

ANT 320L/ GER 369/ LIN 373
Fall 2018
TuTh 12:30-2, BUR 337

The German Language: Historical Perspectives

Course description:

This class provides an overview of language change, language evolution, and sociolinguistics, within the particular context of the history of German. The goal is to enlarge participants' understanding and appreciation of German and its historical and dialectal development. The course will begin with a discussion of German's Indo-European origins, and progress from there through Germanic, West Germanic, Old, Middle, and Early New High German to the modern language. The class will also examine examples from a broad range of Germanic languages, social and regional dialects, and pidgins and creoles, with an eye to developing a better understanding of the characteristics, origins and development of language and communication systems. No prior training in linguistics is required. The course will be conducted in English.¹

Instructor: Marc Pierce
Office: BUR 358
Office hours: TuTh 9-10 and by appointment. Please feel free to stop by at any time – if I am too busy to see you I will say so.
E-mail: mpierc@austin.utexas.edu (NB: I do not have e-mail at home. Please plan accordingly.)
Phone: 232-6360 (office), 471-4123 (Germanic Department)

Texts/Readings:

-J.C. Salmons, *The History of German: What the Past Reveals about Today's Language* [available at the University Co-Op; companion website: <http://www.historyofgerman.net/>]
-Additional texts will be distributed as necessary and/or made available on Canvas.
You are encouraged to **print out** the readings and bring them with you to class for discussion.

Grading/Requirements:

Essays: 30%
Term paper: 40%
Quizzes: 15%
Participation: 15%

Grading:	A+: 98+	A: 93-97	A-: 90-92
	B+: 88-89	B: 83-87	B-: 80-82
	C+: 78-79	C: 73-77	C-: 70-72
	D+: 68-69	D: 63-67	D-: 60-62
	F: 59 or less		

¹ This class normally carries Writing and Global Cultures flags. Due to an administrative error, the course does not carry these flags this semester. Students who would like flag credit for this class can petition for it through the Center for Skills & Experience office (<https://ugs.utexas.edu/flags/students/petitions>). Please check with me if you have any questions.

Essays:

You will write three essays (3-5 pages each) over the course of the semester. Topics will be distributed approximately two weeks before the due date. The essays may be written in either English or German, and will be graded according to both content and form. If you choose to write in a language that is not your first, I will still expect a well-written, (largely) grammatically correct essay. (I will also give some consideration to your choice to write in a foreign language.)

Term paper:

You will write a 10-15 page term paper. You will also give a brief (5-10 minutes) in-class presentation on your term paper topic. Details to follow.

Quizzes:

Four quizzes will be given in class over the course of the semester. They will invite your comments on readings and discussions, and may be written in either English or German (see above about the decision to write in a foreign language). Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class; your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. **The instructor also reserves the right to give short quizzes, both announced and unannounced, about the material we have read and discussed.**

Participation:

Participation includes attendance, asking questions, answering my questions, and taking part in class discussions. Attendance is crucial. **Unexcused absences will result in poor grades for participation! Absences will be unexcused except in cases of *documented* emergency (normally medical or family).** You will need to sign in at the beginning of each class. Please notify me as soon as possible by e-mail or phone if it is necessary for you to be absent from class. In accordance with University of Texas policy, you may be excused from class to participate in religious observances and official obligations like club or varsity sports. In such cases, written documentation must be presented to the instructor at least one week before the absence takes place.

Participation grade profiles:

- A: volunteers frequently and is well-prepared
- B: volunteers several times and is well-prepared
- C: does not usually volunteer but is usually well-prepared
- D: does not volunteer and is generally poorly prepared
- F: consistently unprepared

Makeup and late work:

Work that is submitted late will be subject to penalties at my discretion, normally three points per day late (e.g. a 100 will become a 97 if it is one day late). No makeup quizzes/ extensions will be given, except in cases of *documented* emergency.

How to succeed in this course:

A good rule of thumb at UT is that you should spend two hours outside of class doing homework and preparing for the next class session for every hour of instructional time. You may find that you need more or less than two hours. However much time you need, please prepare well so that class time can be used with maximum efficiency.

Classroom etiquette:

No food. Cell phones must be turned off in class; computers may be used only for note-taking or to read/search course-related materials. Students who use electronic devices for non-class related activities and create a disturbance will be asked to leave for the remainder of that class. We must all do our best to make class a pleasant and valuable experience for everyone. Please conduct yourselves accordingly.

Study groups:

If possible, find one or two other students in the class who are willing to get together to go over things and help each other. This can be very valuable, as your classmates may understand some material better than you do, and vice versa.

Students with disabilities:

The University of Texas at Austin provides appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities upon request. Students with a documented disability who require academic accommodations should request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations from Services for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible. These letters must be given to the instructor **at the beginning of the semester**. Details are available at: <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/index.php>.

Academic assistance:

Academic Assistance is provided by the UT Learning Center, in Jester Center, Room A332A. It offers help with college-level writing, reading, and learning strategies. It is free to all currently enrolled students.

The University of Texas Honor Code:

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

A final note:

The instructor takes issues of academic honesty very seriously. All work in this course *must* be your own. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to standard university procedures. Discussion of assignments between students in the course is always acceptable, but all students must write out their own work unless a specific group assignment, to which all members have clearly contributed, is made. Please consult the instructor if you have concerns or questions.

Regular Semesterplan for German 369
(subject to revision)

Th, 8/30	Introduction to the course
Tu, 9/4	Introduction to historical linguistics; Salmons, chapter 1
Th, 9/6	Sihler 2000 [Canvas]; diagnostic essay due
Tu, 9/11	Salmons, chapter 2
Th, 9/13	Salmons, chapter 2
Tu, 9/18	Salmons, chapter 3
Th, 9/20	Salmons, chapter 3; quiz 1
Tu, 9/25	Salmons, chapter 3
Th, 9/27	writing practice; peer review
Tu, 10/2	Salmons, chapter 4; essay 1 due
Th, 10/4	Salmons, chapter 4
Tu, 10/9	Salmons, chapter 5
Th, 10/11	Salmons, chapter 5
Tu, 10/16	Salmons, chapter 6
Th, 10/18	Salmons, chapter 6; quiz 2
Tu, 10/23	Salmons, chapter 7; writing practice
Th, 10/25	Salmons, chapters 7 + 8; peer review
Tu, 10/30	German dialectology; essay 2 due
Th, 11/1	German in North America
Tu, 11/6	German in North America
Th, 11/8	German in Africa; quiz 3
Tu, 11/13	New forms of German
Th, 11/15	Language change in German today
Tu, 11/20	Writing practice and peer review
Th, 11/22	No class; Thanksgiving break
Tu, 11/27	Prescriptivism; essay 3 due
Th, 11/29	Presentations; quiz 4
Tu, 12/4	Presentations
Th, 12/6	Presentations; peer review; evaluations; loose ends