Knox College – Department of Modern Languages

GERM 103: Elementary German 3

Instructor: Dr. Brandy E. Wilcox, she/her/hers (they is ok!) **Email:** bewilcox@knox.edu
Office: Old Knox Jail 26, ext. 7157
Drop-In Hours: TBD

Meeting times and location

Time: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 2:40-3:50pm **Room:** GDH 201a

Red Room Tutors: Lauren Wittry (lmwittry@knox.edu) and Priscilla Lagunas (plagunas@knox.edu)
Tutoring Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7-9pm (and by appointment)

Course Description, Objectives, and Learning Outcomes

Willkommen! German 103 continues your introduction to the German language and German-speaking cultures, developing basic communication skills in the language. To do so, we will use German as much as possible because this is the most effective way to learn a language. Therefore, the course places a strong emphasis on the development of your communicative ability in the four skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing, as well as cultural literacy. Over the course of the trimester, we will learn new grammar structures, build our vocabulary, discuss new cultural topics, and read longer texts.

This course follows a blended-learning model, a combination of in-class, face-to-face instruction and interaction, and online self-paced, individual learning. Alongside our class meetings five times a week, you will complete the online lessons independently, on your own time. I will help you learn how to navigate these online lessons and advise on when these need to be completed.

Learning outcomes:
By the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- continue building essential grammar structures
- build your German vocabulary
- interact with others about familiar topics
- understand somewhat longer oral and written texts
- write both informative and creative texts (dialogues, descriptions, short narratives)
- recognize and describe some cultural aspects of the German-speaking countries

Learning a language is a complex, long-term, and rewarding process. It requires your active engagement through regular attendance, participation, and effort, as well as continual review and practice in and out of class. As an active learner, this course asks you to hear, respond to, read, and speak a lot of German. It is also important for you to explore the ways in which you learn best and to find opportunities for outside practice according to your interests. The strategies you develop for dealing with spoken and written language are as important to communication and language acquisition as is your knowledge of the language itself. Your consistent personal involvement both in and out of class will be essential to your success.

Course Prerequisite and Placement

This is the third level of the elementary German courses. It is intended for students who have successfully completed GERM 102 or who have tested into the class. If you have any questions about your placement, please consult with me or Dr. Todd Heidt (theidt@knox.edu). Native speakers may not enroll in this course.

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course. For questions about higher level German courses or the German program, please contact Dr. Heidt.

Required Texts and Materials

- Open Educational Resource (i.e. free!) e-textbook: *Willkommen: Deutsch für alle* (available here: https://openeducationalberta.ca/willkommen-deutsch/)
- Open Educational Resource (i.e. free!) e-textbook: *Willkommen: Deutsch für all*
    - available here
- ***Neue Reise, neue Abenteuer***
    - available to buy here if you haven't already ordered it
- ***Nachbar Nr. 5***
    - available to buy here
- ***Verschwunden in Neuschwanstein***
    - available to buy here
- Google Classroom
    - Classroom is Google's equivalent of Moodle. This will be a repository for important class documents (like this syllabus) and other assignments. You must sign up for Classroom using this code: mfymrnx
    - When the e-textbook says to submit something on "eClass," we'll be using Classroom to submit the assignment instead. I will give specific instructions on the assignment in class and on the PowerPoint slides.
- Moodle
    - We will just be using this as a platform for the at-home quizzes that accompany the e-textbook. When the end of a section directs you to take a quiz, go to the corresponding Moodle quiz and *not* the link in the e-textbook.
- Handouts will be provided in class and/or on Google Classroom
- Recommended: **Use the Oxford German-English Dictionary accessible via the library's website**! In a pinch, I like to use dict.cc (and there is an app you can download on your phone)

Electronic devices are playing an ever-larger role in our everyday lives and changing the way we learn (and the way I teach). **For class time, in general, I ask that cell phones or other devices be put away when they are not being used in an intentional way for classwork.** I want you to speak and listen with the people around you while working with our texts.

Cell phones, iPods, tablet PCs and all personal electronics are not to be brought with you to exams. This is a college-wide policy.

Regarding Academic Integrity, Plagiarism and Cheating:

Please read the Knox Honor Code: http://www.knox.edu/academics/honor-code.html

A few items of guidance and advice:
1) Copying work from online translation engines or from an answer key is an attempt to receive credit for work that you did not create. This is precisely the definition of plagiarism and a clear violation of academic honesty. If you find yourself reaching for these tools because you have run out of time, don't understand the material, or for any other reason, please reach out to me instead and we can work together to get you caught up.

2) While seeking the advice of native or expert speakers seems helpful, this sort of help often becomes simply providing answers, which is also a form of "cheating" and therefore has dire consequences. When working on an assignment or project to be turned in, **you should not seek help from anyone except your instructor or the Red Room tutor.**

Most importantly: Neither of these will help you actually learn the language. Cutting corners on homework assignments designed to prepare you for upcoming papers, tests, and presentations will actually *decrease* your grades for these (much more important) assignments. If I am convinced that a student has handed in work that they could not possibly produce without outside assistance I feel obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Honor Board. Before this unpleasantness occurs, please discuss this matter with any tutor(s) and with me. No cell phones or digital devices of any kind during exams!

Policies on Grading, Attendance, and Required Work

Evaluation of your performance in this course will take several forms. This evaluation system reflects the different components of language learning and your ability to participate in several types of language-related activities. You are expected to **come to class every day,** be prepared to interact in German in a variety of situations, keep up with the assigned material, complete and hand in homework, take daily quizzes, and prepare for oral and written assessments. Things to keep in mind:

1) Class time is precious and in short supply
2) The primary language of communication during class will be German
3) Mistakes are a natural part of language learning
4) You are responsible and ultimately accountable for your own learning. Do your homework, participate in class, and seek help from your instructor/tutor when needed

I understand that it can be difficult to open up when you're working in a foreign language! I encourage you to analyze how you can best show that you are participating and putting effort into our meetings, remain communicative with me, and reflect on the work you put in.

Components of Course Grade

Participation/attendance	30%
Quizzes and Daily Homework	20%
Tasks & writing assignments	15%
Films and readings	15%
Oral assessments	10%
Written final assessment	10%

Participation/Attendance 30%:

Active in-class participation is crucial for learning a language. For German 103, this means we will meet five times weekly. In-class participation includes not only evidence of individual preparation, attention, and punctuality, but also interacting with me and your classmates and contributing to group work. **You are expected to communicate with your classmates in German during class time–this counts for both activities and free conversation.**

You are expected to attend class daily and punctually. All absences – regardless of how well motivated – have a negative effect on your ability to get the most out of the course, but you may miss 5 class periods before your overall grade is affected. **After the 5th absence, the overall grade for the term will be lowered by two percentage points per excessive absence. Three tardies (or missing a significant part of a class period) count as one absence.** For example, a student with a 83% total grade who misses 7 classes will end the term with a 79%. There are no 'excused' absences–each absence counts toward your 5 freebies. Absences due to documented athletic and academic reasons will be given the opportunity to make up the time missed in class by visiting the tutors, provided you inform me **before** the absence occurs.

Attendance is reflected in the attendance/participation grade you receive – if you do not attend, you cannot participate. For example: if you miss 40% of the class meetings during the first three weeks, you cannot get a participation grade higher than 60%. You simply weren't present to participate at all 40% of the time and cannot receive points for that. For serious illnesses and emergencies, please email Dean Crawford (mcrawfor@knox.edu) to document the issue, both for my class and for your other professors.

Quizzes and daily preparation 20% (not eligible for extensions):

After each online lesson for Einheit 8 and Einheit 9 you need to complete a quiz on Moodle. The quizzes are designed to assess a variety of skills which are practiced during the course of study, including listening comprehension, reading comprehension, vocabulary, grammar structures, writing, and cultural information. All quizzes are due by Sunday night of the week we cover those sections (see the Trimesterplan for the schedule).

There will sometimes be additional homework assignments for practicing concepts or preparing for the upcoming lesson. These

Tasks and other writing assignments 15%:

Each unit in the e-textbook involves the completion of a task, which may consist of oral presentations and/or written assignments. Specific information about each task is provided in the e-textbook as well as on Google

Classroom where you submit those tasks. There will also be writing assignments for each of the three books we read together for class.

Films and Readings 15%:

We will be watching two films and reading three short books (one of which is incorporated into the e-textbook). In addition to viewing the films and reading the assigned chapters, respectively, you are responsible for any accompanying assignments.

Oral Assessments 10%:

The oral exams are designed to assess your communicative abilities in German. They are either structured as brief, natural exchanges between two people -or- will be conducted individually, and I will ask you questions that relate to the topics we have recently covered. I will give you material for preparing in advance, but the goal is to utilize the skills we have learned so far to have an authentic conversation.

Written Final Assessment 20%:

The written final assessment will primarily assess your understanding of the text *Verloren in Neuschwanstein*. It will also incorporate grammar and cultural topics from previous units. This will take place during the last day of class, so there is no test during the finals period.

Extension Request Form:

The extension request form is an easy, click-and-go form for you to inform me that you need (up to 3 days of) an extension for your larger assignments. Any extension up to three days is automatically granted provided you submit it before the initial assignment due date. Beyond three days, please submit the request and talk to me within the first three days.
Extensions cannot be granted for daily quizzes on Moodle. Extensions requested after the due date has passed will not be granted.
https://forms.gle/1vnbgB2MGSCx4tYi8

Red Room Tutor

The Red Room Tutor for German does:

- provide support and extra help in the evenings in the Red Room.
- undergo training from CTL and Modern Languages to provide tutoring guided by research, the goals for the class, and best practices.
- provide support for you even when you are so confused that you don't know exactly what to ask.

The Red Room tutor for German does not:

- know the content of tests or other assessments, nor do they assign any grades for this course.
- get paid to be available 24 hours a day

If you cannot make Red Room tutoring hours and you cannot come to my drop-in hours, I understand. Please contact me to arrange for another time when we can meet.

Useful Expressions for the German Classroom

Ich habe eine Frage.	I have a question.		
Ich verstehe das nicht.	I don't understand that.	Wiederholen Sie, bitte.	Repeat, please.
Langsam, bitte!	Slowly, please!	Lesen Sie, bitte.	Read, please.
Noch einmal, bitte.	Once again, please.	Schreiben Sie, bitte.	Write, please.
Entschuldigung, …	Excuse me, …	Bitte öffnen Sie Ihre Bücher.	Please open your books.
Was ist das?	What is that?	Hören Sie bitte zu!	Listen, please!
Wie sagt man … auf Deutsch?	How do you say … in German?	Wie schreibt man das?	How do you spell that?

Disabilities and accommodations

All students are welcome in this class, and I wish to fully include everybody. Students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodations upon request. If you have a learning or other disability—or if you suspect that you have a disability—you should contact Stephanie Grimes (sgrimes@knox.edu). Federal law requires that your privacy in this matter be protected. If you qualify for services through the Office of Disability Support Services, please note that it is your responsibility to work with the office and to provide written documentation supporting this need.

It is the instructor's responsibility to make the course as accessible as possible for all students. You are encouraged to do whatever you need to make the class environment a place where you can engage successfully, including bringing food and/or drink, moving around, using assistive technology and/or fidget devices, etc. Please talk to me as soon as you can about your individual learning needs and how this course can best accommodate them; I welcome any information that you feel is pertinent for me to know about your participation in class. Students do not require documentation from the Office of Disability Support Services to **request** accommodations, nor are they required to disclose any diagnoses or other personal information when making a request. All accommodation requests are confidential.

Diversity and Inclusion

This course addresses diverse communities and seeks to be inclusive of all cultures, ethnicities, religions, disabilities, races, genders, sexualities, and classes. You are expected to behave respectfully at all times in class discussion by listening attentively, acknowledging that differences of opinion are not judgements on each other, and being sensitive in your own responses. Hate speech will not be tolerated.

Pronoun Usage:

In this course, we respect the pronouns of our fellow students, colleagues, and classmates. German is a very gendered language, and gender-neutral pronouns are being built from the bottom up (you need 28 forms for a new pronoun!). Good job for reading this far: You will get a prize if you send a picture of your *Lieblingstier* to me before class on Monday.

There are many options for gender-neutral pronouns in German, and if you'd like to use a different gender-neutral pronoun than what we discuss in class, we will work together to find what is right for you. Please email me or come to drop-in hours so we can talk about it!

Stay in touch!

Please feel free to contact me at any time with any questions, comments, or concerns. You can do this through email (bewilcox@knox.edu), by messaging me on Google Chat if I am available, or by attending my Drop-In Hours. I will check all of these means regularly, although if you want a quick reply, my drop-in hours and directly before/after class will guarantee it. That said, please know that it may take me several hours to respond to email, depending on my own workload. I aim to respond by the end of the next business day (ie: if you email/message on Friday at 2pm, you should plan to hear back by Monday at 5pm).

And most importantly: ***viel Spaß!*** [Have fun!] Language learning is *fun* in addition to the myriad other great things it can do for you.