

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2018-2019 Germ 444 A1: Exercises in Translation: English into German  
(Fall Term)**

Instructor: Ute-Britte Blunck  
Office: 308-B Arts  
Fax: 780-492-9106  
E-mail: [ute.blunck@ualberta.ca](mailto:ute.blunck@ualberta.ca)

Time: MWF 11-11:50  
Place: Arts 550  
Office Hours: Tues 11-12 Fri 9-10  
*or by appointment*

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**Course Prerequisite:** German 342 or consent of department.

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

**Course-based Ethics Approval** in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes       No, not needed, no such projects approved.

**Community Service Learning** component

Required     Optional     None

**Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available**

- Exam registry – Students' Union  
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (please specify)
- NA

**Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)**

Yes     No

**Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:**

This course leads to an understanding of the practice of translation, with focus on texts in a variety of genres. Strong emphasis will be given to grammatical differences in translating English to German, and practice in expressing all aspects of meaning in a way that is readily understandable to the intended audience. Students will work individually and in groups, participating in weekly collaboration and discussions and engage in reflective translation journals.

We will translate various genres, including CV's and cover letters, articles, as well as some examples of literature and lyrics. At the end of the course, students will be able to identify, analyze, and utilize linguistic features of the two languages by taking into account cultural considerations, voice, symbolism and genre.

Smaller assignments will lead, step-by-step to two larger projects (one individual, one group)  
This course can be applied to the MLCS Certificate in Translation Studies.

**Texts:**

All texts and materials will be made available on E-class or distributed in class.  
A good dictionary and access to grammar guidelines is recommended. More info in class.

**Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Participation   | 10% |
| Individual project (Oct 31)                                       | 20% |
| Group project (Nov 30)  | 20% |
| Assignments ( <i>assigned regularly throughout the semester</i> ) | 30% |
| Translation journals ( <i>6 entries by end of course</i> )        | 20% |

**Explanatory Notes on Assignments:*****Attendance, Participation, Preparation, and Homework***

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in a foreign-language course. Students are expected to participate fully in all aspects of class work and assignments. That means coming to class prepared, and reading all texts carefully in advance, doing written or oral homework diligently, participating in group-work, and contributing meaningfully to class discussions.

***Projects***

Two projects are due during the term. The projects should reflect and elaborate on the objectives and materials learned and used in class. The first (individual) project is a 600- 800-word translation, the second (small group) project is a 1500 word translation. Both projects will also include an accompanying reflection.

***Assignments***

These are assigned regularly throughout the semester. Students receive an assignment which they are expected to work on both on their own and in their groups. A good part of class time will be devoted mainly to collaborative work on these assignments and group projects.

***Translation journals***

Over the course of the class students write six 500-word entries into a journal, documenting the deliberation and choices they made in their work and progress with regard to projects and assignments. These entries might also a discussion of areas of difficulty or notes for future reference. Two out of the six entries accompany the two projects. More info in class.

**Required Notes:**

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

**Student Responsibilities:*****Academic Integrity:***

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at [www.governance.ualberta.ca](http://www.governance.ualberta.ca)) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating, as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of cheating that violates the Code of Student Behaviour.

### ***Learning and Working Environment:***

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

### ***Territorial Statement:***

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

### ***University of Alberta Sexual Violence Policy:***

The Sexual Violence Policy was approved by GFC in June 2017. It plays a vital role in ensuring a safe and respectful learning and working environment.

As defined in the policy, **sexual violence** is any sexual act or act of a sexual nature, or act targeting sexuality, whether physical or psychological, committed without consent. **Sexual violence** is a complex and serious problem in society and on university campuses. Sexual

violence can affect individuals of all gender identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations, as well as those from all ages, abilities, racial, cultural and economic backgrounds.

Through this policy, the University of Alberta recognizes its responsibility to reduce sexual violence in the University community. The university aims to do so by fostering a culture of **consent** and support through education, training and policy. The University recognizes the possible effects of trauma on those who have experienced sexual violence and supports the efforts of individuals to seek support and recover.

To read the policy in more detail, please visit:

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Policies/Sexual-Violence-Policy.pdf>

### ***Recording of Lectures:***

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

### ***Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:***

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result. Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

**In this course, German 444**, 10% of the grade is assigned to attendance, preparation and participation, i.e. students must read and prepare texts for the assigned class period so that they can participate successfully in the group work and class discussions.

### ***Policy for Late Assignments:***

Students who *consult in advance* with the instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the *discretion of the instructor*, be granted an extension. Otherwise, late assignments will have a **5%-per-class-day penalty** assessed for each *calendar day* of lateness.

Any assignments submitted after the remainder of the class has had their marked assignments returned will be **assigned a mark of 0** and be **marked for feedback only**.

In cases of potentially excusable absences (emergency conditions, incapacitating mental and/or physical illness, severe domestic affliction, legitimate University-related business, or for circumstances as described in the University's Discrimination, Harassment and Duty to Accommodate Policy), students may apply for an excused absence for missed term work (such as quizzes, presentations, or exams) to receive the opportunity to make-up the missed term work.

#### Please note:

- For an absence to be considered excused, instructors will request adequate documentation to substantiate the reason for the absence (i.e. in the form of a “Medical Declaration Form for Students” (<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/arts/-/media/arts/student-services/documents/medicaldeclarationformforstudents.pdf>)).
- Providing any kind of document(s) does not imply an automatic approval; it will be at the discretion of the instructor to accept or decline a document and/or grant the student's request for an excused absence.
- A student must inform the instructor **within two working days** following the term work which was missed, or as soon as the student is able, with regard to the circumstances underlying the absence.

- For missed exams or term work, **no extension will be given after this deadline has elapsed and a grade of ZERO will be assigned.**
- For an excused absence where the cause is religious belief, a student must contact the instructor(s) within two weeks of the start of Fall or Winter classes; and within three days of the start of Spring or Summer classes.

***Disclaimer:***

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

**Student Resources:**

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

**Accessibility Resources:** (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

**The Academic Success Centre:** (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

**The Centre for Writers:** (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

**Health and Wellness Support:** There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

**Office of the Student Ombuds:**

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

***Grading: please see next page.***

**Grading:**

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The

University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

**“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”**

| Descriptor  | Letter Grade | Grade Point Value | %             |
|---|--------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <b>Excellent.</b> A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students. | <b>A+</b>    | 4.0               | <b>97-100</b> |
|   | <b>A</b>     | 4.0               | <b>93-96</b>  |
|   | <b>A-</b>    | 3.7               | <b>90-92</b>  |
| <b>Good.</b> B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.  | <b>B+</b>    | 3.3               | <b>87-89</b>  |
|   | <b>B</b>     | 3.0               | <b>83-86</b>  |
|   | <b>B-</b>    | 2.7               | <b>80-82</b>  |
| <b>Satisfactory.</b> C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.  | <b>C+</b>    | 2.3               | <b>77-79</b>  |
|   | <b>C</b>     | 2.0               | <b>73-76</b>  |
|   | <b>C-</b>    | 1.7               | <b>70-72</b>  |
| <b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.   | <b>D+</b>    | 1.3               | <b>65-69</b>  |
|   | <b>D</b>     | 1.0               | <b>60-64</b>  |
| <b>Failure.</b>   | <b>F</b>     | 0.0               | <b>0-59</b>   |