

**Department of Foreign Languages and Linguistics**  
**German Grammar and Usage 331-001**  
**Fall Term 2010**  
**Tuesday/Thursday 9:30am – 10:45pm (CRT 181)**

**Course Instructor:** Barbara Merten-Brugger; (414) 258-7495; [mertenb2@uwm.edu](mailto:mertenb2@uwm.edu)  
**Office:** CRT 883; phone: 229-4546  
**Office Hours:** Wednesday 11-12 /Thursday 12:30-1:30 and/or by appointment

**Herzlich Willkommen zu "German Grammar and Usage!"**

**CONTENT:**

This course is an intensive review of the grammar to which you have already been exposed in German 101-204 or the equivalent. Using various approaches, the course will provide meaningful, relevant and communicative practice of those topics. We will begin with a short review and the explanation of important grammatical terms and usage, both in German and English. The body of the course is divided in two parts: 1. a thorough explanation and exercise of the grammar, 2. the application of these grammar skills. Please note that, if you have been placed into German 331, you are expected to be acquainted with the grammar topics we cover. If you have not been, it is your responsibility to catch up.

**LEARNING TARGETS:**

- to reflect on and solidify your already existing knowledge of German grammar
- to deepen and strengthen your knowledge of German grammar structures
- to practice the grammar topics in selected exercises and situations
- to link and apply the learned grammar structures to other language skills (reading, listening, writing, speaking)

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:** Available at Panther Bookstore

*Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik*, Textbook (required), **tip:** you may also try to get it used from an online bookstore

3-ring binder (required)

3-ring binder, suitable for use as a portfolio binder (required)

Exercise book for vocabulary (Vokabelheft) (required)

German – English Dictionary (recommended)

**EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

**PARTICIPATION AND PREPARATION:**

- Classroom participation is an integral part in this course, this includes coming on time with your homework done. It also includes meaningfully participating while in class, whether that be in discussion, group/partner work or solitary work.
- The homework you prepare before the class will help you and the entire group.
- We will try to speak only German in class. All skills, speaking, listening, reading and writing will be practiced.
- Regular attendance is required. **Three excused** (excused= doctor's note or death in the family) **absences** are allowed for the semester, though test attendance policy always applies. Religious days of obligation will be excused if the instructor is notified in advance. **Absences affect your final grade.** Your final grade will decrease by one percentage point per absence after three absences. Contact your instructor as soon as possible if you have a legitimate

reason for missing class. Please call or email me if you cannot make it to class! Missing class hurts the whole class, not just you.

- Please note also that not coming to class does not excuse you from (a) turning in assignments due on the day of absence; (b) knowing about assignments given; (c) test dates set on the day of your absence. Please keep in mind, that it is your responsibility to stay informed about the course.

**CUMULATIVE HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT (HAUSARBEIT):**

- Within the first two weeks a cumulative homework assignment will be given. You will have time until November 5, to complete the *Hausarbeit* at home. This assignment is mainly based on “real world” topics and is going to test your competence in writing grammatically correct. The assignment will help you to apply and incorporate the covered grammatical topics in a wider range of writing tasks. The draft will be due on **April 8**, but can be turned in any time before that.

**HOMEWORK:**

- You are expected to prepare all homework and be ready to hand it in and/or discuss it at the beginning of the class in which it is due. If you have problems with the homework, it is not acceptable to come to class with it incomplete, claiming you did not get it. **No late homework will be accepted. No extra credit will be given.**
- Please note that there will be occasionally a quiz on Thursday.
- I expect you to spend at least one hour per assignment in preparation.
- Any work that shows academic misconduct or dishonesty, such as cheating, plagiarizing or the illegitimate use of materials beyond reference material will receive an automatic F grade. You may also face legal charges from the university.

**MIDTERM AND FINAL TESTS:**

- Will be discussed, as the time gets closer.

**EVALUATION SUMMARY:**

Maintaining vocabulary exercise book	6%
Quizzes	10%
Classroom participation	10%
Cumulative homework assignment ( <i>Hausarbeit</i> )	20%
Completion of homework assignments and preparation	18%
Midterm test	18%
Final test	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Grading Scale

A+	98-100*	C+	78-79
A	93-97	C	73-77
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	88-89	D+	68-69
B	83-87	D	63-67
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
		F	59 and below

(Missed test or assignments = 0)

(\* No A+ for final grades)

"In the event of disruption of normal classroom activities due to an H1N1 swine flu outbreak, the format for this course may be modified to enable completion of the course. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to this syllabus that will supersede this version."

### OTHER PARTICULARS:

- **Introduction card:** since I did not have the pleasure of meeting most of you in a previous course, it will help me getting to know you better. Please design, and hand in at your earliest convenience, an introduction card on a regular sheet of paper that contains the following items: your name, section number of the course, campus address, phone number, email address, year in school, major, at what age you started to learn German (elementary, middle or high school), related courses taken and what you hope to learn in this course. You are also welcome to add your hobbies or any other personal information about yourself that you are willing to share. It might be in your own interest that you help me in getting to know you personally (e.g., when I later grade you for participation). **Please consider the introduction card as your FIRST HOMEWORK and it is expected that you write the information in GERMAN.**
- **Portfolio:** In order to become more responsible for your own learning and to show progress towards specific goals in written communication, you will start keeping a portfolio. We will continue to use it in German 332-334 (so make sure it's big enough and you like it!). The point of the portfolio is to allow you to keep track of your (written) growth in German. Begin your portfolio with a reflective self-evaluation where you state your learning expectations and goals. You will receive an evaluation sheet. We will write quite a bit in this course. You should keep all your work so that you can select the best for the portfolio. You can start at any time, but I advise you to start with it as soon as possible. You are expected to select at least 5 samples of written work from your course. The work must be revised after the instructor has made suggestions. At the end of the semester you will self-assess your skills again and state your learning experience.
- **E-mail** is a good way to communicate but not necessarily a good way to discuss problems. Please feel free to schedule an appointment. I will **always** try to take the time to help you with any problems or issues you may have related to the material discussed in class. Please do not hesitate to talk to me if you feel you are having trouble understanding any of the grammar topics presented.

### CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY AND OTHER POLICIES:

If you need special accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of the course, please contact me as soon as possible. In addition, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the requirements of this course, including what are expected of you in class, i.e., participation, homework, tests, or anything else, discuss this with me as soon as possible. You are responsible for reading this syllabus thoroughly and understanding the requirements and assessment measures for this course.

The Department of Foreign Languages and Linguistics intends to comply with the UWM policy on Academic Misconduct and the Students with Disabilities Act. For additional university policies, see Appendix C in UWM Timetable.

The following link will provide you also with a link to the Secretary of the University Web site (<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf>) and contains the following University policies:

1. Students with disabilities
2. Religious observances
3. Students called to active military duty
4. Incompletes
5. Discriminatory conduct
6. Academic misconduct
7. Complaint procedures
8. Grade appeal procedures
9. Other



<b>Woche</b>	<b>Dienstag</b>	<b>Donnerstag</b>
28. + 30. September	<b>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</b> - articles used as pronouns (5) - articles and possessive adjectives (5)  HAG:	<b>Quiz</b> <b>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</b> - reflexive pronouns (17) <b>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</b> - relative pronouns (26)  HAG:
05. + 07. Oktober	<b>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</b> - relative pronouns (26)  - simple past tense (7)  HAG:	<b>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</b>  - simple past tense (7) - past perfect tense (7)  HAG:
12. + 14. Oktober  <b>14. Okt.</b> Filmabend: <i>Happy B-day</i> <i>Germany</i>	<b>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</b> - future tense (8) - future perfect tense (8)  HAG:	<b>Quiz</b>  <b>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</b> - noun plurals (12)  HAG:
19. + 21. Oktober	<b>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</b> - modal verbs (9)  HAG:	<b>MIDTERM TEST</b>  <b>Turn in partial draft of <i>Hausarbeit</i>.</b> <b>Half of the assignments in the</b> <b><i>Hausarbeit</i> should be done by now. I</b> <b>will read your work and make</b> <b>suggestions.</b>
26. - 28. Oktober	<b>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</b> - adjectives (13)  HAG:	<b>Quiz</b>  <b>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</b> - adjectives (13)  HAG:
02. + 04. November	<b>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</b> - adjectives (13)  HAG:	<b>Quiz</b>  <b>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</b> - adjectives (13)  HAG:

<b>Woche</b>	<b>Dienstag</b>	<b>Donnerstag</b>
09. + 11. November	<b>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</b> - prepositions (10)  HAG:	<b>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</b> - prepositions (10) - <b><u>Final chance to turn in Hausarbeit!</u></b>  HAG:
16. 18. November  <b>18. Nov.</b> Filmabend: <i>Mostly Martha</i>	<b>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</b> - subjunctive I (20)  HAG:	<b>Quiz</b>  <b>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</b> - subjunctive I (27)  HAG:
23. November	<b>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</b> - subjunctive II (20)  HAG:	<b>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</b> - subjunctive II (20)  HAG:
30. Nov. + 02. Dez.	<b>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</b> - conjunctions (11)  HAG :	<b>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</b> - conjunctions (11)  HAG :
07. + 09. Dezember	<b>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</b> - subordinate clauses  HAG :	<b>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</b> - passive voice (28)  HAG:
14. Dezember	<b>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</b> - passive voice (28)  HAG:	<b>Wrap-up/Review</b>
20. Dezember	<b><u>FINAL EXAM</u></b> Montag, 20. Dezember 10:00am – 12:00pm in CRT 181	

***Schöne Ferien, einen guten Rutsch ins neue Jahr !  
Vergessen Sie nicht, sich so bald wie möglich in 332  
einzuschreiben, damit Sie garantiert einen Platz haben.***