

WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Department of Modern Languages & Literatures
Winter 2019

GERMAN 2220B - GERMAN CONVERSATION

M 3:30 – 4:30 pm, W 3:30-5:30 pm
Instructor: Anne Lausch (alaus@uwo.ca)



Course description:

Practice speaking German through guided conversations, discussions, role plays and games. Learn how to make small talk, ask for and give advice, complain about something, ask someone a favour, explain things, respond to an invitation, give opinions etc. . Improve your fluency while also learning about some current issues and cultural peculiarities of the German-speaking countries. Build your intercultural competence through systematic practice of many conversational situations.

Course Objectives:

- To improve oral fluency through guided conversations and presentations in German
- To familiarize students with many aspects of contemporary life and some current issues in the German-speaking countries, using different sources, such as readings, websites, videos, music etc.
- To expand students' vocabulary in a way that will benefit both general conversation and discussion of specific topics
- To provide a solid foundation for advanced courses in German as well as prepare students for exchange opportunities.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course successful students will

- Speak with greater confidence and fluency in the target language
- Have a broader passive and active vocabulary
- Comprehend every-day spoken language
- Be able to deal with a variety of conversational situations and demonstrate an awareness of intercultural competence
- Improvise questions and answers in a discussion on a prepared topic
- Be able to give meaningful oral presentations using only a list of key words
- Have a broader cultural awareness and an understanding of some current issues relating to the German-speaking countries.

Assessments:

Active participation in class	25 %
Role plays and / or debates	10 %
Vocabulary quizzes	20 %
Presentations	20%
Oral assessment 1	10 %
Oral assessment 2	15 %

Participation: Students are expected to attend every class and come prepared to speak German. This may mean reading any assigned material, reviewing vocabulary, or researching a topic.

Role plays / debates: Students will be assigned roles to improvise or practice a conversation, or conduct a simple debate on a topic provided by the instructor. They will apply structures and expressions as well as intercultural communication skills learned in class.

Quizzes: There will be a number of short vocabulary quizzes on words and expressions covered in class. Students will be provided with lists for study purposes.

Presentations: Each student will give several short presentations on a chosen topic. These presentations will typically be about five minutes long. Students are required to bring a list of keywords which they will share with the class, but are not supposed to read from a prepared script. The presentation will include questions for class discussion.

Oral Assessments: These will be conducted individually or in pairs/ small groups. The first assessment will take place after the first month of classes and the second one at the end of the course.

Readings / links will be made available via the OWL course site.



ANTIREQUISITE(S): None

PRE- or COREQUISITE(S): German 2200 or 2200w/x, or permission of the Department.

Extra information: 3 hours, 0.5 course. Taken in second or third year.

If you are unsure whether this is the right course for you please contact the course coordinator (Anne Lausch <alansch@uwo.ca>).

*The **Academic Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Modern Languages and Literatures courses are available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures website at <http://www.uwo.ca/modlang/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, and ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.*