

**ELEMENTARY GERMAN 101**

Spring 2017 (Section 1): M.W.F. 8:30 - 9:35

Dr. Michael McKinney

OFFICE: Bond Academic Center 111

OFFICE PHONE NUMBER: (619) 849-2294

E-MAIL: mmckinne@pointloma.edu (school); mckinneydmm@cox.net (home)

**FINAL EXAM**

Monday, May 1, 2017

7:30 - 10:00

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

German 102 is the second semester of the first-year elementary German program, a two-semester program at P.L.N.U. The major objective of Elementary German is to develop your "active" abilities in the four main language skills -listening, speaking, reading and writing -- so that upon completion of this one-year study, you should possess sufficient ability in these four areas to converse in a fairly simple conversational manner in the German language, as well as to read simple German prose. The greatest emphasis, however, will be placed upon your ability to learn to speak the German language, to the best of your own personal ability, regardless of what experience or skills you bring to the class at the outset. The class is designed for your personal skill and development. Ultimately, our goal is that you have the language tools to communicate "in German" when you travel to German-speaking countries, and that you are able to read the German language to some competent degree, with the aid, of course, of a dictionary.

Since a language is an integral part of a country and its people, culture and history, these areas will also be integrated into your learning experience. You will acquire insights into the lands, thoughts, ideas, habits, customs and general cultures of the German-speaking peoples. Today is one of the most exciting times of this entire century to be learning the German language, not just because of the rapid changes we have observed in the political and social structures of this part of the world in recent years, and not just because Germany is one of the world's leading economic powers, but also because the world continues to become smaller, making Germany a most "immediate" neighbor.

## **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of the German 101-102 sequence, you, the student, will be able to:

1. Speak at the mid to high novice level using basic formulaic and memorized materials within the student's own experience.
2. Recognize basic connected discourse that uses vocabulary and grammar within the student's own experience.
3. Write discrete sentences as well as simple connected paragraphs using memorized vocabulary and grammar structures.
- 4.
5. Read cultural texts that employ familiar vocabulary and cognates as well as learned grammatical structures.
6. Demonstrate comprehension of basic cultural mores and patterns of living of the target culture(s) studied.

## **TEXTBOOKS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

The textbook for this course is *Sag Mal*, by Christine Anton, Tobias Barske and Megan McKinstry, 2nd Edition. In addition to this text, you also must have the accompanying web program. It is here that you will find the homework assignments that you will be having on an on-going basis. This comes as a package through our bookstore. During this second semester, it is anticipated that we complete chapters 5 - 10.

## **GRADING**

Your grade for this course is comprised of four components:

- 1) A Final Examination, which constitutes ca. a quarter of your grade;
- 2) Chapter examinations, which constitute ca. a quarter of your grade;
- 3) Frequent quizzes, which constitute ca. a quarter of your grade.
- 4) Homework assignments (on the web program), which constitute a quarter of your grade. The grading on your homework is on an "A" or "F" basis, meaning, if you complete the homework assignment (with an average of 70% or higher), you receive an "A" for that component; if you do not complete or get below a 70%, the grade for that component will be an "F."

Finally, I employ a "Swing" component for your grade (for borderline cases) which will be based on the level of your participation in daily class work. This means that class preparation and participation will positively affect your ultimate grade, especially where your grade is a border-line grade, so I encourage you to participate and have fun while acquiring this foreign language skill.

### **HOMEWORK**

You are first of all responsible to learn each of the two sets of vocabulary lists contained in each chapter of the text and to retain those words throughout the semester. In addition, each day in class a new grammatical concept will be presented and practiced, whereupon it is expected that you will complete the corresponding web portions of the homework assignments.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Class attendance is mandatory, for your own sake, but more importantly, for the sake of your classmates, inasmuch as much that we do is a collective group. Roll is, therefore, taken on a daily basis. Please read the Class Attendance section of your PLNU Catalog, carefully (see link above). It indicates that if students miss more than 10% of class meetings (approx. 4 for a MWF course and 3 classes for a TTH course, 2 classes for a quad course), faculty members may file a written report which may result in de-enrollment from the course. If students miss more than 20% of class meetings (approx. 8 for a MWF course and 6 classes for a TTH course, 4 for a quad course), students may be de-enrolled without notice. De-enrollment may have serious consequences on residence, athletic, and scholarship requirements; it may also necessitate a reduction or loss in a student's financial aid.

### **COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION**

This class meets the Carnegie Unit minimum requirement of 750 minutes of instructional time + 1500 minutes of out-of-class work per 1 unit of credit. Specific details about how the class meets these requirements are included here in the course syllabus.

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

All students are expected to meet the minimum standards for this course as set by the instructor. Students with learning disabilities who may need accommodations should first discuss options and services available to them in the Academic Support Center (ASC) during the first two weeks of the semester. The ASC, in turn, will contact professors with official notification and suggested classroom accommodations, as

required by federal law. Approved documentation must be provided by the student and placed on file in the ASC prior to the beginning of the semester.

**FERPA  
(FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT)**

In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publically posted grades or returned sets of assignments without student written permission. This class will meet the federal requirements by my distributing all grades and papers individually, with every effort made to conceal identities concealed. Also in compliance with FERPA, you will be the only person given information about your progress in this class unless you have designated others to receive it in the AInformation Release@ section of the student portal. See Policy Statements in the undergrad student catalog.

**FOOTNOTE**

Ultimately, language-learning should be fun and should produce immediate and practical rewards; i.e., every day you should see your ability to speak the German language improve. What you learn in this class is not "Baby German," for what you are learning is how Germans speak on an everyday basis (discounting, of course, regional dialects). If you do your work on a daily basis, in small, consistent steps, the acquisition of German language skills should be relatively easy, by all means enjoyable, and, most of all, should produce very tangible results. Finally, you should know that German is not more difficult than Spanish or French, despite the prevailing myths as to the varying levels of difficulty of these respective languages. When you have completed this course in May, you should leave with a skill that will prove useful to you throughout your entire life.