

## Spring 2017    German 3790: Advanced German Grammar

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### Course Description:

German 3790 has one major goal: This learning environment is primarily designed to help you refine your command and understanding of German grammar. The course focuses on formal accuracy, but class activities will include communicative applications of grammatical points.

### Texts/Readings:

- Frank E. Donahue, *Deutsche Wiederholungsgrammatik*
- A German-English dictionary of your choice

### Daily Assignments:

Each chapter in the textbook contains a number of exercises, including mechanical grammatical exercises, guided communication exercises, and free communication exercises that require use of the target grammar. You are expected to have completed all of the fill-in exercises for the assigned section(s) in writing **before** class. The **Gruppen-** and **Partnerarbeiten** do not need to be written out, but you must be prepared to go over them in class. Since the answers to the exercises can be found in the back of the textbook, the exercises will normally not be collected. Rather, you will be expected to self-correct your written work. In class we will normally review the grammar theory, answer questions about grammar, do grammatical exercises, and then move to communicative activities. The vocabulary in the textbook reinforces the vocabulary foundation established in the 3301/3302 course sequence. The "new vocabulary load" is therefore very reasonable, which will help you keep your attention focused on improving your grammatical accuracy. Make sure to invest the time necessary to learn any new vocabulary that appears in the homework assignment. **This is crucial to your success in this course.** If you do not own a German-English dictionary, purchase one now. Make sure to memorize the gender and plural form of a noun, and the simple past and past participles of irregular verbs. If your dictionary does not give you this information,

then you should obtain a different dictionary, otherwise you will be extremely frustrated.

### **Prerequisites:**

You must have completed fourth semester German here at the U of M or have earned credit for fourth semester German through a placement exam, AP exam, or transfer credit. You are expected to have had formal instruction in elementary and intermediate German and to be familiar with standard grammatical terminology. If you learned German naturally, e.g. from a relative or while living in Germany, but have never studied the language formally, you will need to learn the terminology as you go along. The textbook was written to assist you in this.

If you are already fluent, your accuracy may still need some honing. Avoid thinking, "I don't need to study that because I know it already." Fluency is **not** the same as accuracy.

### **Grading/Requirements:**

Tests:	30%
Speaking Tasks and Compositions:	30%
Homework/ Preparation quizzes:	20%
Final:	20%

Grading:	A+: 98+	A: 93-97	A-: 90-92
	B+: 88-89	B: 83-87	B-: 80-82
	C+: 78-79	C: 73-77	C-: 70-72
	D+: 68-69	D: 63-67	D-: 60-62
	F: 59 or less		

### **Tests:**

Four tests will be given over the course of the semester. Tests typically cover four or more chapters of the textbook and consist of items similar to those on the homework assignments and in-class exercises.

### **Speaking Task How-To:**

Speaking task topics will be distributed in class.

- 1) Do NOT write out a text and read it (You may take notes beforehand, though, and think about what you want to say).
- 2) Find a computer with internet access and microphone (alternative: Use a smartphone)
- 3) Go to <http://vocaroo.com> and click „Click to record“ (you may be asked to allow access to your device, click „allow“)

- 4) Record your speaking task, then select the option „Click here to save“ below the green box once you're satisfied with your recording
- 5) Select „E-Mail“ as the sharing option and type in my email address:  
[hpolster@memphis.edu](mailto:hpolster@memphis.edu)

**Participation and Attendance:**

Participation includes attendance, asking questions, answering my questions, and taking part in class discussions. Attendance is crucial. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to contact a colleague and/or the teacher to receive materials, assignments, homework, etc. Absences will be unexcused except in cases of documented emergency (normally medical or family). You will need to sign in at the beginning of each class. Please notify me as soon as possible by e-mail or phone if it is necessary for you to be absent from class. In accordance with University of Memphis policy, you may be excused from class to participate in religious observances and official obligations like club or varsity sports. In such cases, written documentation must be presented to the instructor at least one week before the absence takes place. You may miss four times without any documentation. **Excessive unexcused absences will result in a failing grade: If you miss more than four class meetings without documentation, your final grade for the course will lowered by 10%. If you miss six class meetings or more without providing written documentation, you will receive an F.**

**Participation grade profiles:**

- A: volunteers frequently and is well-prepared
- B: volunteers several times and is well-prepared
- C: does not usually volunteer but is usually well-prepared
- D: does not volunteer and is generally poorly prepared
- F: consistently unprepared

**A word to the wise:**

As much learning takes place in class as at home. You can learn a lot when we go over the exercises in class. Attendance and participation are therefore **crucial** for your success in this class. You must not only come to class, but you must have also done the assignment fully and prepared yourself to give answers when called on. Do not miss a single class and always come thoroughly prepared and ready to contribute.

**How to prepare for class:**

1. Read the assigned section in the textbook slowly and carefully, making sure that you understand completely every step of the way. Take the time to learn anything that you didn't already know. Take notes to summarize and synthesize the information.
2. Complete all of the fill-in exercises in the textbook and workbook. These will be covered quickly in class, and it is extremely important that you have answers ready to go when called upon. Non fill-in exercises will be done in class. You should try answering them before class, however, so that you will not have to think long about an appropriate response in class.
3. Write down any questions that you have and be prepared to ask them in class.
4. Skim the assigned sections in the textbook before class to refocus your attention.

A good rule of thumb at the U of M is that you should spend two hours outside of class doing homework and preparing for the next class session for every hour of instructional time. You may find that you need more or less than two hours. However much time you need, please prepare well so that class time can be used with maximum efficiency.

**The University of Memphis Honor Code:**

The core values of The University of Memphis are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

**A final note:**

I take issues of academic honesty very seriously. All work in this course must be your own. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to standard university procedures (at a minimum, cheating on a test will result in the student receiving a zero as a test grade). Discussion of assignments between students in the course is always acceptable, but all students must write out their own work unless a specific group assignment, to which all members have clearly contributed, is made. Please consult me if you have concerns or questions.

**Preparation Strategy:**

- 1) After studying and/or reviewing the chapter content in detail, proceed to the theory review: complete it with all appropriate grammar terminology.

- 2) Next, write all the fill-in-the-blanks activities.
- 3) Then, correct yourself in a different color ink. Study your errors, try to recognize patterns.
- 4) After you've gotten this accuracy-related exercise, proceed to the exercises where you have to write complete sentences.
- 5) Prepare the "Partnerarbeit" and/or "Gruppenarbeit" and complete any remaining "Review of XYZ" etc. exercises.

Datum	Study/Prepare for today:
17. Januar	
19. Januar	Chapter 1: Present Tense
24. Januar	Chapter 2: Present Perfect
	etc. etc.

Due dates:

Composition 1: Feb. 14

Composition 2: March 2

Composition 3: March 30

Composition 4: April 18

~~Speaking Task 1: January 31~~

Speaking Task 2: March 16

Speaking Task 3: April 11

Speaking Task 4: May 4

Final Exam: 4. Mai, 10.30-12.30 Uhr