

U424-391: German for Reading Knowledge

Course Format: Online

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Course credits: 3

Pre/Corequisites: None; Appropriate for third-year or higher college or graduate students

Course Description:

Gain the ability to read any advanced German text with only the aid of a good dictionary. Get detailed, expert feedback from your Course Facilitator on translation assignments, proceeding from very basic grammar to the complex sentence structures characteristic of journalistic, technical, and scholarly writing. Great for meeting graduate program language requirements, genealogy work, and for theology students. Preview the entire course now at the free, open textbook, which includes online drills and visualization games. Key skills you'll learn include: taking advantage of similarities between English and German, expert dictionary use, using easy grammar cues to save time, which grammar rules are the most important to memorize for reading purposes, and how to use step-by-step techniques to untangle even the most complex sentences.

Required Course Materials

- *A Foundation Course in Reading German*
This is an open online textbook at <https://courses.dcs.wisc.edu/wp/readinggerman/>
- A German-English dictionary. Any such dictionary is acceptable and no specific dictionary is required.
Suggested dictionaries:
 - *Oxford German Dictionary*, 3rd ed. (Oxford University Press, 2008). ISBN-13:978-0199545681
 - *Collins German Unabridged Dictionary*, 8th ed. (Collins Reference, 2013). ISBN-13: 978-0062288820

Hardware Requirements

You will need a webcam, speakers, and a microphone. You will complete your exams through an online proctor, requiring all three components.

Course Learning Objectives

- Identify and analyze grammatical categories of words and syntactical structures in German sentences.
- Use your dictionary to select the appropriate translation of German words.
- Identify root words that help you predict similarities in meaning between words derived from the same root.
- Using the above skills, accurately translate German sentences into English.

Course Overview

UNIT #	UNIT TOPIC	EVALUATED ACTIVITIES
1	Basics	Written Assignment
2	Cases and Present Tense	Written Assignment
3	Articles and Simple Past	Written Assignment
4	Verbs with Prefixes and Adjective Endings	Written Assignment



5	Prepositions and Reflexives	Written Assignment
6	Conjunctions and Comparatives	Written Assignment
7	Perfect Tenses and Participles	Written Assignment
8	Werden and Relative Clauses	Written Assignment
9	Passive Voice	Written Assignment
10	Modal Verbs	Written Assignment
11	Infinitive Usages	Written Assignment
12	Da- Compounds	Written Assignment
13	Extended Adjective Constructions	Written Assignment
14	Subjunctive I	Written Assignment
15	Subjunctive II	Written Assignment
16	Finishing Touches	Written Assignment
17	Translation Activity	Written Assignment
		Final Exam

Evaluation Methods

Your final grade will be based on your performance on the following:

- 1) Written Assignments (50%)
- 2) Final Exam (50%)

Written Assignments (50%)

English translations of German sentences are assigned in each unit of this course and will cumulatively account for 50% of your final course grade.

Final Exam (50%)

An exam that assesses your ability to translate German sentences and passages into English will account for 50% of your final course grade.

Exam Method: Online with Proctoring

This course requires all students to complete exams online with a proctoring service. Students receive two attempts on each exam. If you elect to take a second attempt, the average score of both exams will be recorded.

Grading Scale

The following grading scale is used to evaluate all course requirements and determine your final grade:

A = 93–100	B = 83–87.9	C = 70–77.9	D = 60–69.9
AB = 88–92.9	BC = 78–82.9		F = Below 60

Pass/Fail Option

Students who enroll in an Independent Learning (IL) course under the pass/fail option will receive a final grade of S in place of a final grade equivalent to an A, AB, B, BC, or C and a final grade of U in place of a final grade equivalent to a D or F.