

### COURSE INFORMATION

GER 3200 · Current German Society and Culture · 3 Credit Hours  
Mondays & Wednesdays: 10:00am–11:15am · Plaza Building (PL), Room 130  
Prerequisites: Sophomore standing or permission of instructor

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name: Tim Phillips  
Office Hours: M&W 1:45-2:15 & by appointment  
Office Location: Plaza Building, Suite 118, Room C  
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Instructor Policies: [http://carbon.cudenver.edu/%7Etphillip/instructor\\_info.html](http://carbon.cudenver.edu/%7Etphillip/instructor_info.html)

### ACADEMIC CALENDAR & LEGAL INFORMATION

Please click on the following link and familiarize yourself with the information provided:  
<http://thunder1.cudenver.edu/clas/staff/academicCalendar.html>

### REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

- You must have access to the internet and a printer. All the materials for this course are posted online. You will need to access the materials, print them, and assemble them for quick reference. It is very useful (but not necessary) to print the materials in color. Many of the maps and detailed charts are difficult to read in black and white. The following link will take you to the handouts:  
<http://carbon.cudenver.edu/public/modlang/tjp/GER3200/materials.html>
- Please obtain a three ring binder to hold your accumulated materials and handouts. You will need to organize and have ready access to the material.
- The name of the text for this course is *Facts about Germany*. It is posted online and is an extremely large and well organized website. The text can be downloaded in pdf format for ease of reading. The book is available in various formats and languages including English and German. Follow this link to the text:  
[www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en/](http://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en/)

### CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Provides students with a detailed overview of the systems in modern, united Germany such as social, educational, political, etc. Examines how Germany sees itself as a vital member of the EU. Exposes students to rudimentary use of the German language. Taught in English.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course you will learn about the various systems found in Germany as they are relevant to the country since its reunification in 1990. You will develop a basic grasp of topics such as (but not limited to) education, politics, justice, economy, transportation, geography and social nets such as welfare, healthcare and unemployment insurance. The course provides an understanding and appreciation of how Germans think and act, especially in their professional lives along with what a foreigner might expect when dealing with the Germans in their own country. You will gain knowledge about Germany's critical role in the EU and develop an understanding of how the Germans see themselves as integral players in the evolution of the EU. You will work on two projects (see below) and develop your ability to perform research, gain and analyze data, critique newly acquired information, and learn to present your views (with analysis) both orally and in writing. There will be class discussions, and through your participation you will learn to recognize and evaluate biases you may have toward Germany and its people. You will develop an accurate understanding of that country based on factual and current information. You will also engage in some rudimentary language learning and gain some survival skills in speaking the German language.

**GRADING**

Students are awarded semester grades based on the following values:

Attendance and participation	20 %
1st in-class written examination (mid-term exam)	15 %
2nd in-class written examination (final exam)	20 %
1 written geography report (small project)	10%
1 oral geography presentation	5 %
1 research/term paper (large project)	25 %
1 oral presentation of findings from term paper	5 %

**TESTS**

The midterm and final exams are each composed of two parts. Part one (for each) will be comprised of a variety of items including short answers, identification, multiple choice, etc. Part two will consist of a take-home essay question. The essay questions are designed to test your ability at critical thinking. You will be given a topic or choice of topics and must write a reaction to the topic in which you demonstrate that you can defend a point of view based on showing contrasts and comparisons using the information you have gained in this course. You must substantiate your arguments using facts, and show how you can relate the information to your personal life.

**PROJECTS**

You must complete two projects during the course of the semester. Exact details of the projects will be spelled out during the semester. Both projects will require a written as well as an oral component. The first, or small, project consists of examining one of the provinces (Bundesstaat) and presenting the findings to the class. The second project entails a close examination of one aspect of a system found in current Germany (such as the pre-university educational system or the health care system). The second project will result in a term paper where you are required to evaluate your findings and make comparisons and contrasts between the U.S. and Germany. You are expected to demonstrate that you can gather pertinent information, sort and organize that information, reflect on what you have learned, formulate thought that goes beyond mere reporting of the facts, reach a conclusion and argue the validity of that conclusion without allowing bias or prejudice to become any substantiation of your argument.

**LANGUAGE SKILLS**

This course is taught in English and no knowledge of German is required for admission into the course. During the semester, we will examine some of the fundamentals of the German language, both written and spoken. We will learn some basic survival German as well as how to pronounce many names of the German names and terms that we encounter during the semester. Those students who already have some working knowledge of German will be encouraged to help those who have had little or no previous exposure to the language.

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

I expect you to attend every class session and participate in all of the class discussions. I also expect you to download (print out) the text and course materials and read the information presented. As topics arise in discussions, you will be evaluated on your ability to question arguments by logically critiquing a viewpoint, especially should I or someone present a counter-argument. It should become evident in these discussions whether you have processed the assigned reading materials. In this course, you will have opportunities to openly discuss your ideas and you are encouraged to criticize or defend multiple points of view. I also expect you to attend those sessions where your classmates are presenting information orally. Poor attendance will be graded down accordingly.

**CALENDAR**

On the following page is a list of dates and topics. The reading assignments are from the text. There will be additional readings assigned as the course progresses. The general list of course topics is meant as a guide but is not an indication of the amount of time to be spent on any particular topic. If you are interested in a topic that does not appear on this list and feel that it would be appropriate for discussion in this course, please let me know.

	Date	Reading	
<i>August</i>	Monday	17	ch. 1 (pages 6-13)
	Wednesday	19	(facts & figures)
	Monday	24	ch. 2 (pages 14-25)
	Wednesday	26	(the states)
<i>September</i>	Monday	31	ch. 3 (pages 26-49)
	Wednesday	2	(past & present)
	Monday	7	Labor Day Holiday - No Classes
	Wednesday	9	ch. 4 (pages 50-69)
	Monday	14	(political system)
	Wednesday	16	Geography Findings (Oral Presentations)
	Monday	21	ch. 5 (pages 70-87)
	Wednesday	23	(foreign policy)
	Monday	28	ch. 6 (pages 88-105)
	Wednesday	30	(the economy)
<i>October</i>	Monday	5	Review
	Wednesday	7	1st Exam
	Monday	12	Ch. 7 (pages 106-123)
	Wednesday	14	(education, science, research)
	Monday	19	Ch. 8 (pages 124-143)
	Wednesday	21	(society)
	Monday	26	Ch. 9 (pages 144-167)
<i>November</i>	Wednesday	28	(culture)
	Monday	2	Ch. 10 (pages 168-179)
	Wednesday	4	(modern life)
	Monday	9	Student Presentations
	Wednesday	11	Student Presentations
	Monday	16	Student Presentations
	Wednesday	18	Student Presentations
	Mon-Sun	23-29	Fall Break - No Classes
	Monday	30	Review
<i>December</i>	Wednesday	2	2nd Exam
	Mon-Sat	7-12	Final Exam Week

## General List of Course Topics

## Introduction and Course Overview

Geography: Europe &amp; Germany

Languages of Central Europe

German as a Language of Commerce

Geography of Germany

Population, Topography, Icons

Rise of German states after Rome

German Empire prior to WWI

Loss of colonies post WWI

Events leading to WWII

Partitioning of Germany &amp; divided Berlin

Reunification 1990 &amp; the new reunited Germany

Berlin as the new Capital

German Government &amp; Political System

The Federal System

Laws &amp; Legal System in Germany

Germany in the EU

Infrastructure: Transportation, Communication, Media

Germany in the EU, in Europe, in the World

Immigration &amp; Citizenship Issues

Factors Driving Germany's Economy

Germany as Contributor of Foreign Aid

Commerce, Finance &amp; Banking, Stock Markets

Doing Business in Germany

Germany as a Center of Scientific Development

The Education System, Religion, Extramural Activities

Social structures in Germany:

Unemployment, Social Security, Retirement, Healthcare

Women's Rights, Attitudes between East &amp; West, Foreigners

Freedom of Expression: Free Press, Public Demonstrations

Looking back at the GDR (DDR)

Germany as a Cultural Center: Arts, Music, Drama, Fashion

Germany as a Tourist Destination, Germans Touring the World

Independence from, and Integration in, the EU

Germany's Future

Language Skills:

Introduction to the German Language

Getting Around, Eating, etc.

Learning how to converse with a German

Do's and Don't's when talking German Business

Cultural Norms &amp; Faux Pas

Fall 2009 CLAS Academic Policies (as provided by the dean's office)

The following policies pertain to all students and are strictly adhered to by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS).

- Every student **MUST** check and verify their schedule prior to the published drop/add deadlines. Failure to verify a schedule is not sufficient reason to justify a late add or drop later in the semester. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that their schedule is correct prior to the appropriate deadlines.
- CLAS students must use their email.ucdenver.edu email address. Email is the official method of communication for all University of Colorado Denver business. All email correspondence will take place using your UCDHSC email address. Go to <http://www.ucdenver.edu/student-services/resources/registrar/students/policies/Pages/EmailPolicy.aspx> to activate your email address.
- Students are **NOT** automatically added to a course off a wait list after wait lists are dropped. If a student is told by a faculty member that they will be added off the wait list, it is the responsibility of the student to complete the proper paperwork to add a course.
- Students are not automatically notified if they are added to a class from a wait-list. Again, it is the responsibility of the student to verify their schedule prior to any official dates to drop or add courses.
- Students must complete and submit a drop/add form to make any schedule changes. Students are not automatically dropped from a class if they never attended, stopped attending or do not make tuition payments.
- Late adds will be approved only when circumstances surrounding the late add are beyond the student's control and can be documented independently. This will require a petition and documentation from the student. Please note that the signature of a faculty member on an add form does not guarantee that a late add petition will be approved. Petitions are available in NC 4011.
- Late drops will be approved only when circumstances surrounding the late drop have arisen after the published drop deadlines, are beyond the student's control, and can be documented independently. This will require a petition and documentation from the student. Pre-existing circumstances (circumstances that existed prior to the published drop deadlines) regarding illness, work, family, or other confounding issues will not be considered adequate reason to drop or withdraw from courses after the published University and/or College drop deadlines. Please note that the signature of a faculty member does not guarantee that a late drop petition will be approved. Petitions are available in NC 4011.
- Undergraduate students wishing to graduate in fall of 2009 must meet with their academic advisor by census date to obtain a graduation application. This application must be completed and submitted by 5 PM on September 2, 2009. You can obtain an application **ONLY** after meeting with your academic advisor. There are no exceptions to this policy or date.
- Graduate students wishing to graduate in fall semester 2009 must complete their Intent to Graduate form and have a Request for Admissions to Candidacy on file with the CLAS Dean's office no later than 5 PM, September 2, 2009.
- Students are responsible for completing financial arrangements with financial aid, family, scholarships, etc. to pay their tuition. Students will be responsible for all tuition and fees for courses they do not officially drop using proper drop/add procedures and forms.
- Students who drop after the published drop/add period will not be eligible for a refund of the COF hours or tuition.

#### Important Dates

- August 17, 2009: First day of Class
- August 23, 2009: Last day to add a class or be added to a wait list for a class using the SMART system.
- August 24, 2009: **LAST DAY TO DROP WITHOUT DROP CHARGE – THIS INCLUDES SECTION CHANGES.**
- August 24, 2009: Wait Lists are dropped. Any student who was not added to a course automatically from the wait list by this date and time **MUST** complete a schedule adjustment form to be added to the class. Students are **NOT** automatically added to the class from the wait list after this date and time. If your name is not on the official student roster, you are not registered for the course.
- August 25-September 2, 2009: Students are responsible for verifying an accurate fall 2009 course schedule via the SMART registration system. Students are **NOT** notified of their wait-list status by the university. All students must check their scheduled prior to September 2, 2009 for accuracy.
- August 25, 2009: First day instructor may approve request to add a student to a full course with a Schedule Adjustment Form.
- September 2, 2009: Census date.
- September 2, 2009 at 5 PM: Last day to add structured courses without a written petition for a late add. This is an absolute deadline and is treated as such. This deadline does not apply to independent study, internships, project hours, thesis hours, dissertation hours, and late-starting modular courses.
- September 2, 2009 at 5 PM: Last day to drop a fall 2009 course or completely withdraw from all fall 2009 courses with a tuition adjustment minus the drop charge and no transcript notation – this includes section changes. Drops after this date will appear on your transcript. This is an absolute deadline and is treated as such.
- September 2, 2009 at 5 PM: Last day to request pass/fail or no credit option for a course.
- September 2, 2009 at 5 PM: Last day for a graduate student to register for a Candidate for Degree.
- September 2, 2009 at 5 PM: Last day for a Ph.D. student to petition for a reduction in hours.
- September 2, 2009 at 5 PM: Last day to apply for fall 2009 graduation. You must make an appointment and see your academic advisor before this date to apply for graduation if you are an undergraduate; you must complete the intent to graduate and candidate for degree form if you are a graduate student.
- September 7, 2009: Labor Day (campus closed/ no classes)
- October 26, 2009 at 5 PM: Last day for non CLAS students to drop or withdraw from all classes without a petition and special approval from the student's academic Dean. This is treated as an absolute deadline.
- November 9, 2009 at 5 PM: Last day for CLAS students to drop or withdraw from all classes with signatures from the faculty and Dean. This is treated as an absolute deadline.
- After November 9, 2009 all schedule changes require a full petition. Petitions are available in NC 4011.
- November 26, 2009: Thanksgiving Day Holiday (campus closed)
- No schedule changes will be granted once finals week has started. There are **NO** exceptions to this policy.