loesung.html)

**Woche 2: Zwei politische Systeme: DDR und BRD**
Grammatik: Numerus, Genus, Kasus
3. Sitzung, Mittwoch, 12. Juni
DDR: Alltag, Anpassung und Widerstand
Wolf Biermann: Konzert 1976 und Ausbürgerung. Lesen Sie hierzu:
https://www.mdr.de/zeitreise/ddr/biermann-ausbuergerung-ddr-100.html
Musik: Wolf Biermann: „Warte nicht auf bessre Zeiten“ Kölner Sporthalle 1976:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSw5H4tY29A
TV-Serie: Deutschland 83, Episode 1.

Kurzpräsentation: Flucht aus der DDR an der Bernauer Straße. Recherchieren Sie Informationen und Geschichten an der Gedenkstätte Bernauer Straße (10-15 Minuten)
Abgeben: Essay 1
Abgeben: Arbeitsblatt Schnitzeljagd Bernauer Straße

Protest und Terrorismus in der BRD: Die 68er-Bewegung und der Deutsche Herbst
http://www.bpb.de/geschichte/deutsche-geschichte/68er-bewegung/
https://www.bpb.de/geschichte/deutsche-geschichte/geschichte-der-raf/49197/hintergrund
Film: Der Baader-Meinhof Komplex (Uli Edel, 2008)

Abgeben: Grammatik-Quiz I: Tempora

Woche 3: Kunst als Gesellschaftskritik und Migration
Grammatik: Wortstellung und Satzstruktur

5. Sitzung, Mittwoch, 19. Juni
Kunst als Gesellschaftskritik: Der Neue Deutsche Spielfilm und das Oberhausener Manifest:
https://www.dw.com/de/papas-kino-ist-tot-das-oberhausener-manifest/a-4315391
Clip aus: Deutschland im Herbst (Fassbinder u.a. 1978: 04:31-09:50)
Film: Angst essen Seele auf (Fassbinder 1973)

Abgeben: Essay 2

Migration in Deutschland von den 50er-80er Jahren bis heute
http://www.bpb.de/themen/8Q83M7,0,0,Migration_in_Ost_und_Westdeutschland_von_1955_bis_2004.html
Lyrik: Alev Tekinay: „Ein Gast“; Franco Biondi: „Niemand wird mich zum Metallstück machen“
Film: Almanya. Willkommen in Deutschland (Yasemin Şamdereli 2011).

Kurzpräsentation: „Gastarbeiter“ in Deutschland (10 Minuten)
Woche 4: Wiedervereinigung
Grammatik: Konjunktiv I und II, Passiv

7. Sitzung, Montag, 24. Juni: 10-12.30 Uhr (!) Exkursion Eastside Gallery


Mauerfall und Wiedervereinigung, Probleme der Wiedervereinigung, Mauer in den Köpfen “Der Tag, an dem die Mauer fiel” NDR Kultur:
Kurzpräsentation: Kunst an der Eastside Gallery in Berlin (10 Minuten)
Abgeben: Essay 3
Abgeben: Grammatik-Quiz III: Wortstellung und Satzstruktur

Donnerstag, 27. Juni: Kein Deutschkurs

Woche 5: Literatur nach der Wende


Literatur goes Pop: Die 90er und „Nullerjahre“

Abgeben: Grammatik-Quiz IV: Konjunktiv II und Passiv

Donnerstag, 4. Juli
Abgeben: Hausarbeit (Final Paper) per E-Mail an: amr755@nyu.edu
Classroom Etiquette
To be discussed in class.

Your Instructor
Anne Röhrborn is a PhD Candidate in Germanic Languages and Literatures at Harvard University, where she will graduate in Fall 2019. Her research focuses on contemporary German literature and film since 1989, intercultural literature, language philosophy and discourses of “political correctness.” Between 2015 and 2017, she taught at Harvard’s German department and she has been a lecturer at NYU Berlin since 2017. Anne is a native Berliner. She was born in West Berlin and currently lives in Schöneberg.
Teaching schedule, CAS, Summer 2019

Composition & Conversation
Instructor: Anne Roehrborn

Week 1 – [3 Jun – 7 Jun]
Wednesday  1.30pm – 4.15pm
Thursday    1.30pm – 4.15pm

Week 2 [10 Jun – 14 Jun]
Wednesday  1.30pm – 4.15pm
Thursday    1.30pm – 4.15pm

Week 3 [17 Jun – 21 Jun]
Wednesday  1.30pm – 4.15pm
Thursday    1.30pm – 4.15pm

Week 4 [24 Jun – 28 Jun]
Monday      10am – 12.30pm  Exkursion Eastside Gallery
Tuesday     10am – 12.30pm  Präsentation über die DDR in Intermediate I
Thursday    1.30pm – 4.15pm

Week 5 [1 Jul – 5 Jul]
Monday      10am – 12.30pm  Exkursion zur Ausstellung Alltag in der DDR
Wednesday  1.30pm – 4.15pm