

**GERMAN 101**  
**Elementary German**  
**Fall 2015 Dr. Michael McKinney**

**OFFICE: Bond Academic Center 111**

**OFFICE PHONE NUMBER: (619) 849-2294**

**E-MAIL ADDRESS: [mmckinne@pointloma.edu](mailto:mmckinne@pointloma.edu) (school) [mckinneydmm@cox.net](mailto:mckinneydmm@cox.net) (home)**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

German 101 is the first 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, my 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. Read cultural texts that employ familiar vocabulary and cognates as well as learned grammatical structures.
5. 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 *TREFFPUNKT DEUTSCH*, by Gonglewski, Moser & Partsch (formerly Widmaier/Widmaier), Sixth Edition. In addition to this text, you also must have the accompanying WEB program, which comes as part of the package in our bookstore, or you can purchase separately -- but in any event, you must have this program as all homework assignments are WEB abased. Importantly, the text and WEB program you purchase for the first semester are also what we will be using in the second semester, meaning, there will be nothing additional to purchase for the second semester. During the first semester we will, ideally, complete chapters 1 – 5 and then chapters 6 – 12 in the second semester..

## **GRADING**

Your grade for this course is comprised of four components:

- 1) A Final Examination, which constitutes ca.25% of your grade;
- 2) Chapter examinations, which constitute ca.25% of your grade;
- 3) Daily quizzes, which constitute ca.35% of your grade.
- 4) Homework assignments and class participation, which constitute 15% of your grade.

## **HOMEWORK**

You are first of all responsible to learn each of the two sets of vocabulary lists contained in each chapter 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 required that you complete the work assigned in the WEB program, drills that will always correspond to what was presented in class.

## **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. A student who misses eight class sessions will be de-enrolled from the course, as provided for in the College Catalogue. Excessive absences will also result in a push grade, i.e., meaning, to the degree the grade is close, the lower grade will be given.

## **THE POSITIVE NEWS**

An important "Swing" component of your grade will be 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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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 "Information Release" section of the student portal. See [Policy Statements](#) in the undergrad student catalog.

**OFFICIAL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

<b>September 7, 2015</b>	<b>Labor Day</b>	
<b>October 23, 2015</b>	<b>Fall Break</b>	
<b>Thursday &amp; Friday, November 25-27</b>		<b>Thanksgiving Recess</b>
<b>December 11, 2015</b>		<b>Last Day of classes</b>
<b>December 14-18, 2015</b>		<b>Final Examinations</b>

**FINAL EXAMINATION**

<b>Section 1 (8:35 – 12:05)</b>	<b>Friday (December 18)</b>	<b>7 :30 – 10:00</b>
<b>Section 2 (11:00 - 12:05)</b>	<b>Monday (December 14)</b>	<b>10:30 - 1:00</b>

**OFFICIAL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

<b>September 7, 2015</b>	<b>Labor Day</b>
<b>October 23, 2015</b>	<b>Fall Break</b>
<b>Thursday &amp; Friday, November 25-27</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Recess</b>
<b>December 11, 2015</b>	<b>Last Day of classes</b>
<b>December 14-18, 2015</b>	<b>Final Examinations</b>