Murray State University
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Syllabus: German 323

I. TITLE: GER 323: German Culture and Civilization from the Beginnings to World War II

II. TEXT AND REFERENCES:
b) a dictionary.

III. CATALOG DESCRIPTION: A survey of the contribution of German-speaking people to world culture in art, music, science, education, philosophy, and religion. Taught in German.

IV. PURPOSE: This course presents a survey of the historical background of the German-speaking countries of Europe: The Federal Republic of Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

V. COURSE OBJECTIVES By the end of the semester, students should
-- know major historical and cultural events and trends that shape the German-speaking countries
-- expand German vocabulary and grammar skills through reading and writing activities
-- develop the critical thinking skills of deduction and inference in order to extract meaning from texts and verbal discourse at a more advanced level
- - increase understanding about culture and about what shapes identities
- - improve interpersonal communication skills, whether in English or German.
For education certification students: this course addresses content topics found in the PRAXIS examination GER 0181.

VI. CONTENT OUTLINE: In this semester, we will discuss material from chapters 1-13 in the textbook. This course addresses the following Kentucky Core Content: SS-E/M/H 2.1.1 through 2.2.1.

VII. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES: Classroom exercises will be based on the textbook and internet resources. Emphasis is placed on your ability to use the German language to explore events, causes, values, and ideas presented in the assigned material.

For your homework assignments, please get a booklet and/or three ring binder (you need to keep loose leaf paper in good order) and write all exercises in full sentences. You will receive credit for your homework if it is both, complete and on time. I will take it up regularly. Also, please maintain a study list for new vocabulary.

If you missed a class, you need to prepare all the homework for the day you missed and the day you return, so that you do not miss too much. Please exchange phone numbers with 2-3 students so you can find out about the assignments. I encourage you to create a study group. Daily practice is the key to success in a foreign language. Expect that you will spend about 2 hours preparing for every class period. In doing so, please review the material we covered the previous class, and read and study the assigned exercises carefully.

Der Aufsatz (composition) should reflect your best effort in using your language skills. I will mark errors in the text and will return your first draft for you to revise it. The quality of both the original and the revision will contribute to the final Aufsatz grade. Please write your Aufsätze double-spaced. 1 point off per class day late.

You need to participate in and write a report on one approved cultural experience (min. 300 words. One paragraph, approx 100 words in German, the rest in English). This report needs to include a description of the activity and a personal reflection and opinion upon the meaning or value of the event.
VIII. RESOURCES: You need to go and watch the German film and are encouraged to attend other foreign films shown at the Curris Center by Cinema International. You are also invited to join the Foreign Language Club and participate in other cultural activities that may be planned from time to time.

IX. ATTENDANCE POLICY: Verbal interaction in German is most beneficial for any language course. Therefore, attendance is mandatory and will generate points. Up to two absences are allowed. Beyond those, participation points will be deducted. If you miss one fourth of the class meetings (more than 7), you will not pass this course. I encourage you to come to my office hour to determine just how you are doing. I am here to help you as much as I can.

X. GRADING PROCEDURES: In German 323 the course grade will be comprised of:

- 400 pts./40%  2 Exams (200 pts. each)
- 200 pts./20%  Homework (100 pts.); attendance/ participation (100 pts.)
- 80 pts./8%  2 Compositions (Aufsätzte)
- 100 pts./10% 5 Quizzes
- 20 pts./2%  Report on one approved cultural experiences (=culture credit)
- 50 pts./5%  1 Oral presentation
- 150 pts./15%  Final / Proficiency Exam
- 1000 pts/100%

You can **not make-up a quiz or an exam** except in an extreme case and only at the instructor’s discretion; should you encounter an emergency you need to arrange an alternative date in advance. Your final course grade will be calculated as follows: 90% and above: A; 80ies%: B; 70ies%: C; 60ies%: D; 59% and below: E.

XI. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:

1. It is the responsibility of every student to be informed about the collegiate Academic Integrity Policy. Cheating in whatever form constitutes academic dishonesty.
2. Copies of the policy are available in: CIV workbooks, Classroom bulletin boards, Department of Modern Language office, Dean’s office of Humanities & Fine Arts, and on the Home page of the College of Humanities & Fine Arts.
3. Your signature on every assignment, quiz and exam represents your pledge to adhere to this policy.
4. I expect students to abide by the highest ethical standards.

XII. PREREQUISITES: German 301 or placement test equivalent. Exceptions require the permission of the instructor.

XIII. CHALLENGE CREDIT: If you plan to use your completion of this course with an "A" or "B" to challenge credit for earlier language courses, you must have taken the placement exam, and you should fill out the paperwork early next semester. **The paperwork must be done while you are registered at MSU.**
German Newspapers online:
www.faz.de  German (= Aktuelle) and English edition = good national paper
www.google.com search: “vorarlberger nachrichten” = Zeitung aus Bregenz
www.donau.de/mz = “mittelbayrische Zeitung” = Zeitung aus Regensburg

German TV news online: www.tagesschau.de and www.deutschewelle.de

Korrekturzeichen / correction marks
Here are the letters I use to show an error in the following areas:

A  Article (der, die, das/ ein, eine; einen)
E  Endung/Ending is wrong; it may also be a wrong case.
K  Kasus/ case. You need to use the word in a different case.
POS Possessive [Eng.: my, your, his, her, etc.; Ger.: mein(__), dein(__), Ihr(__), sein(__), ihr(__), etc.]
PN Pronoun (ich, du, er, sie [she], es, wir, ihr, Sie [You], sie [they])
PL Plural form! Check it!
PR Preposition
Sp Spelling error; capitalization error
T Tempus/Tense
Vb Verb (need a verb, check conjugation of the verb, change verbs; there is a problem with the verb)
WS Wortstellung=word order or “word switch.”
WW Wortwahl =Wrong Word
^ Insert something here
? unklar / unclear, what do you mean?