



Image: A scene from Pepe Danquart's infamous German short film Schwarzfahrer (1992), which we will watch in our course!

GERM 2311.01: INTERMEDIATE GERMAN I
Sam Houston State University
Department of World Languages and Cultures
CRN 82692

Fall 2017 | 4 Credits

Instructor: Dr. Ervin Malakaj (he/him pronouns)
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Course Description & Goals

German 2311 is the third in a four-semester sequence in Basic & Intermediate German Language and Culture. The course seeks to help students continue building proficiency in encountering and using German. We will focus on spoken German in hopes of facilitating a culture of application of the language as much as possible and in as many different settings as possible. Individual lessons and units are designed to help students learn the German language while learning about contemporary German-speaking communities and their cultural heritage. Students will continue to build on their knowledge basic German grammar and vocabulary and will develop German speaking, writing, and listening skills. Students will be exposed to authentic German texts, extensive and immersive listening and speaking as well as writing activities, and extensive online exercises. The course strives to prepare students for real-life situations in which they can apply basic German language skills successfully.

By the end of the semester, students will be able to communicate and exchange information about familiar topics, can present basic information on familiar topics, can discern information from shorter listening exercises on their own, and will be able to read short texts for meaning. Students successful in this course should be able to reach

the **Novice High/Intermediate Low Proficiency Level** defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Proficiency Guidelines.¹

The language of instruction will be German. English will be used in extreme cases to clarify challenging vocabulary, grammar, cultural phenomena.

Course Requirements/Grade Distribution

Attendance & Participation	20%
Homework	20%
Exams	30%
Spoken Exams	10%
Writing Assignments	10%
Quizzes	5%
Group Project	5%

Grading Scale

A+ (98-100%);	A (93-97);	A- (90-92);
B+ (88-89);	B (83-87);	B- (80-82);
C+ (78-79);	C (73-77);	C- (70-72);
D+ (68-69);	D (63-67);	D- (60-62);
F (below 60).		

***Note:** You must receive a passing grade for each component to pass the course. You need a grade C or higher to proceed to German 2312.

Required Texts/Materials

- 1) *Deutsch: Na klar!* 7th Edition, 2015, McGraw-Hill Publishers Connect Access Card and loose-leaf version of the book. Follow this link to register for the course site and to find instructions on how to complete the purchase: <http://connect.mheducation.com/class/e-malakaj-01-mwf-12-1250-pm>
- 2) A standard German dictionary of your choice. I recommend *Langenscheidt Standard Dictionary German*, 2011; ISBN-13: 978-3468980466
- 3) Flashcards or a small notebook in which you can record vocabulary.

***Note:** These texts are used for the **first three semesters** of the German language sequence.

Course Format

We will cover Chapters 9-12 of the textbook in our course. Next to the textbook, you will be exposed to various authentic language material. You will use our BlackBoard site to access additional language resources and a calendar for assignment due dates. You will complete the majority of homework and practice assignments on the McGraw-Hill connect platform that accompanies our textbook.

You will practice material we cover in class in homework and other assignments. Since we will be working closely with material corresponding to a given chapter of the book, you should look through chapters regularly, consult vocabulary lists, make vocabulary flashcards, and keep a vocabulary notebook. The grammar explanations in the book are very brief, but good. You are required to review these multiple times after and even before they are covered in a lesson.

Successful students of German regularly review past lessons, units, and completed work. They likewise explore aspects of German language and culture outside of class. For this reason, you should keep a notebook and keep

¹ ACTFL "Can-Do Statements" will provide you with a self-assessment tool. Follow this link to reach them: <http://www.actfl.org/publications/guidelines-and-manuals/ncssfl-actfl-can-do-statements>.

handouts and other completed/graded work in a folder for study and review. You should prepare to spend about 1.5 hours of work for each instructional unit per week. This means that 4 units per week equal 6 hours of additional study and review time outside of class. You will be responsible for all the material on this syllabus.

Language Learning

As you know, learning German is a lot of fun! You already know that learning German in pieces is essential for your comprehension and retention of subsequent material. This means that you constantly build on previous knowledge and are expected to review material from the past. You should maintain the acquired vocabulary, grammar, and culture points so that you can expand your knowledge by building on it throughout the semester and in subsequent courses in the German language sequence. You should be patient in the beginning, as it will take some time for you to adjust to speaking, writing, and hearing German comfortably. The best way to prepare for course lessons is to review in depth the material assigned for that day (e.g., skim the material and then read thoroughly through it several times after that) and review briefly the material of the entire unit covered previously. Regular review of vocabulary and grammar points will help you succeed in the course and make strides with learning German.

Vocabulary flashcards and/or a vocabulary notebook will help you acquire and develop your German vocabulary, which is vital for your language acquisition. When learning individual words, you should learn them along with their article and/or plural forms right away. Associations between German words and English words or those in another language will help your vocabulary acquisition, as will learning vocabulary in conjunction with the thematic units in which it is presented in the textbook. Reading aloud instead of silently repeating German vocabulary will help you retain it (as will re-reading chapter texts aloud regularly).

McGraw-Hill's Connect Software System, an online repository of homework and study activities, accompanies your textbook. One of the main features of its interface is LearnSmart (LS), a program that helps you study vocabulary and grammar through interactive questions. Although you will regularly complete LS sessions throughout the semester for homework, they will be a great resource for additional review. All assignments can be revisited for practice and you should take advantage of this opportunity.

Course Participation

A principal course goal will be to get you to speak as much German as possible in order to improve your speaking skills. Speaking exercises will build on your learning new vocabulary and grammar at home, as well as the written work that you complete in advance. In short, you will be introduced to a lot of material in a short amount of time that is orchestrated in tandem. If you miss or delay one or more sessions you will fall behind and it will be challenging for you to catch up. In extreme cases your inability to participate in class will be excused and you can make up the work that you missed, hand in homework that you were unable to hand in, and make up a quiz or an exam. This includes illness, death in the family, etc. These sorts of instances are rare and will be treated as such. Please review the SHSU Student Absence Notification Policy administered by the office of the Dean of Students.

You cannot receive a passing grade if you miss substantial amounts of work. You will have regular assignment due dates, which you are required to meet and which you cannot make up. If you are unable to complete these in time, I **require** that you notify me via email **BEFOREHAND**. **You cannot pass the class if you miss 20 (or more) % of the sessions, which is 7 or more absences.**

Active contribution to the course and preparedness are hallmarks of successful language learning. You will not be able to succeed in this course without completing the activities planned for the semester and actively contributing to class discussion. You are required to review course materials every day (i.e., textbook, notes, homework assignments, etc.). You should have completed homework for the day it was assigned and have reviewed material covered in previous sessions to prime yourself for active participation. While completing assignments, take note of challenging vocabulary and grammar and culture points; your challenges make for great questions, which you can post in our virtual office section of BlackBoard OR bring to class. Likewise, if your fellow students encounter challenges that you don't perceive as such, you can become a great resource for them and will have an excellent opportunity to participate actively in our class.

You will make a lot of mistakes and will continue making them! While you should certainly strive for accuracy, it is more important that you continue practicing German as much as you can.

Homework

Regular homework will be assigned throughout the semester. It will help you learn and study vocabulary and grammar essential for your success in the course. Homework will include a variety of online exercises in Connect or as a handout. Homework is to be completed for the day that it is assigned. You will receive full points if you hand homework in on time, have completed the assignment in its entirety, and show that you have put effort into using language actively, efficiently, and even creatively or experimentally. Points will be deducted for non-systematic and systematic errors as well as incomplete work. **You are responsible for knowing the due dates for assignments**, which will be posted in our Connect website. No late assignments will be accepted unless you receive written permission from me.

Chapter Exams

There will be 3 exams following each unit. Each exam will be comprised of the following: listening, vocabulary, grammar, and cultural components. The exams are required, scores will not be dropped, and there will be no make-up exam unless you have written permission from me. If you miss the exam without prior consultation with me, you will receive zero points for it.

Spoken Exams

There will be two spoken examinations in this class. One will take place mid-term and the second will take place at the end of the term. These will cover the material that was covered prior to the exam. You will receive more detailed information and guidelines for each as the semester progresses. The exams are required, scores will not be dropped, and there will be no make-up exam unless you have written permission from me. If you miss the exam without prior consultation with me, you will receive zero points for it.

Writing Assignments

You will complete three written assignments during this semester. You will receive specific prompts for each in advance. They need to be typed (Times New Roman, 12 pt., double spaced) and should have your name and course title listed in the top right corner. No late submissions will be accepted unless you have written permission from me. These assignments will help you practice and expand upon the vocabulary and grammar structures covered during the semester and will help you develop stronger cultural competency. Assignments need to be your original work. If you consult friends or family, or if you use online translation services or similar programs or devices to complete them, you are breaching the academic integrity policy. You will write two drafts of each.

Extra Credit & The SHSU German Conversation and Culture Club

If you participate in a cultural event that somehow deals with German-speaking cultures or German cultural heritage, you can write a short paragraph describing your experience and email that paragraph to me. You can do this up to three times, which can boost your homework grade in class.

Cultural events include festivals, theater productions, film screenings, art exhibits, etc. There are a great number of German-themed cultural events in the Houston area, all of which qualify for this. Be in touch with questions. The easiest way for you to participate in a cultural event is by joining and regularly attending the SHSU German Conversation and Culture Club, which has been extremely successful in the last year.

We will have a regular German Conversation Hour scheduled weekly by our fantastic German Tutor. You will receive more information about this during the first week of the semester. If you attend three sessions, you can receive a boost on your homework grade.

SHSU German Studies Minor

The SHSU German Studies Minor is intended to provide students with a robust skillset revolving around German language and culture studies. The language sequence (German 1-4; GERM 1411, 1412, 2311, 2312) provides

students with an introduction and extensive exposure to German language and culture. Beyond the language sequence, you only take an additional 3 courses at the advanced level. These include

- GERM 3368 German Media (where we explore film, TV series, German newspapers, blogs, etc. in German);
- GERM 3380 Modern German Culture (where we explore politics, economics, and history in German)
- GERM 4360 Modern German Literature (where we explore the fairy tales of the brothers Grimm and their international influence)

To sign up for the minor, be in touch with me! You can find the form to declare the minor here:
<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/registrar/forms-and-documents/forms-and-documents.html>

Communication

You should regularly (i.e., daily) check your official SHSU email account for important announcements about our course. You should regularly check our BlackBoard site for updates and *regularly* review the assignment due dates by logging in to Connect. If you send me an email, please use the standard format for addressing faculty or standards employed in professional communication. Begin an email with a salutation such as “Dear Dr. Malakaj: . . .” and close with “Best/Yours/Sincerely, . . .”

Inclusive Course

You will effectively learn German in an inclusive and comfortable space that continues to challenge you intellectually. I will strive to foster such a space in our course. Most of all, *you* are required to contribute to the shaping of such an inclusive, comforting, and intellectually stimulating setting by honoring the diverse backgrounds, statuses, and experiences of your fellow students. Please communicate to me any concerns or needs that immediately relate to your learning.

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. You can find more information about the university's academic dishonesty policy on the website of the Office of the Dean of Students: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-of-students/index.html>

You are expected to complete original work on your own in this class. If you enlist the help of others in completing your homework without prior consent of the instructor, you are breaching the academic integrity policy and will be reported to the university administration.

Accommodations

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office and to talk with me about how I can best accommodate your learning needs. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. Note: No accommodation can be made until you register with SSD, which is located in the Lee Drain North Annex building (next to Farrington), telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786. You can find more information about the office and its services online: www.shsu.edu/dept/disability

Religious Holidays Policy

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by

a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf>

Visitors in the Classroom

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor’s discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. The visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process.

Welcome to Intermediate German! Viel Spaß!

Semesterplan²

Below you will have the semester syllabus. It is divided into four units spread across the semester. You should read the unit goals first and read what the topics and themes are that will be covered during the unit.

² The semester schedule is not absolute; I will adjust it if need be to suit the needs of the group.

UNIT 1 GOALS (Review & Meine Reise)

By the end of this unit, you will be able to

- plan and book a trip in German
- ask for directions and give them in German
- describe situations, people, and objects using adjectives in creative fashion

1. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Mi., 23. Aug.	Willkommen und Einführung Wiederholung: Alphabet, Zahlen, Uhrzeit, Datum	LS Wiederholung Hausaufgaben Nr. 1
Fr., 25. Aug.	Wiederholung: Nominativ und Akkusativ	LS Wiederholung Hausaufgaben Nr. 2
2. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Mo., 28. Aug.	Wiederholung: Dativ, Genus	LS Wiederholung Hausaufgaben Nr. 3
Mi., 30. Aug.	Wiederholung: starke und schwache Verben im Präsens; Modalverben	LS Wiederholung Hausaufgaben Nr. 4
Fr., 1. Sep.	Wiederholung: Perfekt	LS Wiederholung Hausaufgaben Nr. 5
3. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Mo, 4. Sept.	Tag der Arbeit: Kein Unterricht!!	
Mi, 6. Sept.	Wiederholung: Possessivpronomen	LS Wiederholung Hausaufgaben Nr. 6
Fr, 8. Sept.	Wiederholung Quiz Nr. 1	LS Wiederholung Hausaufgaben Nr. 7
4. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Mo, 11. Sept.	Thema 1: Unterkunft online buchen	Vokabeln: LS Nr. 1 Hausaufgaben Nr. 1
Mi, 13. Sept.	Thema 1 & Genitiv	V: LS Nr. 2 Hausaufgaben Nr. 2
Fr, 15. Sept.	Thema 2: Im Hotel	V: LS Nr. 3 Hausaufgaben Nr. 3
5. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Mo, 18. Sept.	Thema 2 & Adjektive	V: LS Nr. 4 Hausaufgaben Nr. 4
Mi, 20. Sept.	Thema 3: Ringsum die Stadt	V: LS Nr. 5 Hausaufgaben Nr. 5
Fr, 22. Sept.	Schreibaktivität Nr. 1 (1. Fassung)	V: LS Nr. 6 Hausaufgaben Nr. 6
6. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Mo, 25. Sept.	Thema 3 & Adjektive	V: LS Nr. 7 Hausaufgaben Nr. 7
Mi, 27. Sept.	Schreibaktivität Nr. 1 (2. Fassung)	V: LS Nr. 8 Hausaufgaben Nr. 8
Fr, 29. Sept.	Examen: Einheit 1 (Kapitel 9)	

UNIT 2 GOALS (Eine Reise)

By the end of this unit, you will be able to

- carry a brief conversation in a travel agency or related setting
- convey events in the past in the written form
- compare and contrast phenomena in the present and past tense

7. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Mo, 2. Okt.	Thema 1: Ich möchte verreisen	V: LS Nr. 9 Hausaufgaben Nr. 9
Mi, 4. Okt.	Thema 1 & Komperativ	V: LS Nr. 10 Hausaufgaben Nr. 10
Fr, 6. Okt.	Kein Unterricht! Konferenzreise! German Studies Association	V: LS Nr. 11 Hausaufgaben Nr. 11
8. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Mo, 9. Okt.	Quiz Nr. 2 Thema 2: Im Reisebüro	V: LS Nr. 12 Hausaufgaben Nr. 12
Mi, 11. Okt.	Thema 2 & Komperativ/Superlativ	V: LS Nr. 13 Hausaufgaben Nr. 13
Fr, 13. Okt.	Mündliche Zwischenprüfung	V: LS Nr. 14 Hausaufgaben Nr. 14
9. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Mo, 16. Okt.	Schreibaktivität Nr. 2 (1. Fassung) Thema 3: Eine Fahrkarte, bitte!	V: LS Nr. 15 Hausaufgaben Nr. 15
Mi, 18. Okt.	Schreibaktivität Nr. 2 (2. Fassung) Thema 3 & Perfekt	V: LS Nr. 16 Hausaufgaben Nr. 16
Fr, 20. Okt.	Examen: Einheit 2 (Kapitel 10)	

UNIT 3 GOALS (Migration in Deutschland)

By the end of this unit, you will be able to

- deconstruct a longer written text on your own
- communicate about aspects of the future
- build longer, more complex sentences using subordinate clauses

10. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Mo, 23. Okt.	<i>Neben mir ist noch Platz</i>	NMINF Vokabelliste LS Nr. 17 Hausaufgaben Nr. 17
Mi, 25. Okt.	<i>Neben mir ist noch Platz</i>	NMINF Vokabelliste LS Nr. 18 Hausaufgaben Nr. 18
Fr, 27. Okt.	<i>Neben mir ist noch Platz</i> Quiz Nr. 3	NMINF Vokabelliste LS Nr. 19 Hausaufgaben Nr. 19

11. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Mo, 30. Okt.	<i>Neben mir ist noch Platz</i>	NMINF Vokabelliste LS Nr. 20 Hausaufgaben Nr. 20
Mi, 1. Nov.	<i>Neben mir ist noch Platz</i>	NMINF Vokabelliste LS Nr. 21 Hausaufgaben Nr. 21
Fr, 3. Nov.	<i>Neben mir ist noch Platz</i>	NMINF Vokabelliste LS Nr. 22 Hausaufgaben Nr. 22
12. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Mo, 7. Nov.	Schreibaktivität Nr. 3 (1. Fassung)	NMINF Vokabelliste LS Nr. 23 Hausaufgaben Nr. 23
Mi, 9. Nov.	Schreibaktivität Nr. 3 (2. Fassung)	NMINF Vokabelliste LS Nr. 24 Hausaufgaben Nr. 24
Fr, 11. Nov.	Examen: Einheit 3 (<i>Neben mir ist noch Platz</i> & Kapitel 11)	

UNIT 4 GOALS (Rassismus in Deutschland)

By the end of this unit, you will be able to

- communicate complex sentences using compounds/collocations
- use the subjunctive in polite and counterfactual sentences
- deconstruct a German short film

13. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Mo, 13. Nov.	<i>Schwarzfahrer</i>	S Vokabelliste LS Nr. 25 Hausaufgaben Nr. 25
Mi, 15. Nov.	<i>Schwarzfahrer</i>	S Vokabelliste LS Nr. 26 Hausaufgaben Nr. 26
Fr, 17. Nov.	Kein Unterricht! Konferenzreise. ACTFL	
14. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Mo, 20. Nov.	<i>Schwarzfahrer</i>	S Vokabelliste LS Nr. 27 Hausaufgaben Nr. 27
Mi, 22. Nov.	Erntedankfest: kein Unterricht!	
Fr, 24. Nov.	Erntedankfest: kein Unterricht!	
15. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Mo, 27. Nov.	<i>Schwarzfahrer</i>	S Vokabelliste LS Nr. 28 Hausaufgaben Nr. 28
Mi, 29. Nov.	<i>Schwarzfahrer</i> Quiz Nr. 4	S Vokabelliste LS Nr. 29 Hausaufgaben Nr. 29
Fr, 1. Dez.	<i>Schwarzfahrer</i>	

16. Woche

Mündliche Abschlussprüfung