German 430/455 Advanced German Stylistics
M W 3 – 4.20 pm / 3 credit hours

Instructor: Dr. Laura G. McGee
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Office hours: M 4.20-5.00, T 3-4, W 2-3, Th 12.30 -1.20 and gladly by appointment
Course web site: http://ecourses.wku.edu

Program goals: Through course work, experience abroad, and other cultural encounters, the Modern Languages Department cultivates communicative skills and cultural awareness that prepare students at Western Kentucky University to be more knowledgeable and sensitive citizens of the global community.

Course description: Provides intensive practice in written and spoken German, enabling the student to write letters, reports, essays, descriptions, and to discuss literary, cultural, and political topics.

Prerequisites: German 330 or permission of the instructor. Students taking their first German course for credit at WKU will want to apply for verified credit of their previous knowledge of German (see “placement” at http://www.wku.edu/modernlanguages/).

Texts:
• German/English, English/German dictionary (mid-size to large)

Your final grade consists of:
Class participation 20%
Writing portfolio 20%
Assignments 10%
Tests and quizzes 50%

Course format: Emphasis in this particular offering of German 430 lies in advancing the four skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) while preparing to take an internationally recognized test of German as a second language. Near or at the end of the semester, there will be an opportunity to take a real or simulated exam such as the TestDaF (http://www.testdaf.de), Zertifikat Deutsch or Mittelstufenprüfung (http://www.goethe.de/ins/us/chi/lrn/prf/enindex.htm).

Class participation / preparation: Your daily grade is based on active participation that contributes to your own learning and that of others. Expect regular in-class and at-home writing and assignments. At-home essays should be typed and double-spaced (see umlaut codes below); if handwritten, they must be double-spaced and leave normal margins.

Quizzes & Exams: Unannounced short quizzes may be given over homework and class material. Make up quizzes are not given; however, there will be two extra credit opportunities. Students who arrive late are not allowed additional time, nor are oral sections repeated on either quizzes or exams.
Cell phones and PDAs are to be turned off (not silenced) and placed out of view, along with any notes. Students who leave the classroom during exams will be considered to have finished their exams. Exams are given only at the scheduled times, except at the discretion of the instructor (see the attendance policy). Vacation plans are not accommodated.

**Attendance:** Class attendance is not optional. Two absences are allowed during the semester for any reason. Beyond these, students will lose three points per absence from their final grade. You will be asked to track your own absences. Any adjustments to this policy will be at the instructor’s discretion and only when legitimate documentation is provided for all absences. The instructor must be notified in advance of the student’s missing a test in order for the student to request the privilege of making up the test. *In the event that it is necessary to miss class, it is the responsibility of the student to find out what was covered and to learn the appropriate material.* Upon returning to class students are expected to be fully prepared: ready to participate, turn in assignments, and take quizzes or exams as scheduled. Late arrivals disrupt the learning environment and are unfair to those who arrived on time. One absence will be added to the student’s total per three late arrivals to class. Exchange phone numbers with four classmates so you can get the assignment in case you ever miss class:

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**Academic dishonesty:** In accordance with university policy, an “F” is given on any portion of the course work in which cheating is detected. The case may also be presented to the Office of the Dean of Student Life. Acts of academic dishonesty include the use of a translating device to complete writing assignments and failing to turn cell phones and PDAs off before taking an exam. Student work may be checked using plagiarism detection software. See page 26 of the 2005-2007 undergraduate catalog for a definition of plagiarism: “To represent work taken from another source as one’s own is plagiarism.” Students must document the source if they use three or more words in sequence that are not their own or use someone else’s idea.

**Special needs:** Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) must contact the Office for Student Disability Services. The OFSDS telephone number is 270-745-5004. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor without a letter of accommodation from the Office of Student Disability Services.

**Support for your learning:** I want you to succeed in German. If you need help with your learning, here are some places you can get it in addition to seeing me in my office hours in FAC 276:
2. Drop-in tutoring in the ML lab (see the schedule posted on the door of FAC 252 for German tutors).
3. Choose a tutor for hire from the list of tutors in the ML office in FAC 251.

**Please view me as a resource person for your interest in German.** The German program at WKU is active and growing! We offer German major and minor and cooperate in the administration of the International Business Minor (21 hours), 12 hours of which may be taken in foreign language. Read more about majoring or minoring in German at: [http://www.wku.edu/modernlanguages](http://www.wku.edu/modernlanguages).

**Get involved - join the German Club!** I am the advisor for the German Club, which has lots of
activities every semester. Add yourself to our email list at: http://lists.wku.edu/mailman/listinfo/germanclub.

Consider study abroad. Study abroad was one of the most exciting parts of my college career. I hope you choose to have a study abroad experience while at WKU. WKU offers direct exchanges to Reutlingen (business), Vienna (German language and teacher ed), and through KIIS a semester in Regensburg (German language, literature and culture), summer programs in Munich (German 2nd and 3rd year), Bregenz (various and German) and Salzburg (music).

Go see a movie! You are encouraged to attend lectures, readings and foreign films sponsored by the Department of Modern Languages. I will grant extra credit if you attend a German movie and write me a thoughtful review or description of what you learned (up to twice / semester for 10 points each).

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For essay-writing on the computer, one way to create umlauts is: Set the NUM LOCK key so it lights up and use the right-hand keypad:

ä = Alt 0228  ü = Alt 0252  ö = Alt 0246
Ä= Alt 0196  Ü= Alt 0220  Ö = Alt 0214  ß = Alt 0223.