

GER4482 Course Syllabus

Instructor

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Email

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Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursdays, 10:45 am - 12:15 pm and by appointment

Credit Hours

3

Land Acknowledgement

A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories. In particular, the University of Florida resides on land of the Timucua people and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. It is important to understand the long-standing history that has brought us to reside on the land, and to seek to understand our place within that history. Land acknowledgements do not exist in a past tense, or historical context: colonialism is a current ongoing process, and we need to build our mindfulness of our present participation. It is also worth noting that acknowledging the land is Indigenous protocol. For more information, visit <http://www.lspirg.org/knowtheland> ([Links zu einer externen Website](#))

Course Information

This is an advanced three credit 4000-level course that aims at improving your ability to read, speak, understand, and write German. It is conducted entirely in German. To be successful, students participating in this course must take initiative in the learning process and work in a timely, effective, and courteous manner each week in the completion of individual and group assignments.

The various assignments, activities, and assessments in this course endeavor to consolidate B2-level proficiency according to the [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](#) ([Links zu einer externen Website](#)). All assignments will be assessed both for intellectual and informational content as well as for an accuracy of communication corresponding to B2 level proficiency.

Course Structure and Goals

This course has three complementary sections (modules/units) and goals:

- **Unit 1:** Familiarization with the critical discussion of the concepts of cultural identity and intercultural competence.
 - Understanding of these concepts requires being able to see the degree to which individuals' understanding of themselves and their relations to others are culturally conditioned.
 - The readings for this part of the course are in German, however the subject matter of this part of the course is not specific to German-speaking regions, but rather global.
- **Unit 2:** Familiarization with historical events that have shaped the shared experiences, beliefs, values, expectations, etc. of people living in the German-speaking world.
 - Linking the theoretical part of the course to more specific discussions pertaining to German-speaking regions.
 - The focus will not be the historical information per se, but the different ways in which history shapes the cultural identities of people living in the German-speaking world today.
- **Unit 3:** Familiarization with more current topics, in particular pertaining to multiculturalism in the German-speaking world.
 - Linking the theoretical and historical parts of the course to contemporary topics pertaining to cultural identity in the German-speaking world.
 - Synthesizing all this knowledge to embellish intercultural competence and communication.

Course Requirements

Materials

There is no required textbook. Required readings and films, as well as PPTs and other materials are posted on Canvas.

Prerequisites

A 3000 level GER course at UF or the equivalent (subject to instructor approval).

Minimum technology requirements

The following is the official UF policy on the student computer requirement: "Access to and on-going use of a computer is required for all students." Please review all recommendations and requirements:

- UF Computing requirements: <https://it.ufl.edu/policies/student-computing-requirements/>
- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences computing requirements: <https://it.clas.ufl.edu/policies/student-computer-requirement/>

Please be aware of the Academic Technology and Learning Spaces available to you at the libraries and in other places across campus: <https://labs.at.ufl.edu/locations/>

Minimum technical skills

To complete your tasks in this course, you will need a basic understanding of how to operate a computer, and how to use word processing software.

Materials/Supply Fees

There is no supply fee for this course.

Course Policies

1. Classroom Etiquette

To create a productive and positive learning environment for yourself and your classmates, please abide by some **general rules of respectful interaction during classes, including:**

- Staying informed about and adhering to current UF Health Guidance, which is updated here: <https://coronavirus.ufl.edu/health-guidance/>
 - This currently includes the expectation that **everyone** will wear face coverings in **all** UF facilities.
- Raising your hand when you would like to contribute or have questions;
- Refraining from eating food during class;
- Refraining from using electronic devices other than to view your eBook/course materials or for tasks as specified by the instructor.
- Adhering to the [Netiquette Guidelines](#) for online **and in-person** communication and discussion.

2. Addressing Each Other, Names and Personal Pronouns

German is a formal language, and it is common practice for students to address instructors and instructors to address students with the formal you (*Sie*). Students can use the informal you (*du*) amongst each other. Students should not address instructors with "*du*" or their first name unless it is offered. If an instructor has a title (e.g., Dr.), it should be used when addressing them in spoken and written correspondence. Please communicate with me if you would like to be addressed by a name other than that provided through the registrar. If there is a pronoun that you prefer for English communication, please inform me.

Please be aware that German is a gendered language, meaning that all nouns are designated as masculine, feminine or neuter. There are options for making some nouns that refer to people more inclusive, and gender-inclusive pronouns exist. In our course, we will use first names when speaking about each other in the third person instead of pronouns, and the term "die Person / diese Person", e.g. "Diese Person heißt Diane. Dianes Lieblingsfarbe ist Blau."

3. Participation and Attendance

Becoming fluent in a language requires extensive, repeated exposure to that language. For this reason, **attendance is essential** in this class, and is considered mandatory. Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog which can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> ([Links zu einer externen Website](#)) and **require appropriate documentation**, such as a Verification of Visit Form from the UF Student Health Care Center (SHCC). It is the student's responsibility to submit documentation promptly and to contact the [DRC \(Links zu einer externen Website\)](#) and/or [DSO \(Links zu einer externen Website\)](#) if there are extenuating circumstances that will result in extended absences.

A penalty will be imposed for excessive unexcused absences:

- After **3 hours of class time missed**, **1% per unexcused absence is deducted** from your overall course grade.
- **Be advised that attending class is not the same as participating.** Your instructor will not only record your attendance, but also make note of how well and how much you participate in classroom activities and respond to questions.
- **Repeatedly being unprepared to answer or take part in activities** will result in a reduction of your participation grade, which will be awarded according to the criteria found on the handout provided to you on Canvas.
- **Excessive, consistent tardiness or arriving more than 5 minutes late on 3 occasions will count as one missed class.**

Students experiencing difficulties that interfere with class attendance/performance are encouraged to speak with me immediately or contact a team member at <https://umatter.ufl.edu/> ([Links zu einer externen Website](#))

- In general, there are **no make-up tests or exams**, except for excused absences in accordance with the university policy stated above. This policy is strictly enforced; therefore, please do not schedule appointments of any kind for the days of quizzes, tests or exams. Medical emergencies will be handled on a case by case basis but require appropriate documentation to be submitted promptly for consideration.

4. Classroom and Study Approach

This course is taught entirely **in German**. Communicative contexts and grammatical guides are introduced in class through a variety of activities; acquisition is reinforced by interactive use of those structures and vocabulary. **Daily attendance, thorough preparation outside of class, and participation in class are of utmost importance.** You should expect to spend **two hours working outside of class (previewing and reviewing)** for each hour in class to keep up with the pace of the course. For your language learning and in general, it is best to **work often for short periods of time on a daily, regular basis.** To actively participate in class and be prepared for exams and other tasks, it is imperative that you:

- **Preview** the topics of the day listed on Canvas / the course plan **prior to coming to class**, including making comments on Perusall and contributing to the collaborative vocabulary lists.
- **Review** the content that was covered after each class, completing any tasks that were assigned during class, and view any links posted on Canvas under "weiterführende Quellen".

Regularly making a serious effort in **preparing daily for class** as well as completing the HDG exercises throughout the semester will provide the best preparation for the writing assignments, tests and other tasks. You are responsible for observing all posted due dates, and are encouraged to be self-directed and take responsibility for your learning.

5. Online Translators

When learning a language, using an online translation service can be tempting. Only do so in a **responsible and ethical** manner, e.g., to look up individual words, phrases, grammatical gender, spelling or verb conjugation. **Blindly trusting and using translation services or online dictionaries to write an entire text is not acceptable.** It is a form of **plagiarism and will not be tolerated.** Instead of abusing the online resources available to you:

- refer to your **instructor**, materials provided by your instructor and the *Handbuch zur Deutschen Grammatik*
- **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/write.

Grading Policies

I will make every effort to have each assignment graded and posted within two weeks of the due date.

Course Grading Policy

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade
Collaborative Vocabulary Lists	10
Perusall Comments	10
Participation	15
Discussion Facilitation	15
Unit Reflections (Written)	15
Unit Presentations (Oral)	15
Writing Tasks and Revisions	20

Course Components

A course overview of daily topics and assignments is available on Canvas.

1. Module Topic Main Pages: Links on the main module page take you to the texts or videos that you need to read or watch in preparation of class as well as the PowerPoints (PPTs) and other materials that will be used in class. Make sure you familiarize yourself closely with the material on the LModule Topic Main Pages -- and if necessary, do any further research you feel you may need to do independently.
2. Collaborative Vocabulary Lists: You will contribute to collaborative vocabulary lists using the Collaborations tool on Canvas.
3. Perusall: This is a reading intensive course and you will benefit from using Perusall to post your comments and questions about the daily/weekly readings **prior** to class. Your instructor will provide feedback there and you are expected to **respond to your classmates' questions and comments** as well. You can find more information about Perusall here: <https://support.perusall.com/hc/en-us/categories/360002173133-Students> ([Links zu einer externen Website](#))
4. ([Links zu einer externen Website](#)) Participation: You will engage in group discussion to practice your German speaking skills and to share your thoughts and ideas with your classmates. Rubric is posted on Canvas.
5. Discussion Facilitation: You will be responsible for facilitating in class discussion **once per unit**. You are encouraged to coordinate with the instructor to develop your facilitation plan. Perusall comments and questions from your classmates may help inform your facilitation.
6. Unit Reflections: At the end of each unit there will be an **in class written reflection** on themes from the unit in order for you to demonstrate your understanding of the texts and topics, as well as to track your ability to write freely.
7. Unit Presentations: At the end of each unit there will be presentations on related topics. You will need to coordinate with your classmates on the presentations.
8. Writing Tasks and Revisions: You will submit writing tasks to practice your German writing skills. You will receive feedback on the individual reflections and will submit revised versions of some of the reflections.

Students are responsible to start all tasks at a time that allows them to finish them within their due date and time. Any homework submitted after the due date **will not be accepted for full credit** without appropriate documentation. Any technical difficulties must have a [Help Desk \(Links zu einer externen Website\)](#) ticket number if you plan to request an extension. The extension request must be submitted within 24 hours of the technical difficulty. It is your responsibility to **promptly submit documentation** and speak with your instructor **prior to a deadline** if there is a justifiable reason why you may not be able to complete the task on time.

You **may not use any unauthorized aids on any homework**, including online translators, assistance from more advanced speakers of the language other than your instructor, etc. Using unauthorized aids is a violation of UF's Honor Code. For more information on types of academic violations and the process should one be charged with committing an academic violation,

see <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/> (Links to an external site.).

Grading Scale

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
93.0 – 100.0	A	4.00
90.0 – 92.9	A-	3.67
87.0 – 89.9	B+	3.33
83.0 – 86.9	B	3.00
80.0 – 82.9	B-	2.67
77.0 – 79.9	C+	2.33
73.0 – 76.9	C	2.00
70.0 – 72.9	C-	1.67
67.0 – 69.9	D+	1.33
63.0 – 66.9	D	1.00
60.0 – 62.9	D-	0.67
0 – 59.9	E	0.00

See the [current UF grading policies \(Links zu einer externen Website\)](#) for more information.

UF Policies

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/> (Links zu einer externen Website)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when

requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

University Policy on Academic Conduct:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/> ([Links zu einer externen Website](#))) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Netiquette and Communication Courtesy:

All members of the class are expected to follow [rules of common courtesy](#) in all email messages, threaded discussions, and chats. These rules also apply to in person communication and in class discussion.

Getting Help

Health and Wellness

- **U Matter, We Care:** If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu ([Links zu einer externen Website](#)) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- **Counseling and Wellness Center:** Visit counseling.ufl.edu ([Links zu einer externen Website](#)) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- **Student Health Care Center:** Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit shcc.ufl.edu ([Links zu einer externen Website](#)).
- **University Police Department:** Visit police.ufl.edu ([Links zu einer externen Website](#)) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- **UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center:** For immediate medical care in Gainesville, call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center ([Links zu einer externen Website](#)).

Technical Difficulties

For issues with technical difficulties for Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu> ([Links zu einer externen Website](#))
- (352) 392-HELP (4357)
- Walk-in: HUB 132

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues should be accompanied by the ticket number received from the Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You should e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Academic and Student Support

- **Career Connections Center:** 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services career.ufl.edu/ ([Links zu einer externen Website](#)).
- **Library Support:** Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask ([Links zu einer externen Website](#))
- **Teaching Center:** 352-392-2010 General study skills and tutoring: teachingcenter.ufl.edu/ ([Links zu einer externen Website](#))
- **Writing Studio:** 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers: writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/ ([Links zu einer externen Website](#))

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/> ([Links zu einer externen Website](#)). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/> ([Links zu einer externen Website](#)). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/> ([Links zu einer externen Website](#)).

Privacy and Accessibility Policies

For information about the privacy policies of the tools used in this course, see the links below:

- Instructure (Canvas)
 - [Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Accessibility](#) ([Links zu einer externen Website](#))
- Sonic Foundry (Mediasite Streaming Video Player)
 - [Privacy Policy](#) ([Links zu einer externen Website](#))
 - [Accessibility](#) ([Links zu einer externen Website](#))
- Vimeo
 - [Privacy Policy](#) ([Links zu einer externen Website](#))
 - [Accessibility](#) ([Links zu einer externen Website](#))
- Zoom
 - [Privacy Policy](#) ([Links zu einer externen Website](#))
 - [Accessibility](#) ([Links zu einer externen Website](#))
- YouTube (Google)
 - [Privacy Policy](#) ([Links zu einer externen Website](#))

- [Accessibility \(Links zu einer externen Website\)](#)
- Perusall
 - [Privacy Policy \(Links zu einer externen Website\)](#)
 - [Accessibility \(Links zu einer externen Website\)](#)
- Microsoft
 - [Privacy Policy \(Links zu einer externen Website\)](#)
 - [Accessibility \(Links zu einer externen Website\)](#)
- Adobe
 - [Privacy Policy \(Links zu einer externen Website\)](#)
 - [Accessibility](#)