

Course Syllabus

GERM 020A: German Conversation - Fall Semester 2004

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

Time & Location: TR 12:30-1:45
THMA 306

Instructor: Christine Goulding, PhD, Associate Professor of German

Contact Info: *E-mail:* cgoulding@csuchico.edu *Office phone:* 898-5166
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/german20a/>

Course Materials: *So geht's. Fertigkeitstraining Grundstufe Deutsch.* Fischer-Mitziviris, (required)
Janke-Papanikolaou. Klett (2001). [ISBN 3-12-675575-5]
a good dictionary (Cassell's, Langenscheidt, Oxford-Collins, et al.) (required)
a small notebook (or electronic document) for Vokabelheft (required)

Course Description & Objectives:

German Conversation is designed to help you strengthen and expand your conversational skills in German. Students enrolled should possess basic language abilities (at least 1 semester of college-level or 1 year of high school German). To broaden and improve your capacity to converse in German, this course focuses on the particular subset of language skills that are fundamental to conversation. Specifically, you will:

- ▶ Improve your listening comprehension skills and further your ability to understand spoken native-speaker language.
- ▶ Improve your ability to engage in spontaneous oral discussion on basic themes and to respond appropriately in context-specific conversational settings.
- ▶ Expand and personalize your active vocabulary knowledge in common areas of conversation.

While grammar knowledge is an important part of language learning, grammar will be explicitly addressed only insofar as it supports learners' ability to converse.

Since you already have some experience in language learning, you probably already know that the more exposure you have to the language and the more you practice your language skills, the more quickly you will improve your ability to use and understand the language in real situations. For this reason, you are strongly encouraged to attend the weekly German Conversation Hour, held every Thursday evening, 5:30-6:30 at The Upper Crust café on Main St. in Chico.

Grading and Expectations:

Students enrolled in this course possess a wide range of language experiences and proficiency levels. In addition, learners have different strengths and weaknesses. Your language development will be assessed on an individual rather than on a comparative basis. Don't hesitate to ask for help when you need it and don't hesitate to assist others. An open and cooperative atmosphere is the most conducive to learning.

The components of this course are designed to help you improve your conversational skills. To be successful in this course, you must:

Attend Class and Actively Participate

30% OF GRADE

Because conversational practice is the core focus of this course, your attendance and active participation in class activities is essential. Your attendance is also significant because most listening comprehension practice will take place during class time. Because this is a combination class (German 20A and German 100C), 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 group discussions, and speak primarily in German—you will receive 1 point. Absences count as 0.

Maintain *Vokabelheft* & Study for *Vokabelquizzes*

30% OF GRADE

Conversation requires knowing a sufficient range of words to both understand and express oneself on a particular topic. For this reason, vocabulary acquisition is an important part of this course. You will maintain an ongoing personal glossary (*Vokabelheft*) consisting of 1) the words listed in the back of *So geht's* Collage section for each chapter covered, and 2) *at least 5* additional words that are useful to you personally. For each word, you should list not only the definition, but also other pertinent information (i.e., genders and plural forms of nouns, principle parts of verbs and any irregularities or stem changes, etc.) Actively compiling a personal glossary empowers you to use these words in conversation. You may maintain your personal glossary in handwritten notebook-format or in an electronic document, if you prefer. Use the format that is most useful to you.

The *Vokabelheft* will be graded for timeliness (Are you keeping up with vocabulary each week?) and completeness (Does it include all the required words? Did you include pertinent details for each word or phrase?). Beginning with Week 3, students will take a brief vocabulary quiz at the start of class each Tuesday on the previous week's words.

Complete Listening Activities

25% OF GRADE

Listening for and processing key information is an important part of conversation. To practice this skill, you will use some of the excellent authentic resources available for listening online. Every other week, beginning with Week 2, you will access and listen to an online audio/video excerpt of your choosing (e.g. a Deutsche Welle news broadcast, 30 min. of streaming audio from a German radio station, a radio interview, a video special report). Links to these resources are located at the German 20A website. You may listen more than once (unless you choose to listen to streaming [live] audio). As you listen, jot down key information, e.g. words, themes, names you recognize. Use any available pictures and titles to orient yourself toward the theme at hand. It is highly unlikely that you will understand everything; in fact, you might not understand much at all. The purpose of this activity is to begin acclimating your cognition to the sounds, pace, intonation, variations and structures of native speaker language. The more you engage in this type of listening, the more you will begin to understand. When you are done listening, send me an e-mail (cgoulding@csuchico.edu) detailing the experience. Use the subject title: "Listening Activity Week ____". Include a brief summary of what you understood and in what way you think the experience contributed to your language awareness or development.

Prepare for Oral Tests

15% OF GRADE

At the end of each *Stufe* in the textbook *So geht's*, your oral progress will be assessed (3 times). You and a partner will engage in a brief conversation on a given topic while your instructor listens in. Your ability to understand and convey information successfully using appropriate vocabulary and forms will serve as the basis of the assessment.

Course Outline:

<u>Weekly material and objectives</u>	<u>Scheduled assignments</u>
1. WOCHE (WEEK 1): 23. August Einführung	<i>Work is due on the day listed.</i>
2. WOCHE (WEEK 2): 30. August <i>So geht's</i> : STUFE 1, Kapitel 2: Freizeit & Hobbies	Di: Do: Hand in Vokabelheft (words from Collage, Kapitel 2 p. 186 bottom, AND 5 personal words) by So , midnight: Listening activity report
3. WOCHE (WEEK 3): 6. September <i>So geht's</i> : Stufe 1, Kapitel 3: Tägliches Leben	Di: Vokabelquiz – Stufe 1, Kapitel 2 Do: Vokabelheft (Collage, Kapitel 3, p. 187 AND 5 personal words)
4. WOCHE: 13. September <i>So geht's</i> : Stufe 1, Kapitel 4: Mode & Einkaufen	Di: Vokabelquiz – Stufe 1, Kapitel 3 Do: Vokabelheft (Collage, Kapitel 4, p. 188 AND 5 personal words) by So , midnight: Listening activity report
5. WOCHE: 20. September <i>So geht's</i> : Stufe 1, Kapitel 5: Feste und Musik	Di: Vokabelquiz – Stufe 1, Kapitel 4 Do: Vokabelheft (Collage, Kapitel 5, p. 189 AND 5 personal words)
6. WOCHE: 27. September <i>So geht's</i> : STUFE 2, Kapitel 1: Beziehungen	Di: Vokabelquiz – Stufe 1, Kapitel 5 Oral Test – Stufe 1 Do: Vokabelheft (Collage, Kapitel 1, p. 190 AND 5 personal words) by So , midnight: Listening activity report
7. WOCHE: 4. Oktober <i>So geht's</i> : Stufe 2, Kapitel 2: Sport	Di: Vokabelquiz – Stufe 2, Kapitel 1 Do: Vokabelheft (Collage, Kapitel 2, p. 191 AND 5 personal words)
8. WOCHE: 11. Oktober <i>So geht's</i> : Stufe 2, Kapitel 3: Tiere	Di: Vokabelquiz – Stufe 2, Kapitel 2 Do: Vokabelheft (Collage, Kapitel 3, p. 192 AND 5 personal words) by So , midnight: Listening activity report
9. WOCHE: 18. Oktober <i>So geht's</i> : Stufe 2, Kapitel 4: Essen & Trinken	Di: Vokabelquiz – Stufe 2, Kapitel 3 Do: Vokabelheft (Collage, Kapitel 4, p. 193 AND 5 personal words)
10. WOCHE: 25. Oktober <i>So geht's</i> : Stufe 2, Kapitel 5: Reisen & Urlaub	Di: Vokabelquiz – Stufe 2, Kapitel 4 Do: Vokabelheft (Collage, Kapitel 5, p. 194 AND 5 personal words) by So , midnight: Listening activity report
11. WOCHE: 1. November <i>So geht's</i> : STUFE 3, Kapitel 1: Gesundheit	Di: Vokabelquiz – Stufe 2, Kapitel 5 Oral Test - Stufe 2 Do: Vokabelheft (Collage, Kapitel 1, p. 195 AND 5 personal words)
12. WOCHE: 8. November <i>So geht's</i> : Stufe 3, Kapitel 2: Sprache & Ausbildung	Di: Vokabelquiz – Stufe 3, Kapitel 1 Do: Vokabelheft (Collage, Kapitel 2, p. 198 AND 5 personal words) by So , midnight: Listening activity report

13. WOCHE: 15. November <i>So geht's</i> : Stufe 3, Kapitel 3: Medien & Technik	Di : Vokabelquiz – Stufe 3, Kapitel 2 Do : Vokabelheft (Collage, Kapitel 3, p. 200 AND 5 personal words)
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THANKSGIVING BREAK: 22.-26. November

14. WOCHE: 29. November <i>So geht's</i> : Stufe 3, Kapitel 4: Arbeit & Beruf	Di : Vokabelquiz – Stufe 3, Kapitel 3 Do : Vokabelheft (Collage, Kapitel 4, p. 203 AND 5 personal words) by So , midnight: Listening activity report
15. WOCHE: 6. Dezember	Di : Vokabelquiz – Stufe 3, Kapitel 4 Do : Hand in complete Vokabelheft

SCHLUSSEXAMEN: Dienstag, den 14. Dezember, 14.00-15.50 Uhr
Oral Test - Stufe 3