

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF Languages, Literatures, and Culture

GER 3401 German Grammar Review

Course Description - Fall 2020

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Dr. C. Overstreet

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Class meetings in Zoom: Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Period 7 (1:55 PM - 2:45 PM)

Office Hours in Zoom: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-3:00 PM and by appointment

- **As we are moving all courses to online delivery, it is imperative that you have a computer with a camera at your disposal and access to the Internet.**

A. COURSE OBJECTIVES and REQUIREMENTS

I. The goal of this Grammar Review Course is to help you reinforce and deepen what you already know about German grammar German grammar (see Modules for details):

- word order in main and subordinate clauses, infinitive constructions
- subordinating and coordinating conjunctions
- the 'rule' of verbs (Rektion der Verben), prepositions, adjectives
- subjunctive II
- the passive voice

The level of competence that learners should have reached at the end of this semester is anywhere from B1 Intermediate to the B2 Upper Intermediate Level.

Learner proficiency at the B Level is described in the following terms:

B1 Independent User: Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected texts on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

- **Required textbook:** Hilke Dreyer and Richard Schmitt: Practice Grammar of German. You may download the Dreyer-Schmitt online – both the English and the German version (Lehr- und Übungsbuch der deutschen Grammatik) are available. You are responsible to have either the book or the online version readily available for class meetings. In addition, we use other online grammar sites.

III. How does it work?

Since most assignments are group work assignments (30% of your final grade), it is of utmost importance that you attend the group meetings regularly. SET UP A REGULAR MEETING TIME AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEMESTER! IF YOU MISS, YOU ARE LETTING YOUR GROUP MEMBERS DOWN!

– Individual Study – Classroom Work in Zoom – Group Work in Zoom

- **Before class**, you study the grammar topic(s) using Dreyer-Schmitt.
- **In class**, we discuss the grammar topic(s) of each module and work on exercises from the book or an external website.
- **Outside of class:** Then you meet with your group members in ZOOM and record your meeting. The leader of your group submits the link to your recording and word document in the submission page of the group assignment.

Components of the group assignment:

- The first part of the group assignment is explaining grammar
- The second part consists of analyzing how the grammar topic(s) appear(s) in authentic German language. You may watch a video or read a text. For Example: If the grammar topic is 'verbs with prepositional complements' (sich freuen auf + Akkusativ), you will identify verbs with prepositional complements in the video or text. After preparing individually, you meet with your group members and compare your findings.
- A follow-up task may be to create your own sentences using the verbs with prepositional complements. For example: 'Ich freue mich auf die Weihnachtsferien'.

Quizzes test your individual achievement and are administered following the completion of a module. The midterm and the final exam each consist of a grammar section and free writing. We will use the Honorslock system for all testing.

B. POLICIES

I. Attendance

- You are allowed 3 unexcused absences per semester. FOR EXCESSIVE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES, 1% per absence will be deducted **from your overall grade average**. Students experiencing difficulties that interfere with class attendance / performance are encouraged to speak with their instructor immediately, and/or to contact a counselor UMatterWeCare at www.umatter.ufl.edu.

II. Make-up Policy

- There are NO MAKE-UPS for unexcused absences for quizzes or exams. The instructor may allow students to take exams and quizzes early in certain mitigating circumstances.

III. Final Grade and Grading Scale

Participation in classroom activities	15%
Group Assignments	30%
Quizzes	25%
Midterm	15%
Final	15%

100- 93 A	92-90 A-	89-87 B+	86-83 B
82-80 B-	79-77 C+	76-73 C	72-70 C-
69-67 D+	66-63 D	62-60 D-	

IV. Academic Honesty

The University of Florida statement regarding academic honesty and more specifically “giving and/or receiving unauthorized aid on student’s work” reads as follows: “Giving information includes, but is not limited to, allowing other students to use or copy work or answers to exam questions either while the exam is being given or after having taken the exam. Further, the taking of information includes, but is not limited to, copying from the answers provided in the book or ancillary materials, copying from another student’s paper [...], using information already written in books, [...], or asking anyone, students or not to review and/or correct assignments.”

When learning a language, using a translation service (like Google translate) can be tempting. However, **using translation services or online dictionaries to look up more than a single word is not acceptable**

and a form of plagiarism. Instead of abusing the online resources available to you, refer to the textbook, simplify the complex thoughts you are trying to communicate, use cognates, synonyms, and circumlocution with the words and structures that you know to convey what you are trying to say.

V. Students with Disabilities

The University of Florida policy related to accommodations for students with disabilities reads as follows:

“Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.”

VI. Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open.

CLASS SCHEDULE: See Module Schedule in the Canvas Course