

# German 141, Advanced German Conversation/Composition

## Summer 2013, Vienna, Munich, Berlin

Professor Chris Stevens (*Herr Professor Dr. Stevens* ☺)  
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Room: somewhere near you ☺

**Required Text:** A *Reader* from me. And some grammar exercises that I will send or give to you in a series of files.

**Recommended:** (1) either a *Duden Stilwörterbuch* or a *Der Kleiner Wahrig: Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache* (DTV = publisher). You needn't have a new edition. A paperback is also advised. You may wait and buy one of these in Germany—probably cheaper there. You may use a German/English dictionary but you need to start using a German/German dictionary like this Duden or Wahrig!

(2) Greg Ness. *Germany. Unraveling an Enigma*. Intercultural Press. 2000. Please try to read this before you come. (You needn't bring it with you nor read every chapter.)

### Goals/Objectives

In this course you will hone your reading, writing, listening and conversational skills in German. Along the way, you will also learn a lot about German culture, literature and society.

The grammar has 7 chapters but we will not cover everything. You will also be reading every day and you will be writing essays. I will supply you with texts to read (See *Reader*, above.) Most are literary but I may also have you read an article or two from the local paper, or from German magazines like *Focus* and *Der Spiegel*.

Since I'm covering several levels of instruction at the same time in the same class, you will spend some class time working on your own, perhaps even some time on your homework. Other times you will work in groups or with others at different levels. But you WILL have alone time with me, too. Finally, I want to speak *solely* in German to you--**also outside of class!**—and I would like you to speak German with each other, and with as many of the other students as you can, as often as you can. *You may want to pick a roommate who will speak only (or mostly) German with you.* Your progress will depend on *your efforts*. The occasional English is okay but let's try to completely construct our relationship in German. You will see that Prof. Tokofsky and I speak almost entirely in German with each other (and certainly with the natives). Since our rooms are near each other, we'll see each other at breakfast (and lunch in Berlin), when touring together, etc., you'll have **plenty of time** to speak German with us outside of class. Those moments, together with your own time spent with natives, will count much more than any lab or video time you might have in such a course in the US.

### Office hours/extra hours for tutoring

On the Sundays before weeks 2 and 3, and on Thursday before the final, I will make myself available to you for 1-2 hours. Also, I will set aside at least 1 hour a week in the afternoon for tutoring or just chatting in German. Watch the FB page for when I am free. Otherwise, let me know if you'd like to meet for additional tutoring or a bit of conversation. We'll see each other **a lot** und wollen natürlich meistens auf Deutsch schwätzen.

### Responsibilities

Attendance is of utmost importance! Tardiness will also affect your grade.

I will assign homework at the beginning of each class. Please look at your assignment sheet when you first get to class and copy it down.

Please take notes! Though you will only be responsible for what you find in your textbook and reading selections, I will give you lots more vocabulary and idioms. Impress me with the extra material you can pick up! (Again, see class participation grade, below.)

No make-up exams/late written assignments. Emergencies will be dealt with on an individual basis.

You will take **one test (final essay exam)** in the last week and write **three essays**, due on **Sundays** in weeks **one, two** and **three**. Your final will be on the last day of class.

**Finally**, try working through the first chapter of the grammar and the first reading **before you leave for Europe!** This way, we can hit the ground running. ☺

**Grades** (straight scale, i.e. 80%-82% = B-, 83%-86% = B, 87-89% = B+, 90-92% = A-, etc.)

Attendance & Class participation	15%	Essays	20%
Homework	15%	Final	35%
Improvement grade	15% (This is a grade based on how you've improved over the 4 weeks.)		

***Willkommen in Deutsch 141!***