

# GERM 217 : German Language 2A

School of Asian & European Languages & Cultures

**Trimester 1 2008**

**22 Points**

## STAFF

Dr Margaret Sutherland (Course Co-ordinator) Room vZ 615	463-5975
Ms Anke Szczepanski KP 22, Room 209	463-7497
Ms Dorit Hahn KP 22, Room 207	463-7441

All teachers are happy to discuss students' problems with them at any time, or to provide additional information about the course. Such information is regularly given in class announcements or posted on the notice board of the German Programme (Level 6 of the von Zedlitz Building) and on Blackboard.

German staff have no specially designated office hours, but students may make an appointment with the German Administrator, if the staff member they wish to see is unavailable for consultation at any time.

## CLASS TIMES AND ROOMS

### Lectures

either	Mon 12.00 – 12.50pm	vZ 506	Dr Sutherland
or	Mon 2.10 – 3.00pm	vZ 506	“
or	Mon 3.10 – 4.00pm	vZ 506	“

### Language Tutorial 1

either	Wed 12.00 – 12.50pm	vZ 506	Ms Szczepanski
or	Wed 2.10 – 3.00pm	vZ 506	“
or	Wed 3.10 – 4.00pm	vZ 506	“

### Language Tutorial 2

either	Thu 12.00 – 12.50pm	vZ 506	Ms Szczepanski
or	Thu 2.10 – 3.00pm	vZ 506	“
or	Thu 3.10 – 4.00pm	vZ 506	“

### Audio-Visual Class

either	Fri 11.00 – 11.50	vZ 011 or 003	Ms Hahn
or	Fri 12.00 – 12.50	vZ 011 or 003	“
or	Fri 3.10 – 4.00	vZ 011 or 003	“

**As our classroom in the LLC varies from week to week, please check on the LLC notice boards.**

## COURSE CONTENT

GERM 217 is a First Trimester course of four hours per week, involving one lecture, two language tutorials and an audio-visual class.

## COURSE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

GERM 217 presupposes some knowledge of German, usually three years of school German, a pass in UE or UB/NCEA Level 3 German, or a pass in GERM 102, or GERM 104. Students who have completed GERM 217 and 218 may proceed to GERM 315 and 316 and/or to GERM 320 and 321.

GERM 217 is based on a varied approach. The four language classes are devoted to the development of different but complementary skills and aim to enable students to consolidate the language skills they have already acquired. The Lecture concentrates on revision of the most significant grammar points, the two Tutorials concentrate on the development of reading and aural-oral comprehension and practise strategies for language learning and language use. The Audio-visual class is devoted chiefly to the fostering of aural and oral skills by means of discussion texts on a variety of themes as well as cassettes, videos and computer programmes.

Students who pass the course should

- have a good grasp of basic German grammar
- have a good knowledge of German vocabulary pertaining to a number of different word fields
- have an understanding of different styles of German.

## TEXTS

The set texts are: Leonhard Thoma, *Die Blaumacherin* (Hueber) and a reference grammar: Christine Stief and Christian Stang, *German Grammar in a Nutshell*.

Students also need to purchase *Jede Menge Spaß mit der Grammatik*. This is available from the Students Notes Shop, Student Union Building.

Students should also possess a good dictionary (e.g. *Collins German Dictionary*).

## ESTIMATED WORKLOAD

In addition to the four class hours, eleven additional hours per week. This will naturally vary according to the knowledge of German with which the student comes to the course.

This course has an 80% attendance requirement.

## ASSESSMENT

GERM 217 is **internally assessed**. Assessment is by:

1. Two in-term language tests, to be held on: **Thursday – 3 April, Thursday – 22 May**.....  
50%
2. There are three written assignments, due on: **17 March, 7 April, 12 May**. There are two further assignments, one based on the marks accrued from a short weekly reading task and the other on the marks accrued from a short weekly vocabulary acquisition exercise.. .....  
.....30%
3. End-of-Semester oral examination (10 minutes).....20%

## THE TESTS

Attendance at the two tests is essential. If a student is prevented from attending through exceptional circumstances such as accident, illness or bereavement, an explanation *must* be made, if possible in writing, *prior to the test*. In case of illness, a medical certificate is required. A student absent from a test without prior notification will receive a zero mark for that test.

Each test will presume acquaintance with all the material studied prior to that test, i.e. the material covered in all four weekly classes and any written assignments done.

## THE ASSIGNMENTS

In addition to the two tests, there are 5 assignments based on questions regarding texts in *Die Blaumacherin*, on weekly vocabulary acquisition exercises, on texts contained in *Jede Menge Spaß mit der Grammatik* and on the grammar and other aspects of German covered in class. The types of assignments set may include translations into English or German, writing of German sentences and/or grammar exercises. To gain maximum marks students must complete all 5 assignments. Failure to hand in an assignment results in a zero mark for that assignment. It is up to students unable to attend a particular class for any reason to find out from someone else what the homework is and the date it is to be submitted by. In special circumstances such as illness or bereavement, an extension may be granted, but only after consultation with the teacher concerned. There will occasionally be assignments done in class (e.g. dictations), but students will be given prior warning about these.

**Dictionaries and grammars may be used in completing the assignments, but since these count towards the final grade (30%) students must otherwise complete them unaided. Any sign that this is not so will be investigated.**

All assignments must include a cover sheet available from SAELC Reception or Blackboard. Assignments are to be handed in to the German assignment box located to the left of the SAELC Reception area on Level 6 of von Zedlitz.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

*The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.*

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

*Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.*

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## FINAL ORAL EXAM

This is 10 minutes in length, and teachers suggest a topic on which students may speak and/or may read a passage. They will then be asked questions in German. The exam is designed to test the student's fluency, grammatical correctness and use of vocabulary in oral German.

The University marking system by letter grade is as follows:

A+ 85 -100%

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A	80 - 84%
A-	75 - 79%
B+	70 - 74%
B	65 - 69%
B-	60 - 64%
C+	55 - 59%
C	50 - 54%
D	40 - 49% (fail)
E	0 - 39% (fail)

### MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The minimum course requirements which must be satisfied in order to pass the course are: attendance at a **minimum of 80 %** of classes in **each** of the **four sections** of the course, and satisfactory completion of the tests, written assignments, and oral examination, as stipulated on p. 3 and 4. Unless notified to the contrary, students may assume they have been awarded Terms, i.e. have met the mandatory course requirements.

### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AND STUDENT EVALUATIONS

In the second week of lectures, staff will facilitate the election of a class representative. Student reps are a valuable means of communication between teaching staff and students. Each trimester student reps of SAELC courses will meet together with the Head of School. At the end of the course students may be asked to fill out questionnaires prepared by the University's Teaching and Development Centre in order to evaluate individual lecturers' performance and/or the course as a whole.

### GENERAL ADVICE

We want to do our best to make your study of German both profitable and enjoyable. However we can only to a limited extent *teach* you German; more important is your ability and willingness to *learn*. Do take advantage of whatever opportunities occur outside class hours to practise your German: e.g. reading, German films, lectures at the Goethe Society or Goethe Institut, *Kaffeestunde*, the German choir, the student play production, conversations with Germans, and so on. Students are also strongly encouraged to use self-access materials provided by the Language Learning Centre (situated on Level 0 of the von Zedlitz Building), including several computer programmes, which deal with all aspects of German grammar.

The teachers in GERM 217 are very approachable and are here to *help* you. Do not feel shy about asking questions in or outside class if you have not understood something. Feel free to tell us what you find most (or least) interesting or useful in the course.

### GENERAL UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS, POLICIES AND STATUTES

A copy of the General University Requirements, Policies and Statutes can be found on Blackboard.

**The name of the School's Disability Liaison Person is:**

**Richard Millington**

**vZ 613**

**Telephone: 463-5976**

**Email: [richard.millington@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:richard.millington@vuw.ac.nz)**

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The name of the School's Maori and Pacific Students Liaison Person is:

Richard Millington

vZ 613

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### IMPORTANT DATES FOR GERM 217

<b>Week 1</b>	25 Feb – 2 March
<b>Week 2</b>	3 March – 9 March
<b>Week 3</b>	10 March – 16 March
<b>Week 4</b>	17 March – 23 March
ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE - 17 March, 4pm. There are no Friday classes because of the Easter break	
<b>Week 5</b>	24 March – 30 March
There are no Monday classes because of the Easter break	
<b>Week 6</b>	31 March – 6 April
TEST 1 – 3 April (during tutorial times)	
<b>Week 7</b>	7 April – 13 April
ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE – 7 April, 4pm	
<b>MID-TRIMESTER BREAK 14 – 27 April</b>	
<b>Week 8</b>	28 April – 4 May
<b>Week 9</b>	5 May – 11 May
<b>Week 10</b>	12 May – 18 May
ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE - 12 May, 4pm	
<b>Week 11</b>	19 May – 25 May
TEST 2 – 22 May (during tutorial times)	
<b>Week 12</b>	26 May – 1 June
ORAL EXAM (Dates and times to be confirmed)	