

GER300 Readings in German Language and Cultures

1st and 2nd quarters, Junior

Instructor	ISOZAKI KOTARO
Style of Class	Seminar
Number of Credits	2
Day and Period	To be advised

Course Description

We will use all kinds of German-language articles from Germany's overseas broadcasting service *Deutsche Welle* as our texts. The actual texts will be selected on the basis of the students' interests. By reading these texts, the students will deepen their understanding of various social issues in German-speaking countries and German relations with Japan. The course will center on reading German language texts, but we plan to supplement the content with video and other media.

Course Objectives

Students will:

- (1) learn to understand German sentence structures acquiring something near an intermediate level of language ability,
- (2) deepen their understanding of current events in Germany through reading texts that deal with current issues, and
- (3) take responsibility for reading and translating their assigned passages and take an active part in the experience of cooperative learning.

Expected Outcomes

- Students will be able to learn German as it is actually used in present-day Germany through the use of current texts
- By improving their skills in German, a language closely related to English, students will become human resources capable of success in the international community
- Becoming directly familiar with European (German) media coverage, which differs from Japanese media coverage, students will acquire a multifaceted view of current events

Prerequisites

German I and II or The World of the German Language I and II, with concurrent enrollment in German III and IV recommended.

Class Materials

The course materials will be handed out in class, so there is no particular designated textbook. The following are the designated reference books, but other reference works for particular assignments may be presented on an ad hoc basis.

- (a) Nakajima Yuji, *Hikkei doitsu bunpou sou matome* (Essential Comprehensive Summary of German Grammar), Hakusuisha, 2003.
- (b) Hamamoto Takashi and Takahashi Ken, *Gendai doitsu wo shiru tame no 62 shou* (Sixty-two Chapters for Understanding Contemporary Germany), Akashi Shoten, 2013.
- (c) Kobatake Hiroshi, supervising editor, *Doitsujin ga Nihonjin ni yoku kiku 100 no shitsumon* (One Hundred Questions that Germans Often Ask Japanese People), Sanshusha, 2009.

Course Method

This course will basically be conducted in a seminar format. Students will prepare by reading the German text. When they have understood it, they will present what they have learned during the class session, and the instructor will explain the content and grammar as necessary. A final exam will be administered at the end of term to assess the level of understanding that the students have achieved.

Evaluation/Assessment

Presentations:

Each student will take the German text that he or she has selected, write out a complete translation, and hand it in, after presenting the content in class.

Final exam:

The final exam will cover both the German texts discussed in class and the handouts, and it will test the students' German language ability.

Grading

30% Class participation and presentations

70% Final exam

Course Schedule

Week 1: Orientation, a brief explanation of current events in contemporary Germany, and an introduction to *Deutsche Welle*.

Week 2: Reading and explication of articles selected by the instructor, with supplementary information about grammar, coordination of the texts selected by the students

Week 3: Reading and explication of texts selected by students, with supplementary information about grammar
(1)

Week 4: Reading and explication of texts selected by students, with supplementary information about grammar
(2)

Week 5: Reading and explication of texts selected by students, with supplementary information about grammar
(3)

Week 6: Reading and explication of texts selected by students, with supplementary information about grammar
(4)

Week 7: Reading and explication of texts selected by students, with supplementary information about grammar
(5)

Week 8: Summary of the first half, with supplementary information about content and grammar, selection of the texts to be used in the latter half

Week 9: Reading and explication of texts selected by students, with supplementary information about grammar
(5)

Week 10: Reading and explication of texts selected by students, with supplementary information about grammar
(6)

Week 11: Reading and explication of texts selected by students, with supplementary information about grammar
(7)

Week 12: Reading and explication of texts selected by students, with supplementary information about grammar
(8)

Week 13: Reading and explication of texts selected by students, with supplementary information about grammar
(9)

Week 14: Reading and explication of texts selected by students, with supplementary information about grammar (10)

Week 15: Summary of the entire term: supplementary information about content and grammar, video materials, confirmation of what the final exam will cover

Preparation and Follow-up

- (1) Read the text(s) for each class ahead of time and clarify any points you don't understand (preparation).
- (2) After class, carefully read the texts we discussed in class and make sure that you now understand everything that was unclear. Improve your understanding of the handouts and the reference materials (follow-up).