

GERM 401: Advanced Language Study

School of Asian & European Languages & Cultures

Trimester 1 + 2/3 - 2008

STAFF

Dr Richard Millington (Course Co-ordinator)	Room vZ 613	Tel. 463-5976
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CLASS TIMES AND ROOMS

GERM 401 is a full-year course of two hours per week.

In Trimester 1 classes will usually take place on Tuesdays in vZ 609 from 11.00 - 11.50 am and on Wednesdays in MY402 from 11.00 - 11.50 am. The class times for Trimester 2 will be agreed with students at the beginning of July. Students will be informed of any room changes in advance.

Dr Millington is happy to provide additional information about the course at any time, or to discuss students' concerns with them. German staff have no specially designated office hours, but students may make an appointment with the German Administrator at any time, if the staff member they wish to see is unavailable for consultation.

COURSE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the course is to improve students' written and oral proficiency in German at an advanced level. At the end of the course students should have a confident command of the German language and be able to translate to a reasonable professional standard.

SET TEXTS

There are no set texts for this course. While students are expected to contribute some suitable material, the lecturer will provide most of the texts for discussion, analysis and translation practice.

Advice will be given on useful dictionaries and reference grammars.

COURSE PROGRAMME

The course has two contact hours per week. The first class is concerned with the development of students' communicative skills in German and will take the form of a language tutorial, in which students are expected to participate actively through discussion and the presentation of class papers. The second class is concerned with the theory and practice of translation and will consist of the discussion of translation assignments, as well as lectures and/or seminar discussions.

TEACHING METHOD

Classes will be structured as tutorials in which all students are expected to participate actively, whether via seminar presentations or spontaneous discussion in response to reading and listening material. In addition, students are expected to complete regular assignments. At least 10 assignments must be completed before the end of the course. Most of these will be written assignments, but two will consist of seminar presentations made in class and there will also be a film assignment. Seminar presentations will also serve as practice for the final oral exam, which will have a similar format.

Materials will be taken from books, journals, newspapers and videos.

ESTIMATED WORKLOAD

The University considers that students doing a 4-paper BA (Hons) programme should expect to work for 12 hours weekly for each full-year paper. This includes class contact hours.

ASSESSMENT

Students are expected to complete eight compulsory written and film assignments, to be handed in according to this schedule:

- 21 March	- 10 July
- 10 April	- 31 July
- 1 May	- 14 August
- 22 May	- 4 September

The schedule for the two seminar presentations will be arranged in class. In addition to the ten obligatory assignments, students are invited to submit optional assignments. The type, number, frequency and length of the optional assignments is to be determined by the students themselves, according to the areas in which they wish to increase their proficiency. After assignments are returned to the student, the student may choose to make corrections or amendments to the assignment and submit it for remarking, in which case the better mark will apply for the final grade. Students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning; however, the teacher will provide guidance and information as requested.

No dates will be set for completion of optional assignments, or penalties imposed for non-completion. The best ten marks awarded for completed assignments, obligatory and optional, will count equally towards final assessment (4% each).

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.

GERM 401 is assessed by:

10 assignments 40%

Final 3-hour written examination**, in which students are required to answer three of four questions:

1. Translation German-English
2. Essay-type question on general topic
3. Reading comprehension
4. Essay-type question on translation topic 40%

**This is an open-book examination. Dictionaries are permitted in the examination room.

Final oral examination of 30 minutes

(to be held in the last week of trimester 2: 6 – 10 October) 20%

The final examination is subject to External Assessment by the German Department of another New Zealand university. Note also that at Honours level the arithmetical computation of marks is less important than the overall view of the teachers and examiners as to the student's abilities and performance. Students should read the statement to this effect on p. 57 of the *European Languages and European Studies Prospectus 2007*.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The minimum course requirements which must be satisfied in order to complete the course are: regular attendance (a minimum of 80% of each of the two classes) and satisfactory completion of the assignments and the examination. Unless notified to the contrary, students may assume they have met the mandatory course requirements.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

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 Institute, 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.

Remember too that the staff are here to help you. Do not feel shy about asking questions in class if you have not understood something. Feel free to tell us what you find most (or least) interesting or useful in the course.

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, at: www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html

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 UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

School of Asian & European Languages & Cultures
GERMAN PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE GERM 401

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

SCHOOL CONTACTS

Coordinator for Pacific & Maori students

Dr Richard Millington

Room vZ 613

Telephone 463-5976

Coordinator for students with disabilities

Dr Richard Millington Room vZ 613 Telephone 463-5976