



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

GERM 500.1

Topics in Advanced Communication and Projects in German (German Explorations)

Winter 2021

TR 14:00 – 15:15, Web-based

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Peter Peltekov

OFFICE HOURS: W 14:00 – 15:00 or by appointment (Zoom: <https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/2078509719>)

E-MAIL: pnpeltek@ucalgary.ca (I will respond to e-mails within 48 hours)

DESCRIPTION This course is designed to expand and refine students' overall linguistic and intercultural competence and corresponds to B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference. Students will increase their overall proficiency and review key grammatical features as well as integrate theory and practice through different class projects.

Prerequisites: German 413 or 415 or consent of the Department

OBJECTIVES Students will:

- explore in depth one advanced communication topic related to the use of German (e.g., non-standard varieties, register, use of gender-neutral language, relationship between language use and culture) and present their findings in German.
- enhance their metalinguistic awareness and reflect on different language learning strategies.
- practice all 4 language skills (e.g., listening, speaking, reading, and writing) in activities embedded in a rich cultural context.
- expand vocabulary through comprehensible input and class discussions.
- improve pronunciation and comprehensibility through feedback based on individual needs.
- consolidate and extend knowledge of basic grammar structures as well as focus on advanced grammar topics that are only marginally treated in lower-level courses.

OUTCOMES By the end of the course students will be able to interact in German with greater ease and confidence. They will be able to communicate on a wider range of topics, comprehend and summarize more complex texts, present their viewpoints, and engage in analytical discussions.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

1. Dreyer, H., & Schmitt, R. (2012). *Lehr- und Übungsbuch der deutschen Grammatik – aktuell* (2nd ed.). Ismaning, Germany: Hueber Verlag.
(This book is available for purchase as a PDF file from the publisher [<https://shop.hueber.de/en/e-lb-u-b-dt-gramm-akt-pdf.html>]. Hard copies are also available but may not arrive on time.)
2. Bermann, D. (2008) *Der, die, was? Ein Amerikaner im Sprachlabyrinth* (3rd ed.). Reinbek bei Hamburg, Germany: Rowohlt Taschenbuch Verlag.
(Temporary online access to this book is provided by the TFDL library. An E-Book version of the book can be also purchased online [e.g., from Amazon.ca])
3. Achilles, I., & Pighin, G. (2008). *Vernäht und zugeflickt! Von Versprechern, Flühen, Dialekten & Co.* Mannheim, Germany: Dudenverlag.
(A PDF file of this book will be available on D2L along with other secondary materials.)



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Technology requirements. As per University requirements for Web-based sections, students need to have reliable access to technology, as follows:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser supporting *Zoom*;
- Webcam/Camera (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or a headset with microphone
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Stable internet connection

RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS

- Wermke, M., Kunkel-Razum, K., & Scholze-Stubenrecht, W. (2015). *Deutsch als Fremdsprache: Standardwörterbuch* (3rd ed.). Berlin, Germany: Dudenverlag.

COURSE NOTES

- All class sessions will be synchronous, via *Zoom* (The link and passcode will be shared on D2L). Students are expected to attend and participate in all synchronous sessions. Participation means actively contributing to class sessions. Video connection is not required (as per university policies), but students are strongly encouraged to keep their cameras on throughout each session in order to maintain a more natural classroom environment and to facilitate interactions and group dynamics.
- During synchronous sessions, students are expected to deactivate background distractions, social media and other programs not in use for the session and to focus attention on the Zoom meeting.
- Synchronous Zoom meetings will not be recorded.
- Detailed course information, including course schedule, assignment instructions, and various learning resources will be posted on D2L. Asynchronous discussions (see *Assessment* below) will also take place on D2L. Therefore, students are expected to visit D2L on a regular basis.
- Assignments must be uploaded to the designated D2L folders (electronic submission of assignments by email will not be accepted unless there are technical issues with D2L).
- Tests will be administered online through D2L. Students will have a 24-hour window to access a given test. Each test will require no more than an hour to be completed, but there will be an additional time extension of 50% of the test duration (e.g., there will be 90 minutes of total time for a 60-minute test) to allow for any technology issues that may arise.
- Students are encouraged not to wait until the last moment to submit assignments, and to contact the course instructor in case of technical issues. Missed tests and late assignments will receive a grade of F.
- Written assignments allow the use of dictionaries, but the use of online translators as well as assistance from others is strictly prohibited. Any suspected violation of this rule will be considered a case of plagiarism and will lead to severe penalties (See notes on academic misconduct below).
- Course evaluations this semester will take place through D2L.

ASSESSMENT

Distribution of Grades:

- Class Participation	20%
- Asynchronous Engagement	10%
- Tests (3)	30%
- Multimodal Presentation	10%
- Peer Feedback	5%
- Final Paper	25%



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Brief Description of the Assessment Components:

Class participation. Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to participate. This means they should have completed all assigned readings and/or homework activities before the beginning of class. Each week there will be a different discussion group leader, who will present the main points of the assigned readings and will prepare questions for discussion. All students are expected to contribute to the class discussions.

Asynchronous engagement. Students will contribute to the D2L Discussion forums (i.e., *Grammatik*, *Wortschatz*, *Aussprache*, and *Kultur*) on a weekly basis. Each student is expected to ask at least one question and answer at least two peer questions per week in a discussion forum of their choice.

Tests. There will be 3 tests focussed primarily on tracking students' progress in writing and grammar. The use of textbooks and class notes during these tests is strongly discouraged, as it may affect the usefulness of this assessment tool. The use of online translators is prohibited and may lead to penalties.

Multimodal presentation. In the second half of the semester, students will prepare a multimodal presentation (including sound, images, etc.) of the project they are working on. Topics will generally be inspired by the assigned readings and classroom discussions, but other topics students are interested in may also be accepted after consultation with the course instructor. Students may present incomplete (e.g., ongoing) projects, but they need to describe and reflect on the topics they have chosen to explore.

Peer feedback. Students will provide constructive feedback on their peers' projects. This feedback will be formulated based on a number of different criteria and it will be anonymous. Authors will be able to use it in order to complete and/or make improvements to their final projects, if necessary.

Final paper. This will be a written presentation of the students' final projects. They will write an essay or a research article in German related to the topic they will have explored throughout the semester.

More details about each assignment (including due dates, specific expectations, and marking rubrics) will be available in D2L. All assignments will contribute to successfully passing the course.

GRADING SCALE

A+ = 100-97%	A = 96-91%	A- = 90-86%
B+ = 85-81%	B = 80-76%	B- = 75-71%
C+ = 70-67%	C = 66-62%	C- = 61-58%
D+ = 57-54%	D = 53-50%	F = 49% and below

INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT

All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

Academic misconduct

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:
 - a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
 - b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
 - c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
 - d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."



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Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>.)

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

Have a question, but not sure where to start?



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The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Links to information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.