

Instructor:	Prof. Dr. Robert Kelz
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Email:	rkelz@memphis.edu
Office hours:	R 4-5; and by appointment
Class meetings:	T, R 5.30-6.55; Dunn Hall 215
Required materials:	Larry D. Wells, <i>Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik</i> , 5 th Edition. A good German dictionary, such as Harper-Collins or Pons. Further reading and listening materials will be distributed/made available in a timely manner.
German table:	Fridays, 12.30-13.30 at the Fed Ex cafe. Join us for some German conversation (not required but fun!) and meet your fellow German students as well as the faculty/instructors.
German Club:	Join The University of Memphis German Club on Facebook to stay updated on activities. Willkommen!!!

Course Goals:

The purpose of “German Conversation and Composition” is to help you learn to communicate more freely, accurately, and idiomatically in German. In this class you should gain a more comprehensive grasp of key concepts in German grammar, as well as increase the range and nuance of your vocabulary. By emphasizing active expression, i.e. written and spoken German, you should learn to communicate in German more confidently and effectively. The focus of this course on current German music should also help you to improve your listening comprehension skills and strategies. We will maximize opportunities for you to practice your German orally by keeping grammar work in class to a minimum. We will occasionally discuss grammar concepts in English,

but otherwise you must speak *exclusively* German. You will achieve proficiency and ultimately fluency in German by using it as much as possible, so go for it!

Course Description:

This class will deploy German music as a lens for viewing and discussing German society today. Hopefully you will enjoy at least some the music we will cover, however you should not expect to find all of it to your liking. Rather it is our goal that by listening to various musical genres we will gain greater insight into the issues and ideas driving discourses in Europe’s economic powerhouse and most populous country. Furthermore, the topics and materials covered in this course should invite you to draw parallels and make distinctions between contemporary society in Germany and the USA.

Semester projects:

In pairs, all students will hold one presentation (length: 15mn + discussion) on a topic related to the music, events, and cultural foci covered in this course. The range of possible presentation themes is thus quite broad. I will provide a list of possible topics, but you should also feel free to approach me with your own suggestions. Each presentation will include a written paper for submission, a multi-media auxiliary, a vocabulary list, and a hand-out for all class members including questions for a group discussion concluding your talk. Together with your partner, you should practice your presentation ahead of time so you can coordinate sequence, fine-tune content, and—especially—polish your pronunciation and delivery before you address the class. You can count on my assistance throughout the process of preparing these projects. I am happy to meet with you multiple times to assist you in researching and developing your presentations. I will read over your presentation text in advance and provide you with feedback on grammar, vocabulary, and structure. We all want your presentations to be of the highest possible quality, and I promise to give you my full support in this endeavor.

Grading scale:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	61-66	Below 61

Course Grade:

4 Essays:	25%
Homework:	20%
Tests:	20%
Semester project:	15%
Participation:	20%

Office Hours:

My office hours for this course are 4-5pm on Thursdays, however you should also feel free to stop by DH 396—my bachelor pad office—anytime. Whenever I am there, the door will be open to you. It may be most convenient for you to give me a call or send me an email to arrange an appointment.

Reading

Although this course is based on contemporary German music, you be assigned readings for nearly every class. Drawn from authentic German realia, these lyrics, book chapters, interviews, and magazine and newspaper articles will focus on both the music we listen to as well as its socio-political context. Read entire sentences, even paragraphs at a time, not word for word. Let content, key words, and cognates guide your understanding. Get the general idea first, then re-read and fill in the gaps. Reading assignments will be of a length that permits multiple readings. Of course, you will occasionally encounter texts that surpass your German competency. Engaging with authentic, exigent German texts will extend your German faculties and further your adaptation to this language. Initially, these experiences can be frustrating, but mastering challenging materials and communicative situations is also deeply gratifying. The rewards are worth the effort!

Listening Comprehension

While it will be difficult for you to understand many of the lyrics initially, you should listen to songs several times (reading along with lyrics if you prefer) in order to derive as much meaning as possible. Additionally, our discussions and in-class listening exercises will provide you many opportunities to practice and improve your *Hörverständnis*. Here too, you will be challenged, and again, your German will be the better for it.

Essays:

Each essay should be typed and double-spaced. Leave a 2-inch left-hand margin. I will read and mark errors in your first draft but will not make any corrections. The final copy will be due one week after the return of the first draft. Grades for each of the drafts will be averaged to determine the final essay grade.

Homework:

You will be assigned exercises from the *Handbuch* to be handed in at the next class meeting. Homework will be evaluated on a “check” or “check minus” basis. Homework submitted punctually with a satisfactory effort will earn a “check.” Homework handed in on time but of poor quality, or homework turned in late will receive a “check minus.”

Tests and Grammar:

Tests will focus on grammar. The grammar component of this course should mostly comprise a review and extension of concepts you have already learned. We will complete exercises from the *Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik* (Rankin/Wells) and, when necessary, we will supplement these with extra practice from other sources. The grammar sections of this class should be of the greatest possible utility for you. For this reason, I have chosen concepts which are both practical and challenging.

Attendance and Participation:

Nothing plays a greater role in your development as a foreign language learner than attendance and participation. Therefore, attendance and active participation represent a significant portion of your grade. You are permitted four excused absences. If you miss class more than four times, your grade will plummet. If you are absent due to illness or for another legitimate reason, please let me know before class that day. Relevant verbal

contributions to class activities represent active participation. This participation may also take the form of any questions that you have on topics pertinent to the course.

Class Schedule

Dienstag, 30. August

Einführung, Kennenlernen

Thema 1: Punk/Rock (West); Rammstein

Hausaufgabe:

1) Was wissen Sie über deutsche Musik heute? Beschreiben Sie die deutschen Bands, die Sie kennen. Sagen Sie, warum diese Musik Ihnen gefällt, oder nicht. Wenn Sie keine deutschen Bands kennen, beschreiben Sie die Musik, die Sie am liebsten hören. Schreiben Sie ca. 200 Wörter.

Donnerstag, 1. September

Thema 1: Punk/Rock (West); Die Ärzte

Grammatik, *Handbuch*: Kap. 18 Relative Pronouns; Lesen S. 280-286; Schreiben S. 287 (A,B)

Dienstag, 6. September

Thema 1: Punk/Rock (West); Die Toten Hosen, Slime

Grammatik, *Handbuch*: Schreiben S. 288-289 (C, D, E)

Donnerstag, 8. September

Thema 1: Punk/Rock (West); Kraftklub, Die Goldenen Zitronen, Tocotronic

Grammatik, *Handbuch*: Schreiben S. 289 (F, G)

Dienstag, 13. September

Thema 1: Punk/Rock (West); Böhse Onkelz, Frei.Wild

Grammatik, *Handbuch*: Schreiben S. 290 (H, I, J)

Donnerstag, 15. September

Thema 1: Rechtsrock (West); Kraft durch Froide, Annett Müller, Sleipnir

Grammatik, *Handbuch*: Schreiben S. 291 (K)

Dienstag, 20. September

Thema 1: Komik; "Ente gegen Hühner"

Grammatik: Wiederholung auf die erste Prüfung

Erster Aufsatz fällig

Donnerstag, 22. September

Prüfung #1: Grammatik und Wortschatz

Dienstag, 27. September

Thema 2: Punk/Rock (Ost); Wolf Biermann, Nina Hagen

Grammatik, *Handbuch*: Kap. 13 Adjectives; Lesen S. 203-213; Schreiben S. 215 (A,B,C)

Donnerstag, 29. September

Thema 2: Punk/Rock (Ost); FILM: *OstPunk! Too Much Future* (2006)

Grammatik, *Handbuch*: Schreiben S. 216 (D, E)

Dienstag, 4. Oktober

Thema 2: Punk/Rock (Ost); Planlos, Fatale

Grammatik, *Handbuch*: Schreiben S. 216-217 (F, G, H)

Donnerstag, 6. Oktober

Thema 3: Pop; Tokio Hotel, Wir sind Helden

Grammatik, *Handbuch*: Kap. 15 Comparatives and Superlatives; Lesen S. 234-243;
Schreiben S. 244 (A, C,)

Dienstag, 11. Oktober

Thema 3: Pop; Lena und der Eurovision Song Contest

Grammatik, *Handbuch*: Schreiben S. 244-245 (D, G, H)

Zweiten Aufsatz schreiben

Donnerstag, 13. Oktober

Thema 3: Pop (?); Jahcoozi; Interview mit Sasha Perera

Grammatik: Wiederholung auf die zweite Prüfung

Zweiten Aufsatz fällig

Dienstag, 18. Oktober – Fall Break

Donnerstag, 20. Oktober

Prüfung #2: Grammatik und Wortschatz

Dienstag, 25. Oktober

Thema 4: Reggae; Seeed, Gentleman

Grammatik, *Handbuch*: Kap. 21 Subjunctive II; Lesen: S. 323-334; Schreiben: S. 335-336 (A, B, C)

Donnerstag, 27. Oktober

Thema 4: Reggae; D-Flame, Interview mit Birte Timm (Begründerin von H.E.L.P. Jamaica!)

Grammatik: Schreiben S. 336 (D, E)

Dienstag, 1. November

Thema 4: Reggae (?); Peter Fox

Grammatik: Schreiben S. 336-337 (F, G, H)

Donnerstag, 3. November

Thema 5: Hip-hop; Advanced Chemistry, Murat G

Grammatik: Schreiben S. 337 (I)

Dienstag, 8. November

Thema 5: Hip-hop; Fler, Aggroberlin (Label)

Grammatik: Schreiben S. 337-338 (J, K)

Dritten Aufsatz schreiben

Donnerstag, 10. November

Grammatik: Wiederholung auf die dritte Prüfung

Dritter Aufsatz fällig

Dienstag, 15. November

Prüfung #3: Grammatik und Wortschatz

Donnerstag, 17. November

Thema 5: Hip-hop; Bushido

Grammatik, *Handbuch*: Kap. 12 Passive Voice; Lesen: S. 186-195;

Schreiben: S. 196 (A, D)

Dienstag, 22. November

Thema 5: Hip-hop; De fofftig Penns / Interview mit De fofftig Penns

Grammatik: Schreiben S. 197 (E, F, G)

Donnerstag, 24. November – Thanksgiving

Dienstag, 29. November

Grammatik: Schreiben S. 198 (H, I, J, K, L)

Donnerstag, 1. Dezember

Grammatik: Wiederholung auf die vierte Prüfung

Vierter Aufsatz fällig

Dienstag, 6. Dezember

Prüfung #4: Grammatik und Wortschatz

Donnerstag, 15. Dezember

Schlussprüfung