

GM300: German for Reading Knowledge

Fall 2019

Mo/Wed: 14:00 – 15:30

Seminar Location: P98A-U-Seminar Room 4

Dr. Ulrike Wagner

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Office hours in P98A U.05: Wednesday: 11 – 12:30 and by appointment

Required Texts

- Jannach/Korb: *German for Reading Knowledge*, fifth edition (Boston: Heinle, 2004), ISBN 10: 1413003702 ISBN 13: 9781413003703
IMPORTANT: We are using this older edition because all other editions are extremely expensive. Please order a used copy of this book as fast as possible since there is only a limited number of used copies available online.
- A good German – English dictionary
Detailed suggestions for selecting the German-English dictionary that meets your needs best can be found in Appendix C of *German for Reading Knowledge*, or click http://www.columbia.edu/itc/german/korb/1113/client_edit/dictionary.html for abbreviated tips on picking a dictionary.

Course Description, Methods and Goals

This course is designed for students who wish to acquire **German reading skills for research and study purposes**. Focused on grammar topics and applied translation, texts read in class are chosen from a variety of genres and disciplines. Students completing this course will have the necessary foundation for reading and translating written texts from German into English. No previous knowledge of German is assumed.

The course is taught in English, **focused on reading knowledge of the language only**, and not on developing oral or written competencies. The course is built on the traditional grammar-translation method: grammar explanations try to make each step of the linguistic puzzle of the German language more transparent and accessible. Examples are used throughout the basic units of information to reinforce explanations.

Moreover, students will read texts not only to translate but also to make **reasonable guesses** based on context and reading comprehension skills. In the process, we seek to expand the meaning of "reading proficiency" beyond a form of grammar-translation "accelerated reading" which has come to be associated with successful completion of a German reading course. The course moves students **beyond word-for-word translation** to acquisition of reading skills needed by all readers and researchers. These skills include:

- brainstorming (making lists and framing your thoughts regarding what you already know about a topic in your native language, and then in German),
- skimming (gleaning information from presentation, titles, pictures, graphs, and the primary vocabulary),
- scanning (locating specifics—if, in fact, there are any),
- rejecting materials unimportant to your research,
- investigating (checking out facts and references made in the article), and
- interpreting.

Vocabulary lists and readings in history, philosophy, art history, music, and political thought round out the primary materials.

Course Requirements

This course will move quickly through the grammar explanations, in order to devote as much time as possible to reading and discussing texts in class, explaining homework, and practicing reading strategies. Therefore, students will be allowed no more than two absences during the semester. Repeated lateness also counts as an absence.

Each additional absence will lower your final grade by half a point (i.e. if your final grade is a B, and you have missed three classes or been late repeatedly you will be downgraded to a B-).

- Six absences and more will result in automatic failure of the course.
- In order to pass the course, you have to pass the final exam.
- If you have any **medical issues** or other concerns that could impact your compliance with these regulations, you need to inform your instructor during the first week of the semester. For information on disability accommodation, you should consult with Brian Gallagher, Head of Student Life: b.gallagher@berlin.bard.edu
The process for applying for disability accommodation is explained in the Student Handbook with links to the forms here: <http://www.berlin.bard.edu/for-students/student-handbook/policies-and-regulations/#c4206>

Grade Breakdown

Class Participation	20%
Chapter Tests / Quizzes	30%
Homework	20%
Final Exam	30%

LEARNING AND TESTING

You will regularly take **tests and quizzes of the “Kapitel” you have studied** (the exact test date will be announced by me in advance).

The tests must be taken on the announced test days. Tests that are missed will not be rescheduled, and will receive a score of “0%”

Also visit the **free companion website** that contains all the text readings plus comprehension questions and activities (with answer key) at <http://german.heinle.com>

Please be punctual and considerate. Switch off your cell phones before each class (including the vibration setting). If you are texting, emailing, surfing the web – you are considered absent! Also, please keep bathroom breaks to a minimum. Interruptions are bad for everybody’s concentration and impolite.

SYLLABUS

This syllabus is subject to change.

You are responsible throughout the semester for knowing what you have to do for each class.

Week 1 – Sept 2 – 4	Introduction Kapitel 1
Week 2 – Sept 9 – 11	Kapitel 2 + 3
Week 3 – Sept 16 – 18	Kapitel 4
Week 4 – Sept 23 – 25	Kapitel 4 + 5
Week 5 – Sept 30 – Oct 2	Kapitel 6
Week 6 – Oct 7 – 9	Kapitel 6 + 7
Week 7 – Oct 14 – 16	No classes
Week 8 – Oct 21 – 23	Kapitel 8 + 9
Fall Break	
Week 9 – Nov 4 – 6	Kapitel 10
Week 10 – Nov 11 – 13	Kapitel 11
Week 11 – Nov 18 – 20	Kapitel 12
Week 12 – Nov 25 – 27	Kapitel 13
Week 13 – Dec 2 – 4	Kapitel 14
Week 14 – Dec 9 – 11	Kapitel 15
Week 15 – Dec 16	Final Exam