

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

GERMAN 3392G
LANGUAGE AND CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY: ADVANCED
Winter 2010



Instructor: Anne Lausch
Office: UC 156
Email: alauscha@uwo.ca
Phone: ext. 85134

Course Description:

This advanced conversation and composition course is concerned with social, political, and cultural trends of the German speaking countries. Discussions will center on contemporary German culture, and topics will include the formation of a new German identity as well as regional differences, the economy, the role of minorities in German society, education, films, music, travel, popular culture etc.. Texts from *Die Zeit*, *Spiegel*, and other newspapers and magazines available on the internet will be used as departure points for discussion and reading. **Classes are conducted in German.**

Course Aims:

- To provide students with a setting in which to practice their German speaking and writing skills on an advanced level.
- to provide insights into many facets of contemporary life and culture in Germany through extensive exposure to German media.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, students will be expected to

- participate with ease in class discussions,
- write about complex topics clearly and coherently,
- express themselves fluently, using appropriate vocabulary and syntax,
- understand and explain many current issues in Germany.

Structure of the Course:

Class discussions focus largely on articles in *Die Zeit* and *Spiegel*. These articles will be assigned by the instructor or selected by the participants and presented in class for discussion. Short essays (totaling approximately 2400 words) will be written every two to three weeks.

Course Requirements:

Four essays	40%
One in-class essay	10%
Presentations	30%
Participation	20%

Texts:

www.zeit.de

www.spiegel.de

and other German publications.

Prerequisite: The equivalent of a full German language course at the 2200 level or permission of the Department.

Please note: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites (or have special permission from your Dean to waive the prerequisite) and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. If you are not eligible for the course, you may be removed from it at any time, and it will be deleted from your record. In addition, you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions can not be appealed.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's **verbatim** or **paraphrased** text in one's own written work without immediate reference. Verbatim text must be surrounded by quotation marks or indented if it is longer than four lines. A reference must follow right after borrowed material (usually the author's name and page number). Without immediate reference to borrowed material, a list of sources at the end of a written assignment does not protect a writer against the possible charge of plagiarism. The University of Western Ontario uses a plagiarism-checking site called Turnitin.com.

Absenteeism

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

UWO's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

(<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>)

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading