



Portland State University
GER 103 • Introductory German for Proficiency • Spring 2004

<http://www.cosmolingua.pdx.edu>

<http://web.pdx.edu/~fischerw>

CONTENTS OF THIS DOCUMENT:

- Staff, Classroom, & Materials Information
- Calendar, Materials, Access
- Course Goal
- Note to Students New to the Course
- Major Course Activities
- Tests and Other Graded Activities
- Grading
- Attendance Policy
- Preliminary Syllabus
- First Assignment
- About Record-Keeping, Portfolios & E-Mail Format

STAFF, CLASSROOM AND MATERIALS

Course Director:
 Prof. William B. Fischer, Ph.D.
 Department of Foreign Languages
 Office: 451-D NH
 Office hours: see website after course begins
 PSU tel (503) 725-5285 FAX (503) 725-5276
 home tel: 232-7881 (8am–10pm)
 e-mail: fischerw@pdx.edu
<http://web.pdx.edu/~fischerw>

Teaching Assistants

Office: 308S USB • 725-5281
 Hours: see website after course begins

Abram Bergstrom
 <abram_c_bergstrom@hotmail.com>
 Eric Pratum <esp@pdx.edu>
 Lenka Reiling <lenkastrelka@yahoo.com>

CALENDAR

Spring 2004 Class Schedule

	<i>begins</i>	<i>instructor</i>		<i>final exam</i>
MWF	0900	Reiling	T 08 Jun	0800
MWF	1015	Fischer	W 09 Jun	1015
MWF	1130	Pratum	Th 10 Jun	1230
TTh	0800	Bergstrom	Th 110 Jun	0800

Holiday: M 31 May

Course materials are available as in earlier quarters: photocopy packet at Clean Copy on Broadway, CD-ROM from instructor, administrative and instructional materials on the [course website](#).

Access: Announced PSU policies will be followed. If you need help with materials or media, please inform your instructor.

COURSE GOAL

German 103 picks up where German 102 left off. The main course goal of German 101 was to approach what is called “Novice-High” proficiency. For that you needed to acquire basic vocabulary, be able to make simple sentences, and begin to customize the language to fit your own personal circumstances (for example your family and a major interest). The main goal of German 102 was “Intermediate-Low” proficiency: still single sentences, but richer in content.

German 103 will aim at “Intermediate-Mid” proficiency. That means the ability to produce, without prompting, multiple sentences, including some in past tense. Another way of putting it is that you will be able to deal in German with the immediate everyday world and also – but only simply – with what has led up to it.

(If you are unfamiliar with terms like “Novice-High,” see the [course website: documents: Proficiency Guidelines](#).)

NOTE TO STUDENTS NEW TO THE COURSE

The website for instructional materials is <www.cosmolingua.pdx.edu>. The administrative web site for the course is reached from <<http://web.pdx.edu/~fischerw>>. There (link: documents) you will find the main introductory information for the course, which you should download and read immediately.

The course aims at practical proficiency, not “textbook” or “grammar” knowledge. This may or may not correspond to your image of language learning or your previous classroom experience, if any. If you still have questions after you read the course introduction, contact Dr. Fischer.

Your instructor will provide, at no cost to you, a copy of the course CD-ROM. If you have a fast internet connection you may prefer to use the equivalent materials on the website <<http://www.cosmolingua.pdx.edu>> for some of your studying.

Photocopied materials are available at Clean Copy, across Broadway from Cramer Hall. The cost is about \$30. You can also print many of these materials from your CD-ROM or website and possibly save money by doing so.

MAJOR COURSE ACTIVITIES

Communication in spoken German will remain the chief focus of the classroom. There will be regular, required writing, reading and listening activities

outside of class. You may also be corresponding with classmates, either on paper or by e-mail.

There will be several individual projects. Possible topics include your favorite music and its German equivalent, a historical theme of interest to you, and something related to your academic or occupational interests.

Your instructor may choose to make additional assignments and adjust the grading formula accordingly.

TESTS AND OTHER GRADED ACTIVITIES

As before, there will be 2 or 3 oral tests and 2 or 3 writing tests. Expect also 1 or 2 listening tests and 1 or 2 reading tests (with advance practice tests in class). We also hope to undertake recorded samples of speaking skills to add to your German skills portfolios. The test schedule will be announced during the second week of classes.

At least once during the year you will take one or more of several kinds of baseline test, such as the WebCAPE or ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview. The tests are being introduced to improve placement, assess teaching quality, and gather research data for improving language programs at PSU and nationally. The tests are required, but your scores will not affect your grades. You may choose to have your data excluded from study. If you do consent to its use, your identity will be kept private.

GRADING

The grading formula, with any modifications, is posted on the [course web site](#). Of greatest weight are the oral and written tests, which together will count for about 50% of your grade. Projects will total about 25%. Listening and reading assignments will count for about 15%. Shorter assignments and evaluation of class performance will count about 10%.

There is **no extra credit**, in the usual sense of the term. If you want to raise your grade, pay particular attention to revising your assignments and tests. Since you can use outside resources on your projects, those are also a good way to influence your grade.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Instructors set the attendance policy for their own sections. Depending on that policy, your grade may be adjusted downward by as much as .33 point (on a 4-point system) for poor attendance. That is, a B could become a B-.

PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS

The course will begin with a short review of the last context (chapter) covered in the previous quarter. During the first week, some time will also be devoted to intake surveys, tutorials, and other necessary preparations. After that, we will cover up to one Kontext of *Wie, bitte?* each week, beginning with Kontext 16 (“Konditorei”). Expect to finish Kontext 23 (“Zoo”) this quarter, and possibly one more.

FIRST ASSIGNMENT (DUE BY THE END OF THE FIRST WEEK OF THE CLASS)

We want to record your contact information and make sure we can communicate efficiently with you. If you do not have your own internet provider and e-mail service, you should get PSU internet and e-mail access (“Ödin”) right away (<www.account.pdx.edu>), or arrange some other e-mail and internet service. Send your instructor the following e-mail, adjusted to fit your circumstances:

[proper salutation],

Im Frühlings-Semester studiere ich jetzt....

[add your own course information, using German for general subject names like “music” or “sociology”]. [Add here a couple sentences about an item of personal interest; family news, anecdote about spring vacation, etc.]

[proper closing]

New students: include the sentence below so that we can check whether you can send the German special characters (see course web site for help):

Das deutsche ABC ist wie das englische, aber mit äÄöÜü und ß.

New students: Do also the second assignment from *fall* quarter (“das Infoblatt” – see Fall 2003 course information and [course website](#)). Your instructor may also ask you to do part of the winter final exam as a writing sample so that we can see whether you are properly placed.

ABOUT RECORD-KEEPING, PORTFOLIOS, AND E-MAIL FORMAT

As in previous quarters, we will be maintaining portfolios that include your tests, projects, and smaller assignments. Because we encourage you to revise your work for re-grading, we need to keep it organized and be able to keep track of the stages of revision and re-grading. **DO NOT DISCARD ANY OF YOUR ASSIGNMENTS, PROJECTS OR TESTS, EVEN IF YOU THINK YOU ARE FINISHED WITH THEM. YOUR GRADE ON THEM MAY NOT YET HAVE BEEN RECORDED.**

It is also wise, for this and any course, to keep backup copies of your work – photocopies of paper-based work and electronic copies of your emails to us and any work you send by email.

Check with your instructor about how to format and transmit work you are sending electronically, so that you do not unintentionally include bothersome strings of nonsense characters.

Details are on the [course web site](#).

