

Elementary German Reading II - UN1114
Syllabus Spring 2019
2 Days/Week

MW 10:10-11:25

An online version of this syllabus can be found under: <https://germanic.columbia.edu>

Instructor: Silja Weber, svw2108@columbia.edu

Office: HH 404A, office hours by appt.

Course Objectives

The primary goal of Elementary German Reading II is to prepare students for the University's German reading proficiency examination. In the process, we reevaluate the meaning of "reading proficiency" beyond a form of grammar-translation "accelerated reading" which has come to be associated with successful completion of a German reading course. Elementary German Reading moves students beyond word-for-word translation to acquisition of reading skills needed by all readers and researchers. These skills include:

- brainstorming (making lists and framing your thoughts regarding what you already know about a topic in your native language, and then in German),
- skimming (gleaning information from presentation, titles, pictures, graphs, and the primary vocabulary),
- scanning (locating specifics—if, in fact, there are any),
- rejecting materials unimportant to your research,
- investigating (checking out facts and references made in the article), and
- interpreting.

Another skill needed by some researchers is deciphering older German print materials and handwriting. We will look at the Fraktur and Sütterlin alphabets and will likely visit Butler Library to view original German materials from their collection and practice our skills on them.

By the end of this second reading course, students should be able to translate a 300-word academic text into idiomatic English with the assistance of a dictionary. This examination equates to the Department's reading proficiency exam, the passing of which indicates that the student with ongoing practice in reading German should be prepared to begin research with German texts. Here you can download a [sample proficiency exam](#). To register for the exam or get more information, contact departmental administrator, Peg Quisenberry at pq2@columbia.edu.

Book: *German for Reading Knowledge*, 7th Edition (Richard Korb) is designed to meet these goals and produce proficient readers of German texts. Reading guides, flash cards, grammar notes, and answer keys can be accessed at [online companion website](#).

You also need a good paper dictionary of German.

This class is taught in English, but we will work a little on German pronunciation.

Language background, learning preferences, accommodations, and communication. The assumption in this course is that people have different language backgrounds and interests and learn in different ways. For example, you may have skills in spoken German, or having visuals to support text may work better for you. I will collect basic information on your language background and interests, and please talk to me about any learning preferences, so that we can make the course work as well as possible for everyone.

In general, if you have a concern or you are struggling with something, please get in touch so that we can address it together. In particular, if you have, or suspect that you have, mental or physical disabilities that affect your participation in this course, in particular timed exams, please be aware that it is your responsibility to provide official documentation so that we can put accommodations in place. The earlier in the semester we know about this, the better it works.

Participation. Your main assignments will be reading and translation homework. Attendance is not taken in this course, but if you are not present you are expected to submit your translation homework via email. This will be your participation grade for the day. Please also let me know if you cannot attend ahead of time, since it may affect lesson planning.

Written Assessment. We will have three short quizzes covering grammar, a midterm which includes mostly translation practice, and a final exam. The final mirrors the style of the graduate proficiency exam.

To link the work you do in this course to your own research interests, you will also be asked to choose a German text (journal article, book excerpt or similar) from your field that has not yet been translated into English for an individual translation project. It is a good idea to look for a suitable text early in the semester, because it may take you a while to find one. If you prefer, you can also translate a text of appropriate difficulty provided by me, which saves you the search, but it may not reflect your interests.

Grading

Preparation and Participation	30%
Individual Translation Project	30%
Quizzes	10%
Midterm and Final	30%

**Elementary German Reading
Syllabus
Spring 2019**

DATUM	AUFGABE für HEUTE (Änderungen vorbehalten/changes possible)
1. Woche	
Mittwoch, 23. Januar	Introduction / Review Chapters 1-5
2. Woche	
Montag, 28. Januar	Review Chapter 6-10
Mittwoch, 30. Januar	Review Chapter 11-15
3. Woche	
Montag, 4. Februar	Learn Chapter 16; Translate: Kapitel 16 Sentences; Lesetext: "Karl May"
Mittwoch, 6. Februar	Learn Chapter 17; Translate Kapitel 17 Sentences
4. Woche	
Montag, 11. Februar	Review Chapter 17; Lesetext: "Patagoniens Raubsaurier"
Mittwoch, 13. Februar	Learn Chapter 18; Translate Kapitel 18 Sentences
5. Woche	
Montag, 18. Februar	Review Chapter 18; Lesetext: "Geschichte des deutschen Volkes"
Mittwoch, 20. Februar	Quiz (Chapter 16-18) Reading practice
6. Woche	
Montag, 25. Februar	Learn Chapter 19; Translate Kapitel 19 Sentences
Mittwoch, 27. Februar	Review Chapter 19; Lesetext: "Robert Schumann"
7. Woche	
Montag, 4. März	Learn Chapter 20; Translate Kapitel 20 Sentences
Mittwoch, 6. März	Review Chapter 20; Lesetext: "Neuer Deutscher Film"
8. Woche	
Montag, 11. März	Reading Practice and Review for Midterm
Mittwoch, 13. März	Midterm Exam

Ferien 12. und 14. März No classes – Spring Recess	
9. Woche	
Montag, 25. März	Learn Chapter 21; Translate Kapitel 21 Sentences Submit original for individual project
Mittwoch, 27. März	Learn Chapter 22; Translate Kapitel 22 Sentences;
10. Woche	
Montag, 1. April	Review Chapter 22; Lesetext: "Carl von Ossietzky"
Mittwoch, 3. April	Learn Chapter 23; Translate Kapitel 23 Sentences
11. Woche	
Montag, 8. April	Review Chapter 23; Lesetext: "Kunst und Kirche"
Mittwoch, 10. April	Quiz (Chapter 22-23) Peer work on individual project
12. Woche	
Montag, 15. April	Learn Chapter 24; Translate Kapitel 24 Sentences Individual Project Draft Due
Mittwoch, 17. April	Review Chapter 24; Lesetext: "Sarajewo"
13. Woche	
Montag, 22. April	Learn Chapter 25; Translate Kapitel 25 Sentences Individual Project Due
Mittwoch, 24. April	Review Chapter 25; Lesetext: "Faust"
14. Woche	
Montag, 29. April	Quiz (Chapter 24-25) Reading Practice and Review
Mittwoch, 1. Mai	Reading Practice and Review
15. Woche	
Montag, 6. Mai	Reading with dictionary (test practice)
<p>FINAL EXAM Traditionally, the exam takes place on the Wednesday of Finals Week from 9-12. The proficiency exam is from 10-12 on the same day. The final exam schedule will not be available until after Midterm.</p>	