



## TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Department of Foreign Languages  
German Civilization/Culture – 13561-GERM 3112-001  
Class 1:30 pm - 2:50 pm MW Evins Hall 109  
3 credit hours  
Spring Semester 2020  
Jan 21, 2020- May 07, 2020

### Instructor

Dr. Julia K. Gruber  
Email: [jgruber@tnitech.edu](mailto:jgruber@tnitech.edu)  
Office: Evins 107  
Office phone: 931-372-3787  
Office Hours: MWF 10.00-11.00 am and by appointment

PREREQUISITES: GERM2020

### REQUIRED MATERIALS

Anna Pilaski et. al. *Entdeckungsreise D-A-CH. Kursbuch zur Landeskunde*. Berlin: Langenscheidt, 2011.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course deals with a great variety of topics in music, art, literature, daily life, politics and history in the German-speaking world. It offers insights into landscapes and cities, nature and environment; it portrays people, communities and societies and informs about history, politics, economy and culture. One section focuses on the linguistic varieties of the German-speaking countries and regions. The course specifically focuses on conversation and communication about intercultural topics and outlines similarities and differences between Germany, Austria, Switzerland etc. and the USA.

## Course Objectives/Student learning outcomes

The curriculum emphasizes the development of **intercultural competence** (the ability to communicate effectively with persons from other cultures), as well as **communicative language skills**. This approach reflects the latest trends in language education, and is aligned with Tennessee Technological University's goals of preparing students to succeed in the global environment. Such competence involves a greater understanding of cultural differences and similarities; instead of being a side issue, cultural understanding is fundamental to the class.

In speaking and writing activities, students are guided from contextualized form-focused exercises to more open-ended activities in which they express individual preferences and viewpoints. Speaking and writing tasks synthesize material, add depth to chapter content, and provide opportunities to communicate in real-life contexts.

Listening practice is also provided in stages, ranging from highly structured to completely unscripted excerpts of spoken language. Videos and films put students face-to-face with real speakers from the target culture, adding both visual and cultural interest to listening comprehension activities.

Reading practice encourages students to negotiate meaning in the target language in realia and informational texts, as well as short literary excerpts, including poetry and fairy tales. These varied genres respond to multiple learning styles and interests and expose students to a broad range of models of the target language.

Vocabulary development is crucial to this communication-focused course. We will create vocabulary lists on quizlet for each chapter.

## Major teaching methods

Lectures, demonstrations, discussion, recitation reading, partner and group work and written assignments.

## Grading and evaluation procedures

### Oral Component

In-class participation and presentations	30%
--	-----

### Writing Component

Written assignments and vocabulary lists	20%
--	-----

### Skills Assessment

Take home Chapter Tests (3)	25%
-----------------------------	-----

### Class Project

	25%
--	-----

1. **Oral component/In-Class participation (30%):** Involvement in class activities. Students must come to class prepared and ready to learn. Active participation means speaking and

collaborating in pair and group exercises, volunteering thoughtful answers, and completing both in-class writing assignments and online preparatory assignments. In our classroom, emphasis is placed on communicative skills, pair/small group work, and conversation. A positive attitude is therefore essential. Everyone's presence and effective participation supports our collective success. Classroom discussions stress communication over grammatical accuracy.

Participation should be in **German** as much as possible when speaking with another student and with the professor. Off topic discussions in English will hurt your daily participation grade. Speaking any foreign language can be frustrating at first. Nevertheless, like any skill, the more you practice, the better you become. Therefore, avoid translating into English. Try your best to work only in the foreign language. Enjoy the limitation.

**2. Written Component (20%):** Throughout the semester, you will write three short texts on three topics of your choice (relating to the chapters of the book) in German that will allow you to develop your writing skills and reflect more on what we are learning in the classroom. We will also create vocabulary lists for each chapter. We will use quizlet.com for this activity.

**3. Skills assessment (25%):** In three take home chapter tests, you will show what you have learned in class.

**4. Final Project (25%):** You will prepare a poster on a subject of your choice for the Undergraduate Research Day. Students must attend a workshop in the library that will help them prepare the poster.

## OTHER MATTERS

### Course Policies

---

#### *Student Academic Misconduct Policy*

Maintaining high standards of academic integrity in every class at Tennessee Tech is critical to the reputation of Tennessee Tech, its students, alumni, and the employers of Tennessee Tech graduates. The Student Academic Misconduct Policy describes the definitions of academic misconduct and policies and procedures for addressing Academic Misconduct at Tennessee Tech. For details, view the Tennessee Tech's Policy 217 – [Student Academic Misconduct at Policy Central](#).

#### *University Plagiarism Policy*

When you use (for example, quote or even summarize or paraphrase) someone else's media, words, data, ideas, or other works, you must cite your source. You should be especially careful to avoid plagiarizing Internet sources (for example, e-mail, chat rooms, Web sites, or discussion groups). It does not matter whether you borrow material from print sources, from the Internet, from online databases, or from interviews. Failure to cite your source is plagiarism. Students who plagiarize may

receive an “F” or a “0” for the assignment, or an “F” for the course. For more info on plagiarism and what constitutes plagiarism, go to:

<http://iweb.tntech.edu/kosburn/plagiarism.htm>

### *Disability Accommodation*

Students with a disability requiring accommodations should contact the Accessible Education Center (AEC). An Accommodation Request (AR) should be completed as soon as possible, preferably by the end of the first week of the course. The AEC is located in the Roaden University Center, Room 112; phone 931-372-6119. For details, view the Tennessee Tech’s Policy 340 – Services for Students with Disabilities at Policy Central.

### **Other matters**

➔ **All students** are required to attend **at least two (2) events** offered by the German Klub each semester; this includes German film evenings, *Stammtisch* (a regular meeting where only German is spoken), Wandertag, WOW, film evenings etc. Many of these German culture events feature free refreshments.

➔ Make use of these **Additional Services**: Students can reserve study rooms and use technology for group work and to practice presentations. Students can also schedule appointments for free help with finding resources, developing a presentation, creating a research poster, and getting documents notarized. The library also offers free, individual peer tutoring to any student for help with courses, study skills, test prep, writing papers, and resumes. There are also special group tutoring sessions for select classes to prepare for tests and exams. Appointments and reservations for all of these services are made online.

➔ In order to show that you have read this syllabus, please email me a picture or video relating to a topic related to German culture/civilization that you want to learn about and tell me why you chose it. Post to the German Klub Facebook page for extra credit.

Welcome to Germ3112. Please sign below to confirm that you have read and understood the syllabus:

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Jan 22: Deutsch und andere Sprachen

Jan 27: Deutsch und andere Sprachen

Jan 29: Deutsch und andere Sprachen; In class presentation; vocab quiz

Feb 3: Geografie;

Feb 5: Geografie; In class presentation

Feb 10: Geografie; vocab quiz

Feb 12: Tourismus; In class presentation

Feb 17: Tourismus

Feb 19: Tourismus; In class presentation; First Chapter Test; vocab quiz

Feb 24: Menschen

Feb 26: Menschen; In class presentation

March 2: Menschen; vocab quiz

March 4: Essen und Trinken; In class presentation

March 9: Essen und Trinken

March 11: Essen und Trinken; Second Chapter Test; vocab quiz

March 23: Feste und Feiern

March 25: Feste und Feiern; in class presentation

March 30: Feste und Feiern; vocab quiz

April 1: Gesellschaft; in class presentation

April 6: Gesellschaft

April 8: Gesellschaft; In class presentation; vocab quiz

April 13: Kultur und Wissenschaft

April 15: Kultur und Wissenschaft; In class presentation, vocab quiz

April 20: Natur und Umwelt

April 22: Natur und Umwelt; In class presentation; vocab quiz

April 27: Geschichte und Politik

April 29: Geschichte und Politik; In class presentation; vocab quiz; Third Chapter Test