

Current Issues: Media and Politics in Germany and Austria

BC 3010 FALL 2018

T/TH 4:10-5:25

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Grammatikbuch: Übungsgrammatik für die Mittelstufe. Hering/ Matussek/Perlmann-Balme Ismaning: Hueber Verlag, 2009, ISBN: 978-3- 19-011657-7

This course offers students on the advanced proficiency level the opportunity to improve their aural comprehension as well as reading and writing skills. Students will explore political, cultural and intellectual debates in Germany and Austria, their self-perceptions and attitudes toward the US, the European Union and Eastern Europe, as well as their domestic and foreign policies – by means of print media, the Internet, film and TV. While students learn about current issues and discourses they will improve their German reading, listening (viewing), speaking and writing skills. Course materials will be drawn from German-language newspapers, TV newscasts, documentaries and the Internet.

The course has four main components:

1. Exploration of the German and Austrian media (newspapers, magazines, Internet and TV).
2. Discussion and analysis of newspaper articles and German TV broadcasts, such as newscasts and documentaries,
3. Exploration of linguistic characteristics (structures and vocabulary)
4. Guest lectures by and interviews with guest speaker, authors and/or representatives of German and Austrian institutions in New York City.

All four language-learning skills will be stressed: listening (viewing), speaking, writing and reading. Students will have the opportunity to practice listening and viewing -- as well as discourse analysis and oral and writing skills -- through intense work with the most recent articles, TV-newscasts, documentaries and features. Students will express their personal views and opinions orally and in writing through debates, discussions and essays, while familiarizing themselves with media language and further developing their speaking skills. Emphasis will be placed on the correct use of typical structures and vocabulary as well as pronunciation and intonation.

There will be two research projects in which students will apply their language skills, one before midterm and one at the end of the semester. After conducting research in German, and/or working with organizations and individuals representing or reporting on German and/or Austrian cultural institutions, newspapers, companies and information centers located in New York City, students will present their findings to the class and other students of German.

Course requirements:

1. Regular attendance, preparedness and active class participation
2. three essays (300 - 350 words)
3. two research projects (one final film project related to the guest speaker)
4. Homework: grammar, writing, reading, reporting: Students are required to write three essays: (300-350 words) on three assigned topics using linguistic and stylistic elements already learned and practiced in class. Essays are graded on comprehensibility, quality of the content/ information, use of vocabulary, grammatical accuracy and stylistic competency. Students must also produce two research projects on topics of specific interest to the students and will work in groups or individually on the research and the

presentation of the projects (the oral presentation should be 15 - 20 minutes long). The research projects are graded on: content, vocabulary, linguistic accuracy and presentation.

Grading:

Class participation, attendance	25 %
Homework	25 %
Three essays (300-350 words)	30%
One research project and presentaion	10 %
Final film project:	10 %

Learning preferences and accommodations:

We acknowledge in our courses that people learn in different ways. For example, having visuals to support text may work better for some students, whereas others learn better by listening to the instructor. Please talk to your instructor about your learning preferences, so we can make the course work as well as possible for everyone. If you have, or suspect, a disability of any kind, please be sure to contact the office of disabilities (see link below) so that accommodations can be put in place. The earlier we know about it the better it will work.

Academic, Mental, and Physical Support

Student life can get very intense. If you feel that you need help in any way, please don't wait but act immediately. Let your instructor know that you are struggling. Most importantly, contact your Dean/Advisor so they can help you. In addition, visit Columbia's/Barnard's websites to know what services are available to you: <https://health.columbia.edu/services/ods> and <https://www.barnard.edu/health>

GERMAN GRAMMATICAL GENDER

Nouns in German have a gender (masculine, feminine, or neuter) that often does not obey any apparent logic. The German language also assigns humans a gender, and German is not special for having a rigid binary gender system. Pervasive gender normativity is reflected in our use of language, and language instruction is one of the spaces in which such traditional structures are reinforced. At Columbia and Barnard we strive to be respectful and inclusive. Whereas we still need to learn language in its normative form, I encourage you to be aware of the implications of such norms and to be attentive to your classmates' and instructors' desires. Please contact your instructor right away should you have any preferred name and/or preferred pronoun by which you would like to be addressed. Although there are limitations to what the language allows grammatically, the German Department faculty and staff are committed to finding solutions that work for everyone.

Attendance Policy: Attendance Policy / Preparation / Participation for German language classes

Attendance is expected & mandatory. Please keep your instructor informed if you must miss class. If you know of an upcoming absence, please inform your instructor well beforehand. Three times tardy to class = one absence. In the event of absence for any reason, students are responsible for all missed work. Occasionally, a student must miss class due to circumstances beyond their control (university-sanctioned sports event, job interview, illness, overslept, etc.). Therefore, a maximum of THREE absences per semester do not affect the grade. Further absences will affect the final grade (possible points for participation & preparation are lowered). This is not a penalty, but rather an adjustment of the possible points earned for the in-class portion of the course. NB: If an ongoing medical problem arises, please contact your instructor & the Dean of Students.

In order to participate fully, students must come prepared to class and show a willingness to engage with the instructor and fellow students. Although not all homework assignments are written and handed in, completion of assigned readings and tasks will be evident in your ability to ask questions, offer commentary, discuss and present. For each class session, students should show their preparation and participate, maintaining the use of German for all class activities, and initiate / ask questions when appropriate.

Frequent or extended absences impede development of oral/aural skills and directly influence in-class performance. Any student who misses class (for any reason) should inform the instructor in advance, make up, and hand in all work. No grade will be awarded for late work, but work will be corrected as part of the student's overall record. Regular attendance is absolutely necessary in language classes. Missed deadlines count as zero. More than one week of absence automatically lowers the grade for classwork. Excused absences require a note from the student's class dean. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what material was covered during your absence and to keep up with the current assignments and classroom materials.

German language students are expected to attend and complete class work from day one of class. Classes missed at the beginning already count towards the three excused absences. Completed course work and homework assigned for weeks one and two are due at the very latest by the third week of classes.

Class Plan: Due to the fact that this course is based on the most current topics, the Syllabus is subject to change .

<p>1. Woche</p>	<p>Thema: Die Parteienlandschaft in Deutschland und Österreich</p> <p>Medien in Deutschland/ Österreich: Fernsehen, Printmedien und elektronische Medien</p> <p>Grammatik: Das Passiv</p>
<p>2. Woche</p>	<p>Thema: Who is who? Wer sind die die wichtigen politischen Persönlichkeiten in Deutschland? Aktuelle Themen zur deutschen Innen- und Außenpolitik</p> <p>Journalistische Darstellungsform:</p> <p>Die Nachricht, Tageszeitungen im Internet</p> <p>TV: Deutsche Welle TV; Journal Tagesnachrichten</p> <p>Grammatik: Das Passiv</p>
<p>3. Woche</p>	<p>Thema: Who is who? Wer sind die wichtigen politischen Persönlichkeiten in Österreich? Aktuelle Themen zur österreichischen Innen- und Außenpolitik.</p> <p>Journalistische Darstellungsform:</p> <p>Die Nachricht, Tageszeitungen im Internet im Vergleich mit Fernsehnachrichten</p> <p>Nachrichtentexte erschließen: Leadsatz, W-Fragen (Wer, Was, Wann, Wo, Warum?)</p> <p>Text: <i>Fernsehnachrichten gestern und heute, Kapitel 4 (S. 51-59)</i></p>

<p>Auswahl des Themas für das erste Projekt</p> <p>Erster Aufsatz</p>	<p>TV: Deutsche Welle TV: Journal Tagesnachrichten</p> <p>Grammatik: Relativsätze</p>
<p>4. Woche</p>	<p>Thema: Deutsche/Österreichische Außenpolitik</p> <p>Journalistische Darstellungsform: die Nachricht</p> <p>Nachrichtentexte erschließen:</p> <p>Text: <i>Fernsehnachrichten gestern und heute Kapitel 4 (S. 59- 68)</i></p> <p>TV: Deutsche Welle TV. Journal Tagesnachrichten</p> <p>Grammatik: Relativsätze</p>
<p>5. Woche</p>	<p>Thema: Migrationspolitik</p> <p>Schreibwerkstatt:</p> <p>Wie schreibt man eine Kurzmeldung, typische Strukturen und Vokabel</p> <p>Die Sprache der Fernsehnachrichten (Fortsetzung S. 69 -78)</p> <p>TV: Deutsche Welle TV, Journal Tagesnachricht</p> <p>Grammatik: Verben</p>
<p>6. Woche</p> <p>Präsentation der ersten Projekte</p>	<p>Thema: Die EU (Europäische Union): Entstehung und Herausforderungen</p> <p>Journalistische Darstellungsformen: das Interview</p> <p>Vorbereitung auf das Filmen des Interviews mit dem Gast aus Österreich oder Deutschland</p> <p>Grammatik: Verben</p>
<p>7. Woche</p> <p>Zweiter Aufsatz</p> <p>Präsentation der ersten Projekte</p>	<p>Thema: Umgang mit der Vergangenheit in Österreich und Deutschland und ihre Auswirkungen auf die Politik heute.</p> <p>Schreibwerkstatt: die Sprache der Medien</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Wortschatz •Syntax

	<p>•Feste Wortverbindungen mit spezieller Bedeutung</p> <p>Text: <i>Fernsehsendungen (Nachrichten) gestern und heute</i> (S. 79- 92)</p>
<p>8. Woche</p> <p>Vorbereitung: Interview und Exkursion</p>	<p>Thema: Die USA im Spiegel der österreichischen Presse</p> <p>Journalistische Darstellungsform: der Kommentar</p> <p>Medientexte zu aktuellen Ereignissen</p> <p>Grammatik: Verben (Trennbar)</p>
<p>9. Woche</p> <p>6., 7. November frei</p> <p>Vorbereitung: Interview und Exkursion</p>	<p>Thema: Die USA im Spiegel der deutschen Presse</p> <p>Journalistische Darstellungsform: der Kommentar</p> <p>Medientexte zu aktuellen Ereignissen</p> <p>Diskussion</p> <p>Grammatik: Verben (Untrennbar)</p>
<p>10. Woche</p> <p>Auswahl des Themas für das Schlussprojekt</p>	<p>Thema: Deutsche/ österreichische Institutionen in New York (Exkursion)</p> <p>Filmen des Interviews mit einer Prominenten/ einem Prominenten Deutschen/ Uosterreicher/in in New York</p> <p>(Exkursion: Austrian Cultural Forum, Goethe Institut, German Information Center, University Alliance, Ruhr, etc.</p>
<p>11. Woche</p> <p>Dritter Aufsatz</p>	<p>Thema: Gesundheitspolitik</p> <p>Inhalt: "Die Genkueche bleibt kalt" Diskurs-Analyse, stylistische Analyse (<i>Die Zeit</i>) oder ein anderer aktueller Text</p> <p>Grammatik: Konjunktiv</p>
<p>12. Woche</p>	<p>Thema: Kultur im Spiegel der deutschen/ österreichischen Presse, Fragen der österreichischen Kulturpolitik</p>

23. November frei	<p>Journalistische Darstellungsformen: die Kritik</p> <p>Grammatik: Konjunktiv I</p> <p>Medientexte – Diskursanalyse,</p> <p>Medienvergleich unterschiedliche Medien berichten über das selbe Ereignis</p> <p>Grammatik: Verben in festen Verbindungen</p>
13. Woche	<p>Thema: Sozialpolitik (Familienpolitik, Pensionen, Schul- und Ausbildungswesen, etc.) in Deutschland und Österreich</p> <p>Aktuelle Artikel/ Fernsehsendungen aus dem Internet zu den österreichischen Wahlen</p> <p>Grammatik: Funktionsverbgefüge</p>
14. Woche	<p>Arbeit an dem Schlussprojekt</p>
15. Woche	<p>Präsentationen der Schlussprojekte</p>