Murray State University
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES
GERMAN 331

I. **TITLE:** GERMAN 331 Advanced Language Practice: A Trip to Vienna

II. **TEXT AND REFERENCES:**
- A **GOOD** German-English dictionary!

III. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** A specialized study contrasting German and English grammatical structures and usage.

IV. & V. **PURPOSE and COURSE OBJECTIVES:** To systematically study German grammatical structures in detail and to master them through thorough oral and written practice.

VI. **CONTENT OUTLINE:** The course is centered around the textbook, and extra materials may be distributed at the discretion of the instructor. Grammatical explanations and exercises from the text will be assigned as homework. The student will be expected to be able to discuss the material and to practice the assigned exercises in class on the day they are due. Exercises will be both written and oral.

We will use as our central theme *a Trip to Vienna*: students will engage in extensive role-play and creative exercises to use the grammatical features that we cover during the course.

VII. **INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:** Students will choose identities for the scenarios within the central theme. Dialogues and role plays will be both assigned and spontaneous as students improvise a series of encounters. While doing this, we will support our linguistic activities through written work and readings, as well as research on the Internet.

Since this is conceived to be a thoroughly integrated course to teach language structures within a German-speaking cultural context, we will also be researching the culture of Vienna.

Each week, oral and written activities will be assigned to assist our work in elaborating our concept of the trip to Vienna: the setting, the participants, the hotel personnel, and all the interactions that take place between these characters. There will be an ongoing series of role-plays to encourage active use of vocabulary and structures. To aid in gaining greater grammatical control of structures for the role-plays, students will write out weekly grammar exercises from the textbook.

Students are expected to read assigned sections of the text and to prepare homework assignments before class. Please prepare your homework before class and in the most complete form possible. You will earn credit for your homework if it is complete and on time. Late assignments cannot be accepted except by prior arrangement.

Since one of the most effective ways of learning a language is to teach it, each student will also be responsible for formal and thorough presentations of grammatical features to the class.

In the second half of the course, we will travel back in history to Fin-de-siècle Vienna and look at the array of famous people living there then. Students will research and choose one, and they will assume the identity of that person during the “Flashback.” Students will have a culminating course project, consisting in part of a written and oral report on their character.

Exams will cover grammatical structures and cultural questions.

VIII. **FIELD and CLINICAL EXPERIENCES:** Again, since one of the best ways to learn is to teach, tutoring students in first or second year German may be one of the most effective components of your learning process. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to volunteer to tutor German grammar during the course of the semester to German 101 and 201 students. Both of you will benefit.

IX. **RESOURCES:** You are expected to make full use of the textbook, dictionaries, grammar and vocabulary books you may have, the Internet, as well as practicing with a study partner. However, your work must be your own work. If you experience difficulties, please let me help you.

Students will need to attend any of the German cultural events during the course of the semester: German films, Oktoberfest, etc.
X. **GRADING PROCEDURES:**

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<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Exam(s)</td>
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<td>100</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Homework, Oral work</td>
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<td>50</td>
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<td>Grammar Presentation(s)</td>
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<td>200</td>
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<td>Quizzes, Written Assignments</td>
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<td>200</td>
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<td>Cultural Project (written and oral work)</td>
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<td>250</td>
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<td>Final</td>
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There will be no makeups of quizzes or exams unless in extreme cases and then only at the instructor’s discretion; if consent is given, the make-up must be arranged in advance of the regularly scheduled exam.

XI. **ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Classroom time provides one of the best opportunities for exposure to German language. Therefore, you are expected to attend all class meetings. A valid written excuse is necessary to excuse an absence. Unexcused absences will affect your grade. Furthermore, if you miss one fourth of the class meetings for any reason (excused or unexcused), you will not pass this course.

If you must be late or absent, you need to find out and do the homework assignment before the next class period and to come to my office to get any handouts. **Note:** I urge you to meet and confer with me regularly to determine just how you are doing. I am here to help you as much as I can.

XII. **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 student guide, Classroom bulletin boards, Department of Modern Language Office, Dean of Humanities & Fine Arts Office, and College of Humanities & Fine Arts Home Page.
3. Your signature on every assignment, quiz, and exam represents a pledge that you adhere to this policy.
4. I expect students to abide by the highest ethical standards.

XIII. **PREREQUISITES:** GER 202/GER 203 or consent of instructor.

Media aus Wien:
http://www.medawien.at/links/zeital.htm

**German Newspapers online:**
- [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) search: “vorarlberger nachrichten” = Zeitung aus Bregenz
- [www.faz.de](http://www.faz.de) German (= Aktuelle) and English edition = good national paper
- [www.donau.de](http://www.donau.de) = “mittelbayrische Zeitung” = Zeitung aus Regensburg

**German TV news online:**
- [www.tagesschau.de](http://www.tagesschau.de)
- [www.heute.de](http://www.heute.de)
- [www.deutschewelle.de](http://www.deutschewelle.de)

**Other useful web resources**
- [http://dict.leo.org/](http://dict.leo.org/) - online dictionary
- [www.spiegel.de](http://www.spiegel.de) - weekly German magazine online
- [www.focus.de](http://www.focus.de) - weekly German magazine online
- [www.google.at](http://www.google.at) - Austrian Google
- [www.google.de](http://www.google.de) - German Google
- [www.yahoo.de](http://www.yahoo.de) - German Yahoo site
- [www.web.de](http://www.web.de) - like Yahoo

**Error correction:** Here are the symbols I use to show an error in the following areas:
A Article (der, die, das/ ein, eine; einen)
D DELETE THIS
E Endung/Ending is wrong; it may also be a wrong case.
P Punctuation
PL Plural form! Check it!
POS Possessive [Eng.: my, your, his, her, etc.; Ger.: mein(__), dein(__), Ihr(__), sein(__), ihr(__), etc.]
PR Preposition
PN Pronoun (ich, du, er, sie [she], es, wir, ihr, Sie [You], sie [they])
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.” The word or phrase should be in a different place in the sentence.
WW Wortwahl/=Wrong Word. You need to choose a different word.
A Insert something here (I usually try to give you a hint of what kind of a thing to insert)
? Unklar: I am not sure what you mean
✓ Good job, either grammar or content
! Interessant!