



Image: Iconic scene from Fritz Lang's *M*, during which the masses find out about a child murderer terrorizing Berlin.

**GERM 3368.01: German Media**  
**Sam Houston State University**  
**Department of World Languages and Cultures**  
**CRN 82694**

Fall 2017 | 3 Credits

Instructor: Dr. Ervin Malakaj (he/him pronouns)  
 T | TR 9:30-10:50 (AB IV 205)  
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### Course Description & Goals

German Media has two main goals: 1. To give students a comprehensive overview of modern German media cultures 2. To help students improve their German speaking and listening skills with a particular focus on written German. We will explore German media cultures by watching and discussing TV series, reading newspapers, reading short stories and poems, and exploring German blog cultures, among other media.

Students successful in this course should be able to reach the **Intermediate Low-Mid Proficiency Level defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Proficiency Guidelines**.<sup>1</sup> The language of instruction will be German. English will be used sporadically to address challenging questions. In order to be properly enrolled in this course, you must have received a C or higher in GERM 2312 or have received permission of the instructor to enroll.

<sup>1</sup> 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>.

**Course Requirements/Grade Distribution**

Attendance & Participation	25%
Homework	25%
Spoken Exams	15%
Group Project	10%
Writing Assignments	20%
Quizzes	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);
D+ (68-69);	D (63-67);	D- (60-62);
D+ (68-69);	D (63-67);	D- (60-62);
F (below 60)		

**Required Texts/Materials**

- 1) *Berliner Platz 2: Deutsch im Alltag*, by Christiane Lemcke, Lutz Rohrmann, and Theo Scherling. München: Klett-Langenscheidt, 2013. ISBN: 978-3-12-606040-0
- 2) A standard German dictionary of your choice. I recommend *Webster's New World German Dictionary*, 1992; ISBN-13: 9780139536212
- 3) A small notebook in which you can record vocabulary (successful students have also used flashcards in addition to this notebook).

**Course Format**

We will cover various themes in five units. You will use our BlackBoard site to access additional language resources. 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 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 3 units per week equal 4.5 hours of additional study and review time outside of class. You will be responsible for all the material on this syllabus.

**Language Learning**

Learning German is a lot of fun! You will learn German in pieces that will be essential for your comprehension and retention of subsequent material. You should maintain the acquired vocabulary, grammar, and culture points so that you can expand your knowledge by building on it throughout the semester. 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 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 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).

**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 absence 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 10 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 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 in the beginning and will continue making them! You should make mistakes!!** While you should certainly strive for accuracy, it is more important that you continue practicing German as much as you can. Do all you can to just speak up in German!

### **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 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 below. No late assignments will be accepted unless you receive permission from me.

### **Midterm & Final Spoken Exams**

There will be two spoken examinations in this class. One will take place midterm 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.

### **Group Project**

At the end of the last unit for the course, you will participate in a group project, which engages the topic of the course in one way or another. You can prepare a skit or record a video, in either case, you have to showcase your linguistic skills. More information about this project will be available as the deadlines approach.

### **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 receive 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, . . . ." In German, you can say "Lieber/Sehr geehrter Dr. Malakaj . . . ." and you can close with "Mit freundlichen Grüßen, . . . ."

### **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. Likewise, if you employ the use of online and other translation tools to complete work, 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](http://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 German Media! Viel Spaß!***

### **Semesterplan<sup>2</sup>**

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.

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

## UNIT 1 GOALS (Thema: Einführung & Widerstand)

By the end of this unit, you will

- Be able to summarize short authentic texts in German on a variety of topics

1. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Do., 24. Aug.	Einführung	Stelle dich vor in einem Video
2. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Di., 29. Aug.	Das steht dir Gut: Arbeit mit dem Lehrbuch	Aktivität Nr. 1 & 4 S. 152-53
Do., 31. Aug.	Arbeit mit Gedichten: Kurt Tucholsky „Rosen auf den Weg gestreut“ (1931)	Arbeitsblatt Nr. 1
3. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Di., 5. Sept.	Das steht dir Gut: Arbeit mit dem Lehrbuch	Aktivität Nr. 5 & 6.1&6.2 S. 154
Do., 7. Sept.	Arbeit mit Kurzgeschichten: Clara Viebig „Die Zigarrenarbeiterin“ (1897)	Arbeitsblatt Nr. 2
4. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Di., 12. Sept.	Das steht dir Gut: Arbeit mit dem Lehrbuch	Aktivität Nr. 8 .1-8.3 S. 156-57
Do., 14. Sept.	<b>Quiz Nr. 1</b> Arbeit mit Pop-Musik: Leila Akinyi „Wer hat Angst vor der schwarzen Frau“ (2016); Sabrina Setlur/Xavier Naidoo „Freisein“ (1999); Trude Herr „Ich will keine Schokolade“ (1965)	Arbeitsblatt Nr. 3
5. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Di., 19. Sept.	Das steht dir Gut: Arbeit mit dem Lehrbuch	Aktivität Nr. 8.4-8.5 S. 157
Do., 21. Sept.	<b>Schreibaktivität Nr. 1</b> Arbeit mit Zeitungen: Tagesartikel aus der <i>Süddeutschen Zeitung</i>	Arbeitsblatt Nr. 4

## UNIT 2 GOALS (Thema: Familie & Kriminalität)

By the end of this unit, you will

- Be able to describe complex visual material using familiar vocabulary and language structures in German

6. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Di., 26. Sept.	Feste, Freunde, Familie: Arbeit mit dem Lehrbuch	Aktivität Nr.1 & 2 S. 158
Do., 28. Sept.	Arbeit mit TV Serien: <i>Tatort</i>	Arbeitsblatt Nr.5
7. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Di., 3. Okt.	Feste, Freunde, Familie: Arbeit mit dem Lehrbuch	Aktivität Nr.4.1-4.3 S. 160-61
Do., 5. Okt.	<b>Kein Unterricht! Konferenzreise.</b>	
8. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Di., 10. Okt.	Feste, Freunde, Familie: Arbeit mit dem Lehrbuch	Aktivität Nr. 7 S. 162
	<b>Quiz Nr. 2</b>	
Do., 12. Okt.	<b>Mündliche Zwischenprüfung</b>	Arbeitsblatt Nr.6

## UNIT 3 GOALS (Thema: Ausenseiter und Xenophobie)

By the end of this unit, you will

- Be able to articulate an opinion about complex visual and narrative texts using familiar vocabulary and language structures in German

9. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Di., 17. Okt.	Miteinander leben: Arbeit mit dem Text	Aktivität Nr.1.1-1.2 S. 164
Do., 19. Okt.	Arbeit mit Graphic Novels: <i>Die Hoodies</i>	Arbeitsblatt Nr. 7
10. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Di., 24. Okt.	Miteinander leben: Arbeit mit dem Text	Aktivität Nr.3 S. 165-66
Do., 26. Okt.	Arbeit mit Graphic Novels: <i>Die Hoodies</i>	Arbeitsblatt Nr. 8
11. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Di., 31. Okt.	Miteinander leben: Arbeit mit dem Text	Aktivität Nr. 4.1-4.3 S. 166
Do., 2. Nov.	<b>Quiz Nr. 3</b> <b>Schreibaktivität Nr. 2</b>	

#### UNIT 4 GOALS (Thema: Heimat)

By the end of this unit, you will

- Be able to describe the complex cultural phenomenon, Heimat, using concrete cultural texts as examples

12. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Di., 7. Nov.	Wohnen: Arbeit mit dem Lehrbuch	Aktivität Nr. 1.1-1.3 S. 180
Do., 9. Nov.	Arbeit mit einem Film:	Arbeitsblatt Nr. 9
13. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Di., 14. Nov.	Wohnen: Arbeit mit dem Lehrbuch	Aktivität Nr. 2.1-2.2 S. 181
Do., 16. Nov.	<b>Kein Unterricht! Konferenzreise!</b>	
14. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Di., 21. Nov.	Wohnen: Arbeit mit dem Lehrbuch <b>Quiz Nr. 4</b>	Aktivität Nr. 3 S. 182
Do., 22. Nov.	<b>Kein Unterricht! Erntedankfest.</b>	
15. Woche	Tagesthema	Hausaufgaben für nächste Sitzung
Di., 28. Nov.	Wohnen: Arbeit mit dem Lehrbuch <b>Gruppenprojekte</b>	Aktivität Nr. 5.1-5.2 S. 184
Do., 30. Nov.	<b>Gruppenprojekte</b>	

Mündliche Abschlussprüfung in der 16. Woche.