

Syllabus

GERM 2155, version 1.2

Updated: May 20, 2016

GERM 2155—Readings in German Literature

Course Description: *This is General Education course.* Analysis of literary texts; expansion of lexicon, comprehension, and composition skills.

Note: This course awards three hours of credit towards a student's fulfillment of the General Education Requirement in the Humanities area (IV) by training students to develop (a) an informed appreciation of the roles of the arts and humanities, (b) further understanding of other cultures and other times, and (c) a greater awareness of the manner in which language is used to facilitate communication between individuals and peoples.

Textbooks and Other Materials

In order to successfully complete this course, read the following textbook information carefully. Please use the ISBN listed below to purchase the required materials. ODL is not responsible for student purchases that result in the receipt of the wrong materials. *It is the responsibility of the student* to order the correct materials. Courses are written to specific textbook editions; edition substitutions *are not allowed*.

Textbook

Rosmarie Thee Morewedge. *Mitlesen-Mitteilen: Literarische Texte zum Lesen, Sprechen, Schreiben und Hören*. 4th edition. Boston, MA: Heinle, 2008.

ISBN-13: 978-1413029437

ISBN-10: 1413029434

Ordering Information

Please review the following tips for ordering your course materials:

1. Do not purchase your materials until your enrollment is approved. During the processing period, a new section may be opened that could require a different textbook or edition.
2. *Always check the ISBN.* Publishers and vendors often offer the same textbook title under different ISBNs. You must have the correct ISBN to access your online website.
3. Our official LSU Online Distance Learning bookstore (<http://www.outreach.lsu.edu/Extended-Campus/Online-Distance-Learning/Textbooks>) carries most of the required textbooks.
4. If you are having problems locating a textbook, contact us at Answers@outreach.lsu.edu for assistance.

Other Materials and Resources

Software: *Adobe Shockwave Player, Adobe Acrobat Reader, MS Word, MS PowerPoint*

We recommend that you use Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome as your web browser. Internet Explorer is not compatible with your Moodle course site.

Adobe Shockwave player is required for online testing and assignments. Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to view PDF document files, and MS PowerPoint is required to view module PowerPoint presentations.

Hardware: *Web cam with a microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers, CD player, high speed internet*

Exams are completed online and require the hardware listed above. Students are encouraged to review the technical requirements provided on the ProctorU website and to perform a test on their equipment prior to enrolling in this course to make sure they have the necessary resources available.

Technical Requirements: <http://www.proctoru.com/tech.php>

Equipment Test: <http://www.proctoru.com/testitout/>

Nature and Purpose of the Course

Course Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Read and understand short, authentic literary texts by authors from Austria, Germany, and Switzerland for basic and detailed understanding of the texts
2. Make connections from the literary texts to grammar, style, and meaning of the German language
3. Write short-answer as well as essay-length responses to discussion questions from each of the texts
4. Become more familiar with historical and cultural aspects of the German language and German-speaking countries

In this course you will utilize the course textbook and supplementary materials, including PowerPoint presentations, multimedia resources, and links to additional online dictionaries. By reviewing the readings, accessing supplementary materials, and completing assignments, you will be able to better familiarize yourself with the German language and meet the course objectives listed above.

This course is an introduction to German literature. In the modules that make up this course, you will be given multiple opportunities to learn about important literary and cultural aspects in German-speaking countries, develop reading comprehension skills, apply grammatical structures to communicate clearly through written exercises, and practice aural and speaking skills in German.

The language structures and skills presented in this course are designed to be useful for intermediate-level students at the second or third year; by the end of the course, students should be able to decipher more complicated reading texts and express themselves with more advanced language structures. All assignments and exercises included in this course are essential for achieving competency in the German language.

Your writing skills will develop from the very beginning of the course through guided writing activities that form an integral part of every assignment, including follow-up reflections from readings and open-ended questions which will allow you to practice specific grammatical structures. Writing activities will focus on developing strategies to help you progress from basic sentence writing to more advanced and complex paragraphs and essays. Additionally, this course will include listening comprehension activities, which are essential for successful oral communication. As such, you will have ample opportunity to enhance your aural skills in each lesson through text-based and authentic listening exercises (accessible on the CD provided with the purchase of the course textbook).

Finally, as you go about reading and deciphering each text, you will be exposed to various aspects of the rich history of German literature. Each chapter focuses on a particular excerpt of an author's work, such as a short chapter from a collection of short stories or even poetry. In this way, the textbook introduces you to some of the authors who have contributed significant

literary works that reflect the cultural, geographical, historical, and societal developments in these German-speaking areas. This course will expose you to authentic content and other resources including music and video to make the language applications, such as grammar and vocabulary, enjoyable as well as educational.

The course components will also make your language-learning experience more enjoyable and less daunting. All course components are available in their entirety within the textbook and Moodle. These include the textbook, *Mitlesen-Mitteilen* (4th edition); and a Text Audio Program, which corresponds to the listening comprehension activities in the textbook. This includes popular songs pertinent to the various literary texts in each chapter. The lyrics to these songs, which help the learner reinforce vocabulary and understanding of the songs' contents, are found in the *Text Audio Script* pages of the back of the textbook.

For more specific information regarding the required course materials, see "Working with the Course Materials" below.

Working with the Course Materials

Remember, this course covers an entire semester of work or the equivalent of a classroom course lasting 15 weeks. That means that each module in this course equals nearly a week of course work and will require the same time and effort on your part. *Do not expect to complete each module in a single study session. Understand, too, that if you choose to submit assignments at a rapid pace, your instructor may not be able to grade your work at the same rate.*

When working on each module you should do the following:

1. Read the directions for each module and assignment very carefully.
2. View PowerPoint presentations and Multimedia Resources before beginning your assignment (you can always access these materials after assignments for further review).
3. Complete each assignment within Moodle by clicking on the Module Assignment link. Follow the directions carefully.

Moodle

All graded assignments and activities for this course will be completed within Moodle. These will include short-answer responses to questions, open-ended responses to discussion topics, grammar exercises, and vocabulary quizzes. When all parts of the assignment are complete, be sure to submit your work so that your instructor can check your work and enter a grade in the Moodle grade book. This is your final score for the module, and it includes all parts of the Moodle assignments.

For additional review before you attempt your assignment, after the initial reading of each chapter, it is recommended that you view any PowerPoint presentations, study guides, and study questions available in Moodle pertaining to that chapter.

Textbook Overview

This may be your first formal exposure to German literature and, therefore, may be a bit overwhelming at first. This is particularly true given the amount of German used. However, you need not be too worried as you will become accustomed to this style as you proceed through the textbook, which is designed to make your language-learning experience more natural.

Through each chapter and module of assignments you will notice that all chapters in this book follow the same design, which includes but is not limited to the following sections: *Vor dem Lesen* (Before the Reading), *Leseverständnis* (Reading Comprehension), *Diskussion* (Discussion), *Wortschatzaufgaben* (Vocabulary Assignments), *Sprechakte* (Speech Acts), *Aufsatzthemen* (Essay Themes), *Kontexte* (Contexts), and *Zum Hören* (For Listening).

Each chapter provides a *Glossar* (Glossary) section, which includes a list of all major vocabulary key to the chapter text, and is provided in German with English translations. While your first instinct may be to utilize English translations often, it will be to your benefit to focus on the German as much as possible.

Also, the *Vocabulary* section in the back portion of your textbook provides you with additional vocabulary to supplement the *Glossar* from each chapter. You are encouraged to utilize this tool, as well as additional German-English dictionaries, either print or on the internet, to support your building of German vocabulary. See Moodle for a list of suggested dictionaries, and other online resources dedicated to the German language, its grammar, culture, and history.

In addition to the *Vocabulary* section, a *Text Audio Script* is also found in the back of the book. This provides the reader with lyrics from each of the chapter's musical tracks and is available to support your comprehension of each text.

To make your transition to learning German and utilizing *Mitlesen-Mitteilen* easier, each of the chapters of your textbook will follow the same design. Since you will be exposed to mostly German in these chapters, it is essential to become familiar with some of the key terms of the different sections you will come across. These key terms and their descriptions are listed below.

Review your module assignments after they have been graded and returned to you. ODL suggests that you wait for your first assignment to be graded before you submit subsequent assignments.

One temptation you may have in an independent study course is to rely too heavily on textbook material when preparing your assignments. If you give in to such a temptation, you

may not realize until exam time that the perfect response you prepared was possible only because you repeatedly referred to the textbook without really learning or understanding the material. Therefore, you should attempt each assignment without referring to the textbook, and if “thumbing back” is necessary, be sure you have actually learned the point rather than merely reflected it in the answer.

Put yourself on a definite schedule. Set aside a certain block of hours per day or week for this course and work in a place where distractions are minimal. Try to submit an assignment each week or at least every two weeks. Delays in submitting assignments usually result in lagging interest and the inability to complete the course.

Mitlesen-Mitteilen (4th edition) Chapter Key Terms: Overview

Vor dem Lesen

The *Vor dem Lesen* (Before the Reading) briefly introduces and characterizes the text for the chapter and includes 2–3 short sections to help the reader prepare for a more thorough understanding of the text. This includes skimming the text, making a list of vocabulary of key expressions, and even giving the text a second read. **Note:** This section also provides suggestions for partner or group work for classroom activities. Since this course is designed for the independent learner, these suggestions may be utilized, but focus on them on an individual basis.

Leseverständnis

Leseverständnis (Reading Comprehension) includes several sections of questions and tasks to help reinforce the overall understanding of the text to the reader. These include true/false questions, written exercises, and even partner or group exercises. As mentioned above, you should work independently throughout the reading and follow-up exercise portions of each chapter. These activities will tend to prompt short, succinct responses, providing the student with opportunities to answer short summaries to challenging questions.

Diskussion

The *Diskussion* (Discussion) includes several sections that provide questions which entice student discussion and reflection. These responses will tend to be more open-ended, providing the student with ample opportunities to explore their skills at writing in German.

Wortschatzaufgaben

The *Wortschatzaufgaben* (Vocabulary Assignments) include several sections of tasks that focus on vocabulary building. These allow the student to apply vocabulary learned from each text in authentic activities.

Aufsatzthemen

The *Aufsatzthemen* (Essay Themes) of each chapter provide students with several options of developing their skills writing essays. These include grammatical and linguistic aspects found from the textbook, from which students can adopt and apply to their own writing.

Kontexte

The *Kontexte* (Contexts) portion of each chapter is a short text that highlights the cultural and historical significance of each chapter, primarily by focusing on a key theme included in the text.

Zum Hören

The *Zum Hören* (For Listening) section includes several sections of exercises pertaining to the audio track featured in each chapter. These include *Vor dem Hören* (before listening), *Beim Hören* (While Listening), and *Nach dem Hören* (After the Listening) exercises, each of which help the reader (listener) reinforce their listening comprehension.

Glossar

The *Glossar* (Glossary) section includes key vocabulary pertaining to the feature text of each chapter.

Suggested Study Techniques

1. Carefully review the module objectives to help you focus on the information that will be covered on the exams.
2. Concentrate on the reading assignments, the module lecture material, and any additional resources provided. This review should include a detailed examination of any illustrative problems and examples. After an assignment has been completed, a rapid re-reading of the related text and other materials is strongly recommended.
3. Put yourself on a definite schedule. Set aside a certain block of hours per day or week for this course and work in a place where distractions are minimal.
4. Try to submit one assignment each week or at least every two weeks. Delays in submitting assignments usually result in lagging interest and the inability to complete the course. Remember that your instructor has **up to seven calendar days** to post a grade in Moodle for your activities.
5. Review your module assignments after they have been graded, paying special attention to any instructor feedback provided. (We suggest that you wait for assignment feedback before you submit subsequent assignments.)
6. Regardless of how you complete your graded assignments, keep in mind that module completion should not be your sole preparation for your exams. As with any college course, you should study for your exams.

Reading Assignments

Each module will cover an average of 20–25 pages. The majority of this textbook consists of reading and writing exercises, with occasional listening, speaking, and grammar exercises.

Topic Outline

This course covers the following specific topics:

Module	Topic
1	„Mittagspause“ and „Imitation“
2	„Familie in Kürze“ and „Rotkäppchen '65“
3	„San Salvador“ and „Ich war ein Kind“
4	„Die Küchenuhr“ and „Zeitsätze“
5	„Das Märchen vom kleinen Herrn Moritz, der eine Glatze kriegte“ and „Die Geschichte vom fliegenden Robert“
6	„Fritz“ and „Geschichte ohne Moral“
7	Mid-Course Exam Review

Mid-Course Examination

8	Fünzig Sprichwörter and „Das Ideal“
9	„Der Weltuntergang“ and „Neapel sehen“
10	„Bleibe“ and „Eine kaiserliche Botschaft“
11	„Helden wie wir“
12	„Rote Korallen“
13	„Das Mißverständnis“ and „Von der Muttersprache zur Sprachmutter“
14	Final Exam Review

Final Examination

Submission of Module Assignments

You are required to complete all assignments for each module provided within Moodle. For listening comprehension exercises, it is recommended that you listen to each audio file at least twice to gain a proper understanding of the content. In some cases, and especially as you progress through the book, you will need to listen to these files more than twice. In instances when the content is difficult to comprehend due to tempo, accent, etc., it is most important to have an understanding of the overall content and to find the main point, rather than understanding absolutely every word spoken. You may experience this when listening to interviews in real time. Should you have difficulty, please contact the instructor.

Use of any online translating tools at any time is absolutely not permitted and is considered cheating. It will be clear if such a tool is utilized to assist you with your writing. In addition to the textbook vocabulary glossaries and dictionaries, there are a number of reliable online dictionaries which will be listed in Moodle.

Carefully study the textbook material before you begin to prepare the module assignments. This study should include a detailed examination of the chapter's title page, author biography, pre-reading suggestions, reading the literary text, and reading and studying the vocabulary found in the glossary.

Detailed PowerPoint presentations, study guides, and multimedia resources are provided in Moodle to supplement your study. After the initial reading of the chapter, it is recommended that you review the PowerPoint presentations and study materials for that chapter.

You should submit each module assignment as soon as it is completed. Specific information on assignment submission is included in the Module Instructions. Please be sure to follow these instructions.

Once you submit an assignment, you cannot revise it, so be sure to check your work. Your instructor will normally post a grade for your assignment with in *seven calendar days*. Understand that occasional delays will occur, such as during holidays and semester breaks or if you submit several module assignments within the same week.

Academic Integrity

Students in Online Distance Learning (ODL) courses must comply with the *LSU Code of Student Conduct*. Suspected violations of the academic integrity policy may be referred to LSU Student Advocacy & Accountability (SAA), a unit of the Dean of Students. If found responsible of a violation, you will then be subject to whatever penalty SAA determines and will forfeit all course tuition and fees.

Plagiarism

Students are responsible for completing and submitting their own course work and preparing their own modules. All work submitted in the course modules must be the student's own work unless outside work is appropriate to the assignment; all outside material must be properly acknowledged. It is also unacceptable to copy directly from your textbook or to use published answer keys or the teacher's edition of a textbook.

Collaboration

Unauthorized collaboration constitutes plagiarism. Collaborative efforts that extend beyond the limits approved by the instructor are violations of the academic integrity policy. Students who study together are expected to prepare and write their own individual work for submission and grading.

For more information and links to the *LSU Code of Student Conduct* and the SAA website, go to the [ODL Academic Integrity policy](#) on our website.

Examinations and Grading Policy

There are two examinations which cover the readings and all associated grammar and vocabulary. There are true/false questions, short-answer responses, and writing exercises. You will also be asked to interpret the texts through written responses to essay questions. The mid-course exam follows Module 07, and the final exam, which is comprehensive, follows Module 14.

The grade for module assignments includes all parts of the module assignment in Moodle, such as responses to reading and personal recordings. The mid-course exam is worth 100 points, and the final exam is worth 200 points.

YOU MUST PASS THE FINAL EXAMINATION IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.

If you earn a passing grade on the final exam your course grade will be computed as follows:

The course grade equals the average of module assignments + the average of quizzes + exam scores. Each component is weighted by the following predetermined percentages.

Component	Weight (%)
Average of Module Assignments	20%
Average of Quizzes	5%
Mid-Course Exam	25%
Final Exam	50%

The following grading scale applies.

97%–100%	=	A+
93%–96%	=	A
90%–92%	=	A-
87%–89%	=	B+
83%–86%	=	B
80%–82%	=	B-
77%–79%	=	C+
73%–76%	=	C
70%–72%	=	C-
67%–69%	=	D+
63%–66%	=	D
60%–62%	=	D-
0%–59%	=	F

IMPORTANT: The final exam cannot be taken until you meet the following requirements. Under no circumstances may the final exam be taken earlier.

1. You must have been enrolled in the course for *at least three weeks*, regardless of when the modules and other exams are completed.
2. You must have a grade posted in the Moodle grade book for the **Module 14 assignment** in order to unlock access to the final exam. Please allow at least seven days for the final assignment grade to be posted. During busy seasons, it may take longer for grades to be posted. *We recommend that you do not schedule your final exam until your grade has been posted.*

To read the full exam policy and other policy statements, visit <http://cms.outreach.lsu.edu/cms/CEHomePage.aspx>. Click on *Extended Campus*, select *Online Distance Learning*, and then click the link for *Policies*.

Taking Your Examinations

You are *required* to create a Louisiana State University ODL ProctorU account and to take your examinations through ProctorU, a remote proctoring service that allows you to take exams anywhere with internet access. Information on creating your ProctorU account can be found in the Getting Started module in your Moodle course. You cannot use an account created through another university, so if you already have an account, you will still need to create an account associated with LSU Online Distance Learning (ODL).

The ProctorU website provides links you can use to find out how ProctorU works and to check your computer to see that it meets the technical requirements. In addition, to test using ProctorU, you need *access to a web cam with a microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers, and high speed internet* to use this service. A complete list of technical requirements is available on the ProctorU website.

You should schedule your exams about a week before you are ready to take them in order to avoid any additional charges.

Transcript Information

After you have completed this course, your grade will be filed with the Office of the University Registrar. If a transcript is needed, it is your responsibility to make a request to the registrar. If you would like to order a transcript, visit the Office of the University Registrar [Transcript Requests](#) page to view your options.

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