

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2017-2018 Germ 303 A1: Advanced German I**  
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Ute-Brigitte Blunck  
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Time: MWF 12-12:50  
Place: Arts 550  
Office Hours: Tues 11-12 W 1-2  
*or by appointment*

**Note:**

Students will be required to sign up for a *fourth hour of instruction* per week. Details will be given during first week of classes.

**Course Prerequisite:**

This course is open to students with German 212 or its equivalents. Students who have an academic background that extends beyond German 30 (Saturday school, summer school, or solid performance IB) and/or a strong native or immersion background that involves some work in learning writing skills and grammatical structures **must** schedule an interview with the instructor. This is mandatory to ensure correct placement. Not open to students who have successfully completed Sprachdiplom I. Students considered **overqualified** will be **re-assigned** to an alternate class.

**Course-based Ethics Approval** in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes       No, not needed, no such projects approved.

**Community Service Learning** component

Required     Optional     None

**Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available**

- Exam registry – Students' Union  
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (please specify)
- NA

**Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)**

Yes     No

**Course Description and Objectives:**

German 303 is a 3rd year language course that focuses on improving skills in communicating in correct, academic-level German, with emphasis on all four skills plus cultural awareness. Instruction centers on developing oral and written vocabulary within the context of historical, literary and cultural issues in the German-speaking countries. Selected grammatical structures will be reviewed with the purpose of fine-tuning grammatical, stylistic and idiomatic usage of German. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to summarize texts, analyze short stories, prepare oral presentations, participate in debates, defend and justify their opinions and draft and revise their own writing.

### **Texts:**

*Required:* Anders gedacht, Motyl-Mudretzkyj/Späinghaus, Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, *third edition*

*Recommended:* Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik: Wiederholen und anwenden, Rankin/Wells (**any edition**)  
\* for reference only—**OPTIONAL**\*

Students should also have access to a good, comprehensive **German dictionary**. The Collins is recommended; Langenscheidt, Pons, and others are also excellent choices.

### **Grade Distribution:**

Class attendance, participation and preparation	10%
“4 <sup>th</sup> Hour” (attendance, preparation and participation, assignments)	15%
Homework (assigned regularly throughout term)	10%
2 Writing Assignments (450 – 500 words, due Oct 3, Nov 4)	20%
In-Class writing assignment (to take place near end of term)	5%
Chapter Tests (announced in class, <b>tentative</b> dates: Sept. 25; Oct 16; Nov 6; Nov 29)	20%
Personal project (details discussed in class)	
Choose ONE of	
• Group presentation (Dec 1-4)	
• Essay (750 words, due Dec 1)	
• Translation (German to English 1000-1200 words, due Dec 1)	10%
Oral Exam (Topics will be announced--sign-up sheet posted early November)	10%

### **Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

- **Class attendance, participation and preparation** is essential in this course. Your mark for this component will be based on attendance and the effort made to contribute to class by adequate preparation of assignments assigned for oral work – a component upon which extensive unexcused absence will, of course, have a negative impact. Students are expected to attend regularly and be prepared to interact in German in a variety of situations.  
Students are encouraged to communicate with other students (or with the instructor by email or in office hours) to keep up with missed classes. Do not expect your instructor to go over material in class again because you were absent.  
Participation will be evaluated several times during the semester. If you are not in class, you cannot participate. Please be aware that unexcused absences will negatively impact this portion of your grade.
- You will be asked to sign up for a regular “4<sup>th</sup>” **hour** session. These are smaller groups, designed to facilitate discussion and conversation. Once you sign up for a time slot, you must attend the **same session every week**.
- **Homework** is assigned regularly and may be in the form of reading or viewing to prepare for discussion or written tasks. Assignments submitted *after* the remainder of the class has had their marked assignments returned will be *assigned a mark of 0* and be *marked for feedback only*.
- You will be given a choice of topics for **Writing Assignments**. Length requirement is 450-500 words. Please type and double space these and staple the marking rubric to the front of your assignment. More info in class.
- **Quizzes** are varied in length and always announced in class. Material covered includes grammar structures, vocabulary and topics covered in the chapter and in class discussions.
- The **Personal Project** gives you the option to try **one** of three types of assignments:
  - The **Group presentation** should cover a topic linked to those covered throughout the term. If you wish to choose a different topic, it must be approved first. Groups should be no larger than three persons. The presentation should include visual aids, and be between 10-15 minutes in length. Rubrics and further information will be distributed later in the term.
  - The **Essay** will be on a short story. You will analyze themes, language, structure, etc. Further info and rubric will be provided later in the term.

- The **Translation** is from German to English. If you choose this assignment, I will choose a text for you, based on your interest. Texts must be approved.
- Each student is required to complete an **Oral Exam** with me. These will take place in my office and consist of an exchange of ideas and opinions between us. You will be given topics and/or readings to choose from.

**Required Notes:**

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.”

**Academic Integrity:**

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at [www.governance.ualberta.ca](http://www.governance.ualberta.ca)) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

**Learning and Working Environment:**

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

**Academic Honesty:**

**All students** should consult the information provided by the [Student Conduct & Accountability Office](#) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the [Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](#) and [Information for Students](#)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

**Students involved in language** courses and **translation** courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” **Students in languages courses** should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

**Recording of Lectures:**

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

### ***Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:***

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

***In this course, GERMAN 303***, you are expected to attend class, be prepared to interact in German in a variety of situations, keep up with the material, complete and hand in assigned homework, and take exams and quizzes. ***There are no make-up assignments.***

When a student misses any term work (e.g., classes, 4<sup>th</sup> Hour, assignments, quizzes, written assignments, reports, etc.) without acceptable excuse, ***a final grade will be computed using a raw score of zero for the term work missed.*** Instructor’s discretion prevails with respect to acceptability of excuse.

### ***Policy for Late Assignments:***

Students who *consult in advance* with the instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the *discretion of the instructor*, be granted an extension. Otherwise, late assignments will have a **5%-per-class-day penalty** assessed for each *calendar day* of lateness.

Any assignments submitted after the remainder of the class has had their marked assignments returned will be ***assigned a mark of 0*** and be ***marked for feedback only.***

In cases of potentially excusable absences (emergency conditions, incapacitating mental and/or physical illness, severe domestic affliction, legitimate University-related business, or for circumstances as described in the University's Discrimination, Harassment and Duty to Accommodate Policy), students may apply for an excused absence for missed term work (such as quizzes, presentations, or exams) to receive the opportunity to make-up the missed term work. Please note:

- For an absence to be considered excused, instructors will request adequate documentation to substantiate the reason for the absence (i.e. in the form of a “Medical Declaration Form for Students” (<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/arts/-/media/arts/student-services/documents/medicaldeclarationformforstudents.pdf>)).
- Providing any kind of document(s) does not imply an automatic approval; it will be at the discretion of the instructor to accept or decline a document and/or grant the student’s request for an excused absence.
- A student must inform the instructor ***within two working days*** following the term work which was missed, or as soon as the student is able, with regard to the circumstances underlying the absence.
- For missed exams or term work, ***no extension will be given after this deadline has elapsed and a grade of ZERO will be assigned.***
- For an excused absence where the cause is religious belief, a student must contact the instructor(s) within two weeks of the start of Fall or Winter classes; and within three days of the start of Spring or Summer classes.

### ***Student Accessibility Services:***

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with [Student Accessibility Services](#), contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email [sasrec@ualberta.ca](mailto:sasrec@ualberta.ca); Email; phone 780-492-3381).

**Grading:**

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

**"MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale"**

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
<b>Excellent.</b> A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	<b>A+</b>	4.0	<b>97-100</b>
	<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	<b>A-</b>	3.7	<b>90-92</b>
<b>Good.</b> B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	<b>B+</b>	3.3	<b>87-89</b>
	<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>83-86</b>
	<b>B-</b>	2.7	<b>80-82</b>
<b>Satisfactory.</b> C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	<b>C+</b>	2.3	<b>77-79</b>
	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	<b>C-</b>	1.7	<b>70-72</b>
<b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>60-64</b>
<b>Failure.</b>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>