GER 332: German Culture / deutsche Kultur & Identität

Lecture – 3 credits – course language: German

Instructor: Catherine Liggett
Contact information: liggettc@onid.orst.edu
Office Hours: by appointment via Google+

This course is designed for students who have successfully completed at least GER 213 or its equivalent. The course language is German: all students are expected to communicate with each other and the instructor in German, and all course work will be submitted in German.

Course Description:
Since the end of World War II, those identifying as German have faced many difficult questions: What does it mean to be “German” in light of the atrocities of WWII? Do we still want to identify as “German”?

Though the war is long passed, many contemporary Germans still doubt national pride and identity, and have a complex relationship with their own culture and nationality. The splitting of Germany into two countries (East and West), post-war immigration, the fall of the wall, the European Union, and contemporary globalization have all contributed to making “German” culture and identity even more complex. In this course, you will explore both historical and contemporary ideas surrounding German identity and culture.

The course will be delivered via Blackboard, your online learning community, where you will interact with your classmates and with me. Within the course Blackboard site you will access the learning materials, tutorials, and syllabus; discuss issues; submit assignments; email other students and the instructor; participate in online activities; and display your projects. To preview how an online course works, visit the Ecampus Course Demo. For technical assistance, Blackboard and otherwise, see http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/services/technical-help.htm.
Learning Outcomes:
In this course, you will be able to

- Analyze the question “Was sind Deutsche?” with historical accuracy and informed nuance
- Compare and contrast changes in German culture and identity from WWII to the present
- Define and discuss reasons why identifying as German could be problematic at various points in German history, including the present
- Recognize your own cultural bias while analyzing another culture

Evaluation:
You will be evaluated by your instructor and you will write an honest self-assessment. Each assignment will be evaluated as follows:

Assignments:

- **Classroom Participation (50%)**:
  1. **Discussions on Blackboard (20%)**:
     You are required to check Blackboard on a daily basis. At least once per week, there will be a discussion question posted. You are required to post at least one original and at least two thread responses (responding to other posts) for each question on the Blackboard discussion board. Your responses should be original (in your own words, please only quote if absolutely inevitable), coherent, respectful of the opinions of others and contribute significantly to the topic discussed. Please back up your post by your sources, i.e. quotes from our textbook or other relevant peer reviewed material you might want to consider. Your responses will be at the end of the course. *Posts on the Blackboard discussion board are due weekly on Sundays.*

  2. **Graded Interviews (15%)**:
     Each student will meet with me twice in a graded interview, assessing appropriate language proficiency and understanding of course materials. Schedule will be sent via e-mail.

  3. **Conversation Partner Meetings and Journal (15%)**
     Each student will meet with a conversation partner at least once per week via Google+, and write a weekly journal entry about their discussion. Go to the “groups” tab on the left-hand menu on Blackboard to sign up for your discussion partner group.

- **Written Work and Prezi Presentation (40%)**
  1. **Essay (Aufsatz) 1 First Draft (10%)**:
     500 word essay: see instruction sheet under Woche 4 for more information
  2. **Essay (Aufsatz) 1 Final Draft (10%)**:
     500 word essay: see instruction sheet under Woche 4 for more information
  3. **Essay (Aufsatz) 2 First Draft (10%)**:
     500 word essay: see instruction sheet under Woche 7 for more information
  4. **Essay (Aufsatz) 2 Final Draft (10%)**:
     500 word essay: see instruction sheet under Woche 7 for more information

- **Final Prezi Project (10%)**
At the end of the term, you will also turn in a project on the development of German identity since WWII, which you will create with the fun and free online program, Prezi. See Woche 10 for more information.

**Special note about translator usage:** Any use of any online translator is plagiarism. I do not hesitate to fail any assignment or student that/who I suspect of translator usage (and it is easy to spot). Please use a dictionary, such as dict.cc or Leo.org, for your vocabulary resource.

**Learning Resources:**

All resources will be online, posted on our Blackboard site.

Daily access to Blackboard is required, as well as 2-3 times daily access to e-mail. **To receive e-mails from this course, you must have your official ONID e-mail address set up.**

**Incompletes:**

Take this course only if you plan to finish it in a timely manner (during this term). I assign an "I" or incomplete only when there is a strong and compelling case for doing so (e.g., health reasons, military commitment). I will not consider assigning an incomplete unless the individual has completed over 50% of the course tasks (e.g., completed the assignments up and including week 5 and submitted the prospectus for the final project). Please note that students receiving incompletes are subject to assignment weight reduction (and consequently may not be eligible for A or A- grades) because some of their work will be submitted late.

**Special Needs:**

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty, and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

**Expectations for Student Conduct:**

Please see the policy found at [http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stuchon/achon.htm](http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stuchon/achon.htm)

**Learning Environment**

In an academic community, students and faculty, and staff each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment, whether online or in the classroom. Students, faculty, and staff have the responsibility to treat each other with understanding, dignity and respect. Disruption of teaching, administration, research, and other institutional activities is prohibited by Oregon Administrative Rule 576-015-0015 (1) and (2) and is subject to sanctions under university policies, OSU Office of Student Conduct.

**Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to comply with all regulations pertaining to academic honesty, defined as: An intentional act of deception in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic...
work. **This includes translator usage.** For further information, visit Avoiding Academic Dishonesty, or contact the office of Student Conduct and Mediation at 541-737-3656.

**Conduct in this online classroom**
Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email postings) in compliance with the university's regulations regarding civility. Students will be expected to treat all others with the same respect as they would want afforded themselves. Disrespectful behavior to others (such as harassing behavior, personal insults, inappropriate language) or disruptive behaviors in the course (such as persistent and unreasonable demands for time and attention both in and out of the classroom) is unacceptable and can result in sanctions as defined by Oregon Administrative Rules Division 015 Student Conduct Regulations.

**Communications:**

**Ground Rules for Online Communication & Participation:**

- **Online threaded discussions** are public messages, and all writings in this area will be viewable by the entire class or assigned group members.
- Posting of personal contact information is discouraged (e.g. telephone numbers, address, personal website address).
- **Online Instructor Response Policy:** I will check email frequently and will respond to course-related questions within 24 hours on weekdays.
- **Observation of "Netiquette":** All your online communications need to be composed with fairness, honesty and tact. Spelling and grammar are very important in an online course. What you put into an online course reflects on your level of professionalism.
- Please check the Announcements area and the course syllabus before you ask general course "housekeeping" questions (i.e. how do I submit assignment 2?). If you don't see your answer there, then please contact me.

**Guidelines for a productive and effective online classroom**

- Web-based instruction does not only accommodate different learning styles by delivering the content through various media such as text, video, audio, and the web but it also provides students with the advantage of being able to control the pace and sequence of instruction. With this freedom you have simultaneously the responsibility to carefully study all learning materials provided, participate in online discussions in a meaningful way, and submit assignments when they are due.
- The discussion board is your space to interact with your colleagues related to current topics or responses to your colleague’s statements. It is expected that each student will participate in a mature and respectful fashion.
- Participate actively in the discussions, having completed the readings and thought about the issues.
- Pay close attention to what your classmates write in their online comments. Ask clarifying questions, when appropriate. These questions are meant to probe and shed new light, not to minimize or devalue comments.
- Think through and reread your comments before you post them.
- Assume the best of others in the class and expect the best from them.
• Value the diversity of the class. Recognize and value the experiences, abilities, and knowledge each person brings to class.
• Disagree with ideas, but do not make personal attacks. Do not demean or embarrass others. Do not make sexist, racist, homophobic, or victim-blaming comments at all.
• Be open to be challenged or confronted on your ideas or prejudices.

Student Assistance:

Contacting the instructor
The best way to contact me is via email or during my Google+ office hours by appointment. You can find me on Google+ by entering my full name.

Technical Assistance
If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the OSU Computer Helpdesk online.

Course Topic Calendar:

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<th>Topic</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Einführung in die deutsche Identität</td>
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<td>NS-Propaganda</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Vergangenheitsbewältigung I</td>
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<td>Multikulturelles Deutschland II</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Prezi Projekt</td>
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Student Evaluation of Teaching
We encourage you to engage in the course evaluation process each term – online, of course. The evaluation form will be available toward the end of each term, and you will be sent instructions through ONID. You will login to “Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted.