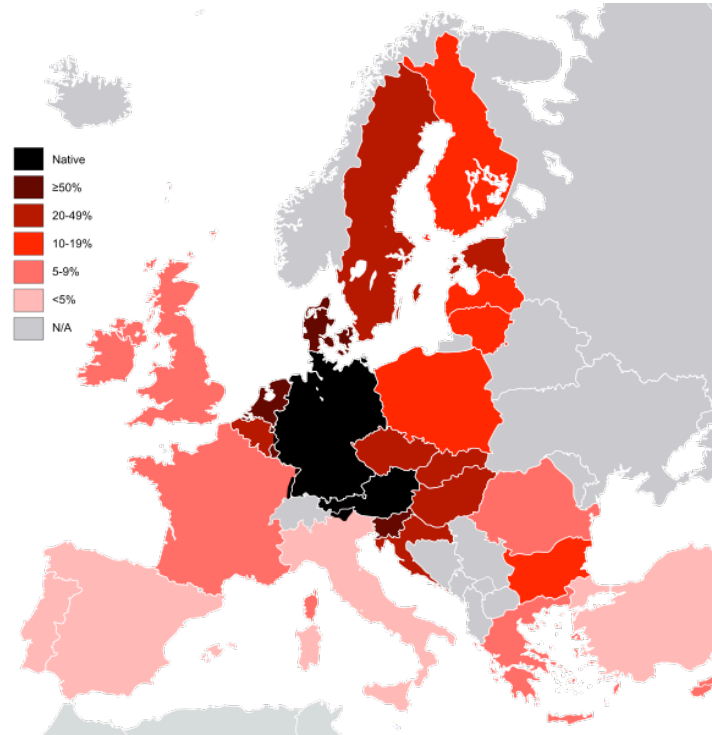


German 3314

Topics in German Culture and Composition: German Media on the Web UT Arlington Department of Modern Languages



[German language skills of European Union citizens](#) plus [Croatia](#), [Turkey](#) and some [Microstates](#).
(German is spoken in some of the gray areas, but they are not marked, because they are not members of the EU. Switzerland, for example, has a huge German-speaking population.)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Knowledge_of_German_EU_map.svg

Instructor of Record: Lana Rings, Ph.D.

Office Hours: Mondays and Fridays, 1:00 – 2:00 and by appointment

Office: Hammond Hall 327, Phone: 817/272-3161, Email: rings@uta.edu

Class meeting places and times: 01 Trimble Hall, MoWeFr, 9:00 – 9:50

Credit Hours: 3. Prerequisites: German 2314 or equivalent, with a grade of C or better

Required Materials: Access to the internet

Course Description: Blogs, news, youtube, pictures, personal, professional, business, advertising, non-profit, academic, scholarly, and governmental websites, and social media sites like Facebook and Twitter are ubiquitous on the web. The German-speaking countries, Austria, Germany, and Switzerland, have their fair share. You will be exploring them, not only to learn about these people and their ideas, and to have something about which to write, but also to understand in more detail than ever before how the web works.

Course Objectives: Students will deepen their understanding of German history, culture, and language, as well as explore the world of German film.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Content: Students will demonstrate knowledge of twenty-first-century Austrian, German, and Swiss. Students will describe contemporary issues, beliefs, and values in those cultures.

Skills: Students will demonstrate academically appropriate writings skills in German. Students will respond orally to questions about texts by stating what they have read/viewed, reacting to them, comparing them with what they know, describing the point of view of the other, and displaying creative work. On blogs: Students will also demonstrate skill in connective writing, by responding to an idea or set of ideas, synthesizing ideas and remixing them to make them their own, and write with the expectation that what they write will be read by others. Students will describe or define what they have read/viewed, be able to state what is important, and show both sides of an issue. Students will gather and evaluate materials on a topic, prepare a discussion of the topic's cultural contexts and its role in cultural struggles and debates. Students will write comments, seek clarification, and discuss interesting items on their peers' blogs. Students will also demonstrate appropriate netiquette.

Method of Evaluation:

The course grade will be based on

15%: ongoing blog responses, due every Monday by class time

*65%: 6 writings (10% each) and 1 creative project (5%) and one re-write

10%: other homework, unannounced quizzes, projects, reports, teaching others, etc.

5%: participation

5%: effort

*Writings:

January 27, 2012: Descriptive writing: biography

February 10, 2012: Descriptive writing, with reflection

February 17, 2012: Expository, comparison and contrast writing, with reflection

March 9, 2012: Expository, comparison and contrast writing, with reflection

March 26, 2012: Expository, comparison and contrast writing, with reflection

April 13, 2012: Expository, demonstrating complexity, with reflection

April 30, 2012: Re-write of essay with lowest score, to bring up grade

Finals Week: Creative written/visual presentation.

Grade Scale: A=100-90; B=89-80; C=79-70; D=69-60; F=59-0

Methods of Presentation: The instructor may use mini-lectures, discussions of various kinds, group/individual in-class oral or written work, group/individual projects, Internet projects, music or videos.

Make-up Exams: Make-up exams are given only in the case of emergencies and require documentation. Any other considerations will be made on a case-by-case basis. When possible, please notify me in advance of absences on scheduled exam dates.

Attendance: Regular classroom attendance is expected of all students. All classes and exams are based upon that assumption. You are responsible for acquiring class notes if you have to miss. On an average, regular class attendance raises the grade performance by seven percentage points. In addition, borderline grades are adjusted based on class participation and performance. Students are allowed three "free" absences to use for emergencies. For every subsequent absence, .5 will be deducted from a student's final grade.

Tutoring: Tutoring for students studying the German language is available, at no or little cost, through Student Support Services. For information contact Student Support Services at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/current/academic-support/ss/index.php> or <http://www.uta.edu/soar/> or 817/272-2617. **IF YOU ARE A STUDENT WITH ADVANCED GERMAN PROFICIENCY, YOU MAY WISH TO BECOME A TUTOR. CONTACT STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES.**

Disruptive Behavior: Disruptive behavior which keeps other students from learning will not be tolerated. Students who engage in such behavior will be cautioned first, then more drastic measures will be taken. Disruptive behavior includes texting and non-class related internet use, working on work other than the topics at hand, working on homework from the class before, impolite behavior, the use of obscene language, etc.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final exams is designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final exams. During this week, no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any exams constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except make-up tests, and no instructor shall give any portion of the final exam.

Language Lab: The Language Acquisition Center (LAC), located on the third floor of Trimble Hall, offers audio, video and computer services. Your instructor will guide you in your use of the "Lab" and its holdings. LAB HOURS: Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The German Language Society (German Club): The German Language Society is open for membership to all students interested in the German language and culture who wish to meet with others of similar interests. Activities include meetings, *Kaffeeklatsch*, outings and parties. Meeting times will be announced in class.

Library: Jody Bailey is the Foreign Languages Librarian. She can be reached in the Main Library, Room No.: 312, at 817-272-7516 and 817-897-4753, and by email at jbailey@uta.edu. Furthermore, you will find some useful research information at: <http://www.uta.edu/library/research/rt-foreign.html>

Withdrawals: Please note that the last day to withdraw from class with a "W" is March 30, 2012. Be aware that after this date you will receive an academic grade in the course. Initiating the drop procedure is the student's responsibility. If you have any questions about withdrawals, please see me after class.

Achieving Academic Success: The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. They include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

Americans With Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 93112--The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As an instructor, I am required by law to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. It is the student's responsibility to inform faculty at the beginning of the semester and to provide authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.

Academic Integrity: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3.2, Subdivision 3.22)

Schedule slightly subject to change

Important due dates:

January 27, 2012: Descriptive writing: biography

February 10, 2012: Descriptive writing, with Reflection

February 17, 2012: Expository, comparison and contrast writing, with Reflection

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April 30, 2012: Re-write of essay with lowest score, to bring up grade

Finals Week: Creative written/visual presentation.

Blog posts: Due every Monday by class time.

Pop Quizzes: unannounced