

The University of Kansas
Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures

GERM 401: Advanced German I
Fall Semester 2013

<u>Instructor:</u>	Prof. Nina Vyatkina	<u>Course Information:</u>
<u>Office:</u>	2070 Wescoe Hall	
<u>Office Hours:</u>	Mo., We. 2:30 - 3:30pm and by appt.	<u>Meeting time:</u> Mo, We @ 11:00 – 12:15pm
<u>E-mail:</u>	vyatkina@ku.edu	<u>Course location:</u> 4049 Wescoe Hall

Course Description:

This course is intended for advanced undergraduate students in German and presents a continuation of GERM 344/348 (now 301/302). The course provides expansion and refinement of proficiency in German, increased understanding of German grammatical structures, and development of a more sophisticated vocabulary. Three main course components include reading a literary text, linguistic analysis, and utilizing new digital resources for language learning. Respectively, materials include a fantasy novel, a usage-based grammar textbook, and a German language corpus: a large electronic collection of authentic German texts with built-in search and analysis tools. Students will utilize these materials to explore lexico-grammatical patterns of German as meaning-making resources in specific texts and contexts.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, all students who have attended classes consistently and completed all requirements successfully should improve the ability to:

- analyze authentic German texts and discover their lexico-grammatical characteristics
- compare grammar as presented in textbooks and as used in authentic texts
- understand and apply advanced grammatical principles and practices
- use electronic corpora and corpus tools for consultation and language analysis
- explore, utilize, and reflect on using advanced strategies of autonomous language learning

Course Texts:

1. Moers, W. (2002). *Die 13 ½ Leben des Käpt'n Blaubär*. Frankfurt, Germany: Goldmann.
2. Durrell, M. Kohl, K., & Loftus, G. (2002). *Essential German Grammar*. New York: Routledge.
3. DWDS: *Digitales Wörterbuch der Deutschen Sprache*. Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften (<http://www.dwds.de>). Free electronic resource.

Computer lab:

Your class will meet **every other Wednesday in the computer lab of 4074 Wescoe Hall** (refer to the *Wochenplan* at the end of the syllabus).

Course Management System: Blackboard

Your instructor will use the KU course management system (**Blackboard**) in this class in order to enhance student learning and facilitate communication outside class hours through the use of lesson space (course documents), assignments, quizzes, Grade Center, etc. Therefore, *you are expected to become familiar with the basics of this online system and to regularly check your Blackboard course website for new content and messages.* To use Blackboard, you will need to log in with your KU user ID and password at <http://courseware.ku.edu>. For technical assistance, please contact blackboardsupport@ku.edu.

Assessment:

Class participation	15%
Reading and writing assignments	20%
Grammar exercises	15%
Corpus-based assignments	20%
Course paper	30%

Class participation (15%)

Since a large part of your grade is based on in-class work, attendance is crucial. If you are not in class, you cannot expect to succeed in this course. You are allowed two (2) unexcused absences. If you anticipate being absent on some future date, make arrangements with your instructor beforehand. Additional absences will result in a lower grade. If you miss **three or more** consecutive days because of illness or injury you may request a Documentation of Illness/Injury statement from Student Health Services or another medical provider. However, merely coming to class is not enough! You are expected to actively participate in class in individual as well as group work and in discussions.

Reading and writing assignments (20%)

You will be regularly given assignments based on reading the course text (novel) that may include writing summaries of text excerpts, formulating and answering reading comprehension questions, short writing assignments, and the like. Oral assignments will be checked during class work, and written assignments will be turned in electronically via Blackboard.

Grammar exercises (15%)

Grammar exercises will be taken from the course grammar book. NB grammar exercises: It is your responsibility to complete these exercises first and then self-correct using the answer key (pp. 260 ff. in *Essential German Grammar*). Grammar learning will be quizzed every second Wednesday during the *Medienstunden* (see *Wochenplan*).

Corpus-based assignments (20%)

Medienstunden every second Wednesday (see *Wochenplan*) will be primarily devoted to corpus-based tasks. You will peruse the electronic corpus (DWDS) under the instructor's guidance and complete associated assignments in class and at home. You will learn to formulate and perform corpus queries, use corpus analysis tools, and interpret the visual, textual, and numerical corpus output. At the end of the semester, you will make a final presentation based on an individual corpus-based mini-project.

Course paper (30%)

The paper for the course will serve as an integrated assessment of the three main course components and will present a linguistic analysis of grammar patterns in context with the help of electronic corpus resources. Your instructor will provide you with details of this course component later in the semester.

Policies and Regulations:

Statement: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus. We will make every effort to follow the syllabus as presented at the beginning of the semester; however, sometimes changes are unavoidable.

Late Assignments: Late assignments can be accepted only due to illness, family emergency, or other legitimate reasons related to circumstances beyond your control. *You alert me and negotiate an extension with me in advance.*

Academic Integrity: The University of Kansas is committed to academic integrity. This integrity rests on two principles: First, represent academic work truthfully as to its source and accuracy. Second, obtain academic results by fair and authorized means. For more information, go to <https://documents.ku.edu/policies/governance/USRR.htm#art2sect6>

The Academic Achievement & Access Center (AAAC) coordinates accommodations and services for all KU students who are eligible. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted the AAAC, please do so as soon as possible. Their office is located in 22 Strong Hall; their phone number is 785-864-4064. Information about their services can be found at <http://disability.ku.edu>. Please contact me privately in regard to your needs in this course.