

Course Syllabus

**GERM 100C: German Composition & Conversation - Fall Semester 2004**

**Topic: Current Events and Contemporary Culture - 3.0 units**

Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures - California State University, Chico

**Time &** TR 12:30-1:45

**Location:** THMA 306

**Instructor:** Christine Goulding, PhD, Associate Professor of German

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**Info:** *Office location:* Trinity 146

*Dept. phone:* 898-5388

*Office hours:* **W** 9:00-9:50pm, **R** 2:00-5:20pm

You can also find me every Thursday, 5:30-6:30 at German Conversation Hour at The Upper Crust café.

**Course**

**Webpage:** <http://www.csuchico.edu/~goulding/german100c/>

**Course** *Handbuch der deutschen Grammatik.* Rankin & Wells. Houghton Mifflin (required)  
**Materials:** (2004). [ISBN: 0-618-33812-8]

a good dictionary (Cassell's, Langenscheidt, Oxford-Collins, et al.) (required)

a ring binder (**Ordner**) (required)

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**Course Description & Objectives:**

This course has the two-fold objective of helping you improve your German language skills and heightening your awareness of contemporary issues that are of relevance to German-speakers. You will, specifically:

- ▶ Expand your knowledge and understanding of current issues and contemporary culture in the German-speaking world. You will become informed about and will be able to discuss a wide variety of regional and global topics of relevance to German-speakers today. In addition, you will acquire a better understanding of some German cultural ideologies and behaviors vis-à-vis your own culture. Authentic materials, such as excerpts from newspapers and magazines (articles, charts, photos, etc.) and clips from German television and radio broadcasts, will provide the basis for discussions and writings.
- ▶ Improve and refine your conversational and writing skills in German. To focus on honing the essential components of communication, you will: 1) engage in guided practice in speaking, listening, and writing; 2) improve your grammatical accuracy through deliberate grammar review and practice; 3) expand your active and passive vocabulary knowledge via a personalized vocabulary list; 4) and learn to use available on-campus and online resources to support your language development.

In short, this course will help you build your practical understanding of the German culture while further developing your ability to use and understand the language in contemporary contexts.

## Grading and Expectations:

% of grade

Your success in this course is dependent on four key factors:

### 1. Attendance and Active Participation

25%

Because conversational practice is a fundamental part of this course, your attendance and active participation in class discussions is essential to your success. Your attendance is also significant because many of the materials that will form the basis of class discussions and writings will be materials introduced during class time. Note that because this is a combination class (German 100C and German 20A), a certain degree of independence, self-monitoring, and self-discipline will be required. For each day you are in class and participate productively—that is, you come to class prepared, spend time on task, contribute to class discussions, and make an effort to speak in German only—you will receive +1% point. Absences count as 0.

**You will keep assignments from the categories below in a ring binder (Ordner) in three sections:**

### 2. Writing Assignments

25%

To develop your composition skills, there will be various types of short writing assignments throughout the semester, both in and outside of class. You should rewrite all marked and returned assignments, making any corrections noted. To receive full credit for each assignment, you will include at least 2 drafts (the marked original and the corrected version) in your **Ordner**.

### 3. Grammar Assignments

20%

An essential component of language fluency comes from increasing grammatical accuracy. We will cover grammar on an as-needed basis. Topics will be covered in class to the extent that the entire group will benefit from review and practice. However, because students at this level have different language experiences and abilities, grammar will also be assigned on an individual basis, according to each student's own needs, as evidenced by his/her writing samples.

### 4. Vokabelheft and Vokabelquizzes

20%

Your ability to communicate improves dramatically as your vocabulary expands. For this reason, you will maintain a personal vocabulary bank, to which you will add *at least* 15 words per week. Words will likely come from course materials; above all, they should be items that you deem personally useful. Each Tuesday you will hand in your updated Vokabelheft with the 15 additional words for that week. Approximately every three weeks you will take a brief oral vocabulary quiz on the words in your list, in which you will be asked to identify the meanings of a random selection of words from your list and to use each correctly in a sentence. Quizzes will take place outside of class time during office hours, at Conversation Hour, or by appointment:

Vokabelquiz 1 (45 words): by Thursday of Week 4 (Sept. 13-16)

Vokabelquiz 2 (45 words): by Thursday of Week 7 (Oct. 4-7)

Vokabelquiz 3 (45 words): by Thursday of Week 10 (Oct. 25-28)

Vokabelquiz 4 (45 words): by Thursday of Week 13 (Nov. 15-18)

Vokabelquiz 5 (Comprehensive): by Thursday of Week 15 (Dec. 6-9)

### Final Exam Week

10%

At the end of the semester, you will hand in your **Ordner** with a reflective statement.