

**German 151**  
Course description and syllabus  
Fall 2015

**A. Description**

This is a three-credit, intermediate-level course intended for students who have completed two-semester of intensive college German (10 credits) or the equivalent. In the UB sequence, it can follow either 101+102 or 104. The main objective of the course is to practice German with increased attention to conversational and written skills that will improve students' ability to function in the language and add to the understanding and appreciation of German culture. This course will be conducted in **German**. Students are expected to ask their questions in German and to speak German at all times in the classroom.

By taking this course, students can:

- **partially** fulfill the **prerequisites** for the German major or minor:  
<http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/academicprograms/ger.shtml>
- fulfill the UB and SUNY **general education** language or humanities requirements or UB's depth requirement:  
<http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/degree/gened.shtml>

**B. Required texts**

*Kaleidoskop*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition, 2013 (Houghton-Mifflin)

1. Lehrbuch (text)
2. Arbeitsbuch (workbook)

**C. Grades**

Your final course grade will be calculated as follows:

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Attendance/Participation..... | 15% |
| Homework.....                 | 15% |
| Average of chapter tests..... | 30% |
| Essays .....                  | 10% |
| Oral evaluation.....          | 10% |
| Final exam.....               | 20% |

Semester percentage grades will be converted to letter grades according to the following scale:

93-100% = A; 90-92% = A-; 87-89% = B+; 83-86% = B; 80-82% = B-;  
77-79% = C+; 73-76% = C; 70-72% = C-; 67-69% = D+; 60-66% = D; 0-59% = F

**D. Section instructor**

You are strongly encouraged to see your instructor during office hours (or arrange an appointment for another time) if you need help or have questions.

Professor David Fertig  
638 Baldy Hall (mailbox in 619A Baldy)  
645-0129  
e-mail: [fertig@buffalo.edu](mailto:fertig@buffalo.edu)  
Office hours: Monday & Friday 12:30-1:30 PM (and by appointment)

## E. Course policies

### 1. Attendance and participation

Regular attendance is an essential part of successful performance in a language class, and it is one of the main factors determining the “participation” part of your grade. Poor attendance will NEVER be overlooked, regardless of how well you do on exams and homework.

Students who use electronic devices for texting or any other purpose that is not explicitly approved by the instructor or who read outside materials during class time (including the first or last minutes of class) will be charged a double absence for each incident.

If you must miss a number of classes due to absolutely unavoidable circumstances (such as serious illness), talk to your instructor to see if special arrangements can be made.

If you have a near-perfect attendance record and are always alert, attentive and cooperative in class, then you can expect a very high participation grade. It is unavoidable that this part of your grade is partially dependent on the subjective judgment of your instructor. If you are concerned about this part of your grade, discuss it with your instructor well before the end of the semester. S/he will let you know how you are doing and what (if anything) you could do to improve. Oral evaluations will be conducted during the last weeks of the semester.

### 2. Homework

There will be very frequent homework assignments throughout the semester. All assignments must be turned in on time. Failure to hand in homework regularly and promptly will have the same kind of catastrophic effect on your grade as poor attendance.

### 3. Missed tests and quizzes

There will be no make-up tests or quizzes. This includes the final exam. If you are too ill to come to a test or quiz, contact your instructor immediately to discuss your options. Do NOT make travel plans that might conflict with the final exam or with any other test.

### 4. Incompletes

are rarely appropriate and rarely granted in German language classes. Special arrangements can sometimes be made in extraordinary circumstances (such as medical emergencies). Before approaching your instructor to discuss the possibility of an incomplete, please familiarize yourself with UB's official policy at:

<http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/grading/explanation.shtml#incomplete>

### 5. Academic Integrity

All students should be sure that they understand the University's Academic Integrity policy before completing any assignments or taking any tests. If you have any questions or concerns about the policy, please discuss them with your instructor. You will find the policy at:

<http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/course/integrity.shtml>

### 6. Accessibility Resources

If you require classroom or testing accommodations due to a disability, please contact Accessibility Resources, located at 25 Capen Hall. AR can be reached by phone at (716) 645-2608 or by email at [stu-accessibility@buffalo.edu](mailto:stu-accessibility@buffalo.edu). Please inform your instructor as soon as possible about your needs so that we can coordinate your accommodations.

**Learning outcomes and assessment for German 151**

| <b>By the end of this course, students should be able to ...</b>   | <b>Method of assessment</b>   |
|--|---|
| (reading 1) glean key information from authentic texts including brochures and biographical sketches   | authentic-text sections on each written test and in each workbook chapter   |
| (reading 2) correctly answer informational questions about level-appropriate authentic articles, stories, and poems with minimal glossary support  | reading comprehension sections on each written test and in each workbook chapter  |
| (listening 1) demonstrate comprehension of descriptions of: leisure activities; communication practices and technologies; traditional and non-traditional families; popular and classical music  | daily monitoring of comprehension and participation in class interactions; oral evaluations   |
| (listening 2) demonstrate comprehension of main points of spoken narratives related to past experiences; relationship difficulties; recent German history  | monitoring of comprehension of narratives presented in class, including audio and video recordings; listening comprehension sections on each written test |
| (speaking 1) talk about one's own: leisure activities; family; travel experiences; musical tastes  | daily monitoring of participation in classroom discussion activities; oral evaluations  |
| (speaking 2) (when concentrating on grammatical form) correctly use: all major word-order patterns; regular, irregular, and modal verbs in the present, perfect, and simple past; nouns, pronouns, and articles in the nominative, accusative, and dative, with and without prepositions | daily monitoring of performance in classroom exercises and activities that focus on grammatical form; oral evaluations                                    |
| (writing 1) write about: leisure activities; travel; family and personal relationships; recent German history; creative activities   | essay exercises in workbook; paragraph/essay writing assignments; essay sections on each test   |
| (writing 2) correctly use: all major word-order patterns; regular, irregular, and modal verbs in the present, perfect, and simple past; nouns, pronouns, and articles in the nominative, accusative, and dative with and without prepositions  | targeted items on tests, quizzes and in workbook; short writing assignments   |
| (cultures and communities 1) compare and contrast: attitudes and practices related to leisure, work, and family; current political and economic situations; trends in popular and classical music in German-speaking countries and regions with students' native cultures                | contributions to class discussions; targeted items on tests, quizzes and in workbook; short writing assignments   |
| (cultures and communities 2) work cooperatively and productively with classmates inside and outside the classroom  | daily monitoring of classroom participation and performance   |
| (cultures and communities 3) demonstrate awareness of the ways in which language skills and cultural sensitivity can enhance possibilities for personal and professional relationships   | contributions to class discussions; oral evaluations; short writing assignments   |

## Semesterplan für German 151 - Herbst 2015

| Woche             | Datum           | Kaleidoskop           | Test / Aufsätze                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1                 | 31. August      | Thema/Kapitel 1       |                                 |
|                   | 2. Sep.         |                       |                                 |
|                   | 4. Sep.         |                       |                                 |
| 2                 | 7. Sep.         | LABOR                 | DAY                             |
|                   | 9. Sep.         |                       |                                 |
|                   | 11. Sep.        |                       |                                 |
| 3                 | 14. Sep.        |                       |                                 |
|                   | 16. Sep.        |                       |                                 |
|                   | 18. Sep.        |                       |                                 |
| 4                 | 21. Sep.        |                       | <b>Test 1</b>                   |
|                   | 23. Sep.        | Thema/Kapitel 2       |                                 |
|                   | 25. Sep.        |                       |                                 |
| 5                 | 28. Sep.        |                       | Aufsatz 1 ( <i>draft</i> )      |
|                   | 30. Sep.        |                       | Aufsatz 1 ( <i>review</i> )     |
|                   | 2. Okt.         |                       |                                 |
| 6                 | 5. Okt.         |                       | Aufsatz 1 ( <i>final copy</i> ) |
|                   | 7. Okt.         |                       |                                 |
|                   | 9. Okt.         |                       |                                 |
| 7                 | 12. Okt.        |                       | <b>Test 2</b>                   |
|                   | 14. Okt.        | Thema/Kapitel 3       |                                 |
|                   | 16. Okt.        |                       |                                 |
| 8                 | 19. Okt.        |                       |                                 |
|                   | 21. Okt.        |                       |                                 |
|                   | 23. Okt.        |                       |                                 |
| 9                 | 26. Okt.        |                       |                                 |
|                   | 28. Okt.        |                       |                                 |
|                   | 30. Okt.        |                       | <b>Test 3</b>                   |
| 10                | 2. Nov.         | Thema/Kapitel 4       |                                 |
|                   | 4. Nov.         |                       | Aufsatz 2 ( <i>draft</i> )      |
|                   | 6. Nov.         |                       | Aufsatz 2 ( <i>review</i> )     |
| 11                | 9. Nov.         |                       |                                 |
|                   | 11. Nov.        |                       | Aufsatz 2 ( <i>final copy</i> ) |
|                   | 13. Nov.        |                       |                                 |
| 12                | 16. Nov.        |                       |                                 |
|                   | 18. Nov.        |                       | <b>Test 4</b>                   |
|                   | 20. Nov.        | Thema/Kapitel 5       |                                 |
| 13                | 23. Nov.        |                       |                                 |
|                   | 25.-27. Nov.    | THANKS-               | GIVING                          |
| 14                | 30. Nov.        |                       |                                 |
|                   | 2. Dez.         |                       |                                 |
|                   | 4. Dez.         |                       |                                 |
| 15                | 7. Dez.         |                       | <i>Oral Evaluations</i>         |
|                   | 9. Dez.         |                       | <i>Oral Evaluations</i>         |
|                   | 11. Dez.        |                       | <i>Oral Evaluations</i>         |
| <b>8:00-11:00</b> | <b>16. Dez.</b> | <b>Schlussprüfung</b> | <b>Kaleidoskop 1-5</b>          |