

GERM 115 : Intermediate German

School of Languages & Cultures

Trimester 3 2008

18 Points

STAFF

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

GERM 115 is a Third Trimester course of six hours per week. It will be taught in two blocks of four weeks each, with 6 contact hours per week in three two-hour slots at the beginning and end of the trimester. Those blocks will be separated by a self-study period in which students prepare a portfolio of assignments, based on reading and listening to German materials.

FIRST MEETING

For **ALL GERM 115** students: Monday, 17 November 2008 at 12 noon, in vZ 506.
 At this meeting the course will be introduced and the timetable finalised.

CLASS TIMES AND ROOMS

Class times and rooms will be discussed with all students in the first meeting. The course will consist of two contact periods divided by a self-study period, dates as follows:

<i>Contact Period 1:</i>	17 Nov – 12 Dec 2008	→ 6 hrs/ week
<i>Self-study Period:</i>	13 Dec 2008 – 19 Jan 2009	→ NO contact hours
<i>Contact Period 2:</i>	20 Jan – 13 Feb 2009	→ 6 hrs/ week

Contact periods 1 & 2 will have six contact hours per week in three two-hour slots; at least one of these slots will take place in the computer class room in the Language Learning Centre (if the space is available).

There are no formal classes during the self-study period. Students are expected to complete assignments 2 and 3 at home.

COURSE CONTENT

GERM 115 is based on a varied approach. Classes include reading and listening comprehension exercises, writing and speaking, vocabulary building exercises and language games. In addition, students are expected to complete a portfolio of 5 assignments, 2 of which will have to be handed in, in the self-study period, and to work in the Language Learning Centre without supervision.

GERM 115 carries a fairly heavy workload: students are expected to supplement classroom learning with additional work on their own or in study groups (to be organised by the students themselves).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed primarily to meet the needs of students who have completed our beginners' courses, GERM 103 and GERM 104, and wish to continue to GERM 217 and GERM 218, the courses normally taken by students coming from school with Bursary (NCEA level 3) German. The course will acquaint students with language learning strategies, and provide them with intensive vocabulary building activities and practice in listening and speaking. The course will also enable such students to activate and extend their knowledge of German over the long summer break.

Students who pass the course should

- have consolidated their knowledge of basic German grammar
- have greatly increased their vocabulary base
- have become confident in conducting a conversation in German on everyday topics
- have become competent in reading standard German texts
- be able to produce standard texts in German

TEXTS

The set text for this course is a graded reader: *Der Hundetraum und andere Verwirrungen*, Leonhard Thoma (Hueber) available from Vicbooks.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

In addition to the six class hours, five to eight additional hours per week. This will naturally vary according to the prior knowledge of other foreign languages and the general language aptitude with which the student comes to the course.

ASSESSMENT

GERM 115 is internally assessed. Assessment is by: one portfolio (60%) consisting of 5 assignments; aural (listening) test (20%); oral (speaking) exam (20%).

a. Five assignments due 5 Dec, 19 Dec 2008, 16 Jan, 30 Jan, 13 Feb 2009	60%
b. Aural (listening) test in the last week of term	20%
c. 10-minute oral (speaking) exam on Friday, 13 February 2009	20%

a. Assignments for the portfolio

Assignment 1	Listening comprehension
Assignment 2	Film review & presentation
Assignment 3	Book review
Assignment 4	Vocabulary exercise PLUS weekly vocabulary tests
Assignment 5	Journals

Exact details and assignment sheets will be handed to students well in advance of the due date.

During the self-study period assignments must be submitted by email. Relevant parts of Assignments 1, 2, 3 and 4 can be resubmitted **once** to improve marks. The final resubmission date for these assignments is 13 February 2009 which is also the submission date for the whole portfolio, including all five assignments.

b. Aural (Listening) Test

The listening test will be 45 minutes and take place during class time. It will involve a listening comprehension exercise.

c. Oral Exam

The final oral exam will be 10 minutes long and consist of a short prepared speech and a conversation with a native German speaker.

SELF-STUDY PERIOD

The self-study period is an essential part of this course. During this time students are expected to work on Assignments 2, 3, 4 and 5, and complete Assignments 2 and 3. Vocabulary lists will also be provided each week, as well as *Denkanstöße* for the journal. These tasks are the minimum of study suggested for this period, mere guidelines for your personal self-study, and therefore must be supplemented by your own ideas, exercises etc.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The minimum course requirements which students must satisfy in order to pass the course are: regular attendance (a minimum of 80% at each of the three classes), completion of aural (listening) test and oral (speaking) exam, and the completion of ALL five assignments.

In special circumstances such as illness or bereavement an extension to the scheduled assignments may be granted, but only after consultation with the teacher concerned. Unless informed 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 SLC 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.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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 opposite room 604). Students should also check Blackboard regularly for class information. 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.

STUDENT PROBLEMS AND CONCERNS: GENERAL ADVICE

We are interested in students' opinions. Please let us know any suggestions for improving the course. Students will find all the staff approachable and should feel able to discuss with them any problems they may have.

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the lecturer concerned or, if you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of the School or the Associate Dean (Students) of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Class representatives are available to help you with this process.

STUDENT SUPPORT

The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person is:

Richard Millington (vZ 613)

Phone: 463-5976

E-mail: richard.millington@vuw.ac.nz

The School's contact Person for Maori and Pacific Students is:

Richard Millington (vZ 613)

Phone: 463-5976

E-mail: richard.millington@vuw.ac.nz

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, Goethe Institute, 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 von Zedlitz), including several computer programmes, which deal with all aspects of the German language.

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 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.