

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**  
<https://ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2021-2022 Germ 303 A1: Advanced German I**  
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Ute-Brigitte Blunck.  
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Time: MWF 12-12:50  
Place: Arts 550  
(in person) Office Hours: W: 10-11:50  
or by appointment or Zoom

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**Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:**  
<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

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**Course Prerequisite:** This course is open to students with German 212 or its equivalents. Students with an academic background extending beyond German 30 (Saturday school, summer school, or solid performance IB) and/or a strong native or immersion background that involves some work in learning writing skills and grammatical structures **must** schedule an interview with the instructor. Not open to students who have successfully completed Sprachdiplom I. Students considered **overqualified** will be **re-assigned** to an alternate class.

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

**Technology requirements (minimum):**

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course. There are NO HARD COPIES of assignments or handouts, so you will need access to a device BOTH IN CLASS and AT HOME.

Check this link for more information: <https://www.ualberta.ca/covid-19/students/computing-recommendations.html>

**Experiential Learning Component**

- this course has a significant experiential learning component (15% or more of the course grade)

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

- Yes       No, not needed

**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

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

German 303 is a 3rd year language course that focuses on improving skills to communicate in correct, academic-level German, with emphasis on all four skills plus cultural awareness. Instruction centers on developing oral and written vocabulary within the context of historical, literary and cultural issues in the German-speaking countries. Selected grammatical structures will be reviewed with the purpose of fine-tuning grammatical, stylistic and idiomatic usage of German. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to summarize texts, analyze short stories, prepare oral presentations, participate in debates, defend and justify their opinions and draft and revise their own writing.

**Course Format:** The objectives of this course will be learned from a combination of formal lectures, assigned readings, discussions, and audiovisual materials.

**Texts:**

There is no required textbook for this class. All readings, links, and materials will be made available on E-class. Please be sure to have a device in class that will allow you access to these. A good dictionary and access to grammar guidelines is recommended. More info in class.

**Additional Course Fees**

Yes       No

**Important Dates:** [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: September 1, 2021

Add/Delete Date: September 15, 2021

50% Withdrawal Date: October 4, 2021

Withdrawal Date: November 30, 2021

Last Day of Class: December 7, 2021

**Components of Course Grade (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Participation  | 5%  |
| “4 <sup>th</sup> Hour” ( <i>attendance, preparation and participation, assignments</i> ) | 15% |
| Oral exam  | 10% |
| Writing Prompt Assignments ( <i>ongoing throughout term</i> )                            | 20% |
| Quizzes ( <i>Sept 24, Oct 15, Dec 3</i> )  | 15% |
| Homework ( <i>ongoing throughout term</i> )  | 25% |
| Video of discussion/dialog with partner ( <i>Nov 29</i> )                                | 10% |

**Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

***Class participation and preparation*** is essential in this course. Your mark for this component will be based on the effort made to contribute to class by adequate preparation of assignments assigned for oral. Students are expected to attend regularly and be prepared to

interact in German in a variety of situations.

You are encouraged to communicate with other students (or with the instructor by email or in office hours) to keep up with missed classes. Do not expect your instructor to go over material in class again because you were absent.

For more detail, please consult the section *Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components* below.

**“4<sup>th</sup> Hour”** You will be asked to sign up for one 50 minute breakout session per week, in addition to the 3 regular lecture times—a “4<sup>th</sup>” **hour** session. These are smaller groups, designed to facilitate discussion and conversation. Once you sign up for a time slot, you must attend the **same session every week**.

### ***Oral Exam***

You will sign up for and complete an **Oral Conversation meeting** with a partner (and your instructor). These will consist of an exchange of ideas and opinions. More information in class.

**Writing Prompt Assignments** are ongoing throughout the term. They are related to topics covered in the lectures and usually consist of approx. 200-250 words.

**Quizzes** are varied in length and format. Material covered includes grammar structures, vocabulary and topics covered in the unit and films.

**Homework** is assigned regularly and may be in the form of reading or viewing to prepare for discussion or written tasks. 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*.

**Video of discussion/dialog with a partner.** Later in the term, after we complete our short unit of expressing differences of opinion, you and your partner will create a Zoom recording to submit to me. You will navigate a conflict and incorporate appropriate vocabulary and expressions to bring it to a resolution. Instructions will be posted.

### **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 303**, you are expected to attend the weekly lectures and the 4<sup>th</sup> Hour meetings, be prepared to interact in German in a variety of situations, keep up with the material, complete and hand in assigned homework, and take quizzes. *There are no make-up assignments.*

**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.

NOTE: 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*.

**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](#) 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](#).

***Language and Translation Courses:***

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](#).

***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).

***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>.

[The Academic Success Centre](#) provides professional academic support to help students maximize their academic success and achieve their academic goals. We offer appointments, advising, group workshops, online courses, and specialized programming year-round to students in all university programs, and at all levels of achievement and study.

They also administer the University of Alberta's [Duty to Accommodate procedure](#) for students and works with students, instructors, campus units, Faculties and departments, community and government agencies, and on and off-campus service providers to coordinate students' disability-related accommodation needs for participation in university programs.

For general information and to register for services visit the [Academic Accommodations](#) webpage.

[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.

[The First Peoples' House](#) provides an environment of empowerment for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners to achieve personal and academic growth.

[Health and Wellness Support for Students](#) outlines available mental and physical health resources that are offered on-campus and in the community.

[The Office of the Student Ombuds](#) is a confidential service that strives to ensure that

university processes related to students operate as fairly as possible. We offer information, advice, and support to students, faculty, and staff as they deal with academic, discipline, interpersonal, and financial issues related to student programs.

**Learning and working environment:**

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment.

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

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.

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

**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.           | <b>A+</b>    | 4.0               | <b>95-100</b> |
|  | <b>A</b>     | 4.0               | <b>90-94</b>  |
|  | <b>A-</b>    | 3.7               | <b>86-89</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>82-85</b>  |
|  | <b>B</b>     | 3.0               | <b>75-81</b>  |
|  | <b>B-</b>    | 2.7               | <b>70-74</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>66-69</b> |
|   | <b>C</b>  | 2.0 | <b>61-65</b> |
|   | <b>C-</b> | 1.7 | <b>58-60</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>55-57</b> |
|   | <b>D</b>  | 1.0 | <b>50-54</b> |
| <b>Failure.</b>   | <b>F</b>  | 0.0 | <b>0-49</b>  |

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