

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES
WESTERN UNIVERSITY

GERMAN 2220B

GERMAN CONVERSATION

WINTER 2023

Professor Melitta Adamson
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M 10:30-12:30, W 10:30-11:30am

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Course description:

Practice speaking German through guided conversations, discussions, role plays and games. Learn how to make small talk, ask for and give advice, complain about something, ask someone a favour, explain things, respond to an invitation, give opinions etc. Improve your fluency while also learning about some current issues and cultural peculiarities of the German-speaking countries. Build your intercultural competence through systematic practice of many conversational situations.

Course objectives:

- To improve oral fluency through guided conversations and presentations in German
- To familiarize students with many aspects of contemporary life and some current issues in the German-speaking countries, using different sources, such as readings, websites, videos, music, etc.
- To expand students' vocabulary in a way that will benefit both general conversation and discussion of specific topics
- To provide a solid foundation for advanced courses in German as well as prepare students for exchange opportunities

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course successful students will:

- Speak with greater confidence and fluency in the target language
- Have a broader passive and active vocabulary
- Comprehend everyday spoken language
- Be able to deal with a variety of conversational situations and demonstrate an awareness of intercultural competence
- Improvise questions and answers in a discussion on a prepared topic
- Be able to give meaningful oral presentations using only a list of key words
- Have a broader cultural awareness and an understanding of some current issues relating to the German-speaking countries

Assessments:

Active participation in class	25%
Role plays and/or debates	10%
Vocabulary quizzes	20%
Presentations	20%
Oral assessment 1	10%
Oral assessment 2	15%

Participation: Students are expected to attend every class and come prepared to participate in the discussion. This may mean reading any assigned material, checking vocabulary, researching a topic and/or preparing a short presentation.

Role plays / debates: Students will be assigned roles to improvise or practice a conversation, or conduct a debate on a topic provided by the instructor. They will apply structures and expressions as well as intercultural communication skills learned in class.

Quizzes: There will be a number of short vocabulary quizzes on words and expressions covered in class. Students will be provided with lists for study purposes.

Presentations: Each student will give several short presentations on a chosen topic. These presentations will typically be about five minutes long. Students are required to bring a list of keywords which they will share with the class, but are not supposed to read from a prepared script. The presentation will include questions for class discussion.

Oral Assessments: These will be conducted individually or in pairs/ small groups. The first assessment will take place after the first month of classes and the second one at the end of the course.

The Department of Languages and Cultures Policies which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Languages and Cultures courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Languages and Cultures website at <https://www.uwo.ca/languages/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Languages and Cultures, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.