

Advanced Placement German Language Willkommen!!

The Advanced Placement German Language course covers the equivalent of a third year college course in advanced German composition and conversation. It stresses oral and aural skills, reading comprehension, composition and grammar.

The goal of modern foreign language instruction is to develop the ability of the students to communicate in the foreign language. Listening and speaking are the primary goals in language learning. These communicative skills will enable the language student to socialize, provide and acquire information, express personal feelings and opinions, and get others to adopt a course of action. Reading and writing skills in the foreign language are also emphasized to develop the student's communicative abilities in the language. Effective communication in the language also involves meanings that go beyond words and require an understanding of perceptions, gestures, folklore, and family and community dynamics. All of these elements can affect whether and how well a message is received.

The goal of the Advanced Placement course is to develop these communicative and cultural skills relating to the German language. German V AP students will continue their development of German language skills and prepare for the German AP Examination at the end of the school year and to prepare for further study of the German language at the college and university level.

The course emphasizes the use of German for active communication and has the following objectives:

- The ability to comprehend formal and informal spoken German;
- The acquisition of sufficient vocabulary and the grasp of grammatical structures to allow accurate reading of articles and selected German literature;
- The ability to compose essays and expository passages;
- The ability to express orally with accuracy and fluency.

The student may elect to take the Advanced Placement German Language examination in May. The examination consists of the following parts:

- Listening: short exchanges and longer dialogues followed by multiple-choice questions (20%)
- Vocabulary and Structure in context (Cloze passages) (10%)
- Reading: short passages followed by multiple-choice questions (15%)
- Writing: an essay of at least 200 words and paragraph completion (22.5%, 7.5%)
- Speaking: taped responses to six questions/statements and two minute narrative of a picture sequence (25%)

The mission of the Advanced Placement German Language class is to prepare the student for the exam. Therefore, the student is expected to give maximum effort to:

- using the German language during activities;
- improving personal pronunciation and fluency;
- listening intently to understand formal and informal German spoken in a variety of settings;
- reading to comprehend the plot and/or main ideas of various kinds of written German;
- learning an extensive amount of new vocabulary with the intention of retaining and using it in the future;
- writing all homework assignments and essays integrating new vocabulary and using correct grammar;
- discussing topics using accurate grammar and new vocabulary;
- preparing homework regularly and accurately.

Areas of concentration:

- Listening practices in class
- Reading in class and at home
- Writing essays in class and homework outside the class
- Speaking and participating in class
- Mastering teacher-assigned vocabulary as well as personal lists
- Reviewing and practicing grammar topics previously studied as well as presenting new and advanced rules

Course Materials

- Moeller, J. (2001) Kaleidoskop: Kultur, Literatur Und Grammatik 6th edition
- College Board (2008) Preparing for the AP German Language Exam: A Thematic Approach
- Borchert, W. Draussen vor der Tür
- Dürrenmatt, F. Der Besuch der alten Dame
- Fährmann, W. Es geschah im Nachbarhaus
- Heyne, I. Yildiz heisst Stern
- Katapult magazine
- Other readings as selected by the teacher and students
- Films: Nirgendwo in Afrika, Das Versprechen, Goodbye Lenin, Das Schreckliche Mädchen

Unser Wochenplan

Beyond our topical and thematic studies, each day will generally begin as follows:

- Montag – Grammatik und Rechtschreibung (Review Activities)
- Dienstag – Zum Lesen (Reading quizzes – multiple choice)
- Mittwoch – Schnippfragen und zum Schreiben (AP Directed Response questions and journaling)
- Donnerstag – Wortschatz (Independent Study Vocabulary Quizzes)
- Freitag – Stammtisch (Conversation Circle – Directed discussions)

Structural items which may be included on the AP exam and which we will review (among other things):

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| <input type="checkbox"/> all indicative tenses | <input type="checkbox"/> modal auxiliaries | <input type="checkbox"/> conjunctions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> gender | <input type="checkbox"/> infinitives and infinitival phrases | <input type="checkbox"/> passive voice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> plurals | <input type="checkbox"/> participles | <input type="checkbox"/> subjunctive in contrary-to-fact and indirect discourse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cases | <input type="checkbox"/> adjective endings | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> modifiers | <input type="checkbox"/> prepositions | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> word order | | |

Daily Work

You should expect a written assignment most days in order to practice in writing the work done in class, or to review for a test. We will correct daily work in class. As this is a college-level class, homework will not be checked daily. This does not mean, however, that you have a “free pass” and a homework-free year ahead of you. Your success in AP German will depend on your keeping up with assigned work, as points will be issued for application assignments and periodic “checks of understanding.” It is in your best interests to complete each assignment daily.

Certain homework and classwork (for example, work that you complete in my absence, or handouts you will complete during video presentations), as well as essays, will count as a quiz grade. You will be informed of these assignments in advance.

The purpose of homework is to give you practice applying your German. Think and consider further questions you might have while you are doing your homework. Don't cheat yourself by completing your assignments half-heartedly. **You owe it to yourself to give it your best effort!**

Quizzes and Tests

Quizzes and tests will always be announced in class and posted on the “Hausaufgaben” page of the Homestead Deutsch website. Neither the event of a quiz or a test, nor the content thereof, will be surprising to you if you have participated actively and attentively in class. You can generally expect a brief review session in class the day before the quiz or test. This review is intended to supplement (not replace) your independent study and practice. “Checks of understanding” may not be announced but you need not worry about them as long as you're keeping up with your assignments.

Grading

All quizzes, tests, and projects are graded on a points earned / points possible scale. Good grades are achieved by a well-organized, proactive approach to learning. There are many opportunities for success in homework and projects. Thus, extra credit will generally not be offered. You will be graded using Homestead's standard grading scale.

Tardiness and Personal Needs

Understanding the importance of verbal communication in a foreign language, there is an expectation that every student will be in class on time. Please be in your seat promptly when the bell rings, and keep your seat until the end of the class period. (Contrary to a popular urban myth, the bell does not ring any sooner if you line up the door beforehand.)

Please make every effort to attend to personal needs (restroom and drinks) before class. Addressing these issues during class time disrupts your learning and the learning of those around you. I reserve the right to deny these privileges on an individual or group basis if they are abused. Please do not chew gum during German class as it affects pronunciation. You may bring a bottle of water to class; however, food and other beverages are prohibited as they lead to messes, distractions and occasional visits from eight-legged creatures.

Homestead Deutsch Website

Your assignments will be posted daily on the “Hausaufgaben” page of the Homestead Deutsch website. In addition, we will often use the internet for projects both in and out of class. Finally, there are links to grammar and vocabulary exercises, as well as authentic sites from Germany and other German-speaking countries. We will use this site a great deal during the course of the year. You may wish to bookmark the address:

<http://teacherweb.com/wi/hhs/havas>

A Final Word

I take my job as your teacher very seriously and will do whatever I can over the course of this year to help you achieve your goals as a learner of the German language, as a student, and as a citizen of the world. I expect the same level of commitment from you. Try your hardest, don't settle for “just enough,” learn from your mistakes, ask for help if you need it, and above all, maintain a positive attitude. I very much look forward to working with you this year. ☺

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