GERMAN 2220B - GERMAN CONVERSATION

M 3:30 – 4:30 pm, W 3:30-5:30 pm
Instructor: Anne Lausch (alausch@uwo.ca)

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 every-day 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 speak German. This may mean reading any assigned material, reviewing vocabulary, or researching a topic.

Role plays / debates: Students will be assigned roles to improvise or practice a conversation, or conduct a simple 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.

Readings / links will be made available via the OWL course site.
ANTIREQUISITE(S): None
PRE- or COREQUISITE(S): German 2200 or 2200w/x, or permission of the Department.
Extra information: 3 hours, 0.5 course. Taken in second or third year.

If you are unsure whether this is the right course for you please contact the course coordinator (Anne Lausch <alausch@uwo.ca>).

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