

Syllabus
Inst 213: German News Coverage
Fall 2009
M 8:00-8:50
Bondurant E-211

Instructor: Dr. Christopher D. Sapp
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Course objectives

This course aims to help you improve your conversation skills in German. This will be accomplished by discussing German-language media and practicing conversation situations.

Course description

This course meets once a week. We will use articles reflecting current events in Europe as the point of departure for the discussions. You may be asked to review certain grammar points on your own outside of class. We will focus on vocabulary related to International Studies and global communication skills such as description, narration, and argumentation in the present and past tenses.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course, but ideally students should have completed German 303 and 304 and studied for at least a summer in a German-speaking country.

Texts

There is no textbook for this course. Our readings will be taken from on-line German-language newspapers and other media.

Grading criteria

This course is graded on a Pass/Fail basis and attendance is mandatory. You may miss class two times without penalty, but a third absence (excused or unexcused) will result in an F. Missing class on the day you are to lead a discussion without a valid, documented excuse *in advance of the absence* will result in an automatic F. Late arrival or failure to participate in class will count as half an absence.

Class participation

You are required to come to class prepared and ready to participate in the discussions and activities.

At the beginning of every class, two students will briefly report on the day's top five news stories, each student reporting on a different source. Briefly (in one phrase or sentence) report on each story: do not just read the headline and do not try to explain the story. A third student will give a short (10-15 minute) presentation of one of the day's news items, followed by a discussion. This story should be sent to the class by email 24 hours before class.

The remainder of class will be devoted to oral practice. This will take the form of class discussion of the day's news, as well as role plays and OPI-style interview questions.