

CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
GERM 2420-01, Aktives Deutsch: Travel

Semester/Year [Semester/Jahr]: Spring 2015/ *Frühling 2015*

Lecture Hours: 2

Lab Hours: 0

Credit Hours [Krediten]: 2

Class Time [Uhrzeit]: 5-6pm,
also *see itinerary*

Days [Tage]: Mittwoch/
Wednesday through 3/4/15, then
travel 3/12-3/25/15

Room [Zimmer]: TBA

Instructors [Lehrer]: Charles R. Ewing

Office Hours [Sprechstunden]:
In L.H. 289: 9-10am on Thursdays,
3-4:40pm on Mon/Tues/Thurs; also
by appointment.

Office Phone [Bürotelefon]:
268-2849

Email:
cewing@caspercollege.edu

Course Description [Kursbeschreibung]: This travel course will focus on the unique culture found in the German-speaking countries. It will help students to more fully appreciate that culture while living in the midst of it as they attend full-immersion German language lessons. Students will be guided to negotiate the processes of ordering and paying for food, using public transportation, shopping and making purchases, and converting currency in real-life, hands-on situations. Also included are instructor-led tours and history lessons, which are given mostly in German. In response to the interests of students, various topics will focus on specific cultural aspects/sites and on cultural awareness. This course is required for all students participating in short-term study abroad trips to Germany sponsored by Casper College.

Prerequisites [Kursvoraussetzungen]: Successful completion of GERM 1010 with a grade of “C” or better, or instructor’s permission (based upon demonstration of equivalent German language skills). Students must be 18 years old by the trip’s departure date.

Goal [Ziel]: Establish a practical and working knowledge of German language, history, and everyday customs.

Outcomes [Ergebnisse]: This class fulfills outcomes #1 and #4 of Casper College’s General Education outcomes. Successful students will:

1. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication
4. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures and historical perspectives

Course Objectives [Kleinere Ziele]:

This class is taught in Germany and intends to provide you with many possibilities for language use and immersion while learning about the history and culture of Germany. You should strive to speak German whenever possible so as to take full advantage of the opportunity you have in Germany and to support and learn from your classmates. Listen to your instructors, pay attention to your surroundings, and take the initiative to talk to as many people as you can, and your skills in determining meaning in context will improve over time. The class is designed to foster your skills in all four areas of linguistic competence (speaking, writing, listening and reading comprehension), and especially enhance cultural awareness. We aim to develop an understanding of the history of the cities we visit and to learn from their unique atmosphere. If you consistently keep up with assignments and strive to practice your German in everyday situations, by the end of the course you will be able to:

- Hear, speak, read, and write survival German.
- Interpret signs and some historical markers.
- Converse on topics related to immediate personal needs, greetings, farewells, introductions, preferences, obligations and desires, food, money, and emergency situations.
- Negotiate the processes of: ordering and paying for food, using public transportation, shopping and making purchases, and converting currency.
- Identify patterns of cultural behavior or customs which you have observed.
- Recognize important trends and places in German and European history.

Methodology [*Herangehensweise*]: Class activities will vary greatly because of the nature of a travel course; you can expect to regularly record your impressions by journaling and posting online, deepen your historical appreciation of the regions we visit through the sights you've read and presented about, listen to short lectures by the instructors, and interact with local people in addition to studying the German language in a more traditional setting for 4 days.

Evaluation Criteria [*Benotungskriterien*]: Your final grade will be determined as follows: Journal: 20%; Participation and Punctuality: 20%; Achievement in Language School 20%; Quizzes 20%; Final Reflection Paper: 20%. *Casper College may collect samples of student work demonstrating achievement of the above outcomes. Any personally identifying information will be removed from student work.*

Journal [*Tagebuch*]: To create a record of your experience and keep track of your achievements as a traveler, each student must complete the *Tagebuch* section of the GERM 2420 Reading Packet and turn it in to the instructors at the end of the trip. Your journal will be assessed based on these criteria: effort, neatness, and completeness of answers to the given prompts. You may journal in German or English, or both.

Participation und Punctuality [*Teilnahme und Pünktlichkeit*]: Since this class is immersive and communal in nature, you will be expected to be an **active and agreeable part of the group**. This means asking questions, investigating, and staying with the group and/or your partner. You are expected to attend all of the activities listed as mandatory on the trip itinerary, and you are expected to arrive at meeting points **on time**. There are always unforeseeable reasons for students (and teachers) to be occasionally late. If, however, you are more than 1-2 minutes tardy or this becomes habitual (happens more than three times), I will deduct points from your participation grade. Also, your German is not perfect and you may feel uncomfortable, but it is essential that you **try to speak German**. Practice makes perfect and we learn from our mistakes. Your participation grade is affected by your efforts to use German on this trip to the extent that you can. You have to try, and remember, we're all in this together. Therefore, there will be no belittling, making fun of, laughing at, or in any way making another student feel uncomfortable about trying to learn a new language. We must encourage one another! While we are together on a tour or while the instructors are addressing students, absolutely no cell phones, I-pods, earphones and laptop computers will be tolerated. If you are asked to put your device away, please do so. Any violation of this policy will result in a lower participation grade. Please see me if you have questions about your standing in class/trip participation.

Language School [*Sprachschule*]: You are expected to attend all the language school sessions at *Parlando Sprachschule* on the days indicated on the itinerary. While at the language school, you should put forth your best effort to improve your skills in the German language. You will be responsible for keeping up with the vocabulary and grammar in your language school classes and completing any assignments that your instructors give you. Your grade in this category will be determined in consultation with your instructors at *Parlando Sprachschule*.

Quizzes: Your instructor will give periodic quizzes both before and during the trip.

Final Reflection Paper [Reflexionsaufsatz]: After your return to the United States, you will have approximately one week to write a paper reflecting on your experiences on our trip. Reflection papers are designed to formally consider what you have been learning and to organize it through writing. The following will help you understand the assignment:

- Papers must be typed and e-mailed to cewing@caspercollege.edu using a common file type (.doc or .docx *only*)
- They must be 12 size, Times New Roman font and double-spaced with 1.25 inch margins.
- Papers should be at least 3 pages long and written in English.
- Writing should use formal language and correct spelling and punctuation.
- Topics reflected upon may include any information covered in the class/trip or in the reading, from the beginning of trip meetings until the time of writing.
- Papers may take 1 or 2 topics and examine them deeply, or more topics examined in less detail.
- Papers should have a logical structure and flow and make use of transition words and paragraph breaks.
- When writing, consider the following:
 - What have we studied/seen/experienced that is interesting?
 - What new things have you learned?
 - How has your learning affected preconceptions or misconceptions you brought with you into this class/trip?
 - How does your learning affect your view of the world and the universe?
 - Will what you have learned change your behavior in the future?

Ultimately writing these papers encourages you to find what is meaningful to you and thus it adds value to your learning. **Do not** simply outline or summarize the material/sights we have covered/seen. I want to know what these things mean to you.

Late essays will receive a “0”. Naturally, **the student will be expected to create and write these compositions by him/herself**; any suspicion of plagiarism or unauthorized aid will be investigated.

Required Text: Itinerary for the trip, Handouts.

Student Rights and Responsibilities [Rechte und Verantwortungen]: Students will treat their classmates and instructors with respect and conduct themselves in accordance with the policies detailed in the Casper College Student Handbook. Refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

Chain of Command [Die Befehlskette]: If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Academic Dishonesty [Akademische Unehrllichkeit]: Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct.

Official Means of Communication [Offizielle Kommunikationsmittel]: Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly.

ADA Accommodations Policy [Anpassungen für Behinderungen]: If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office

hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college's Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

Der Kalender [Calendar]: ***Please also see full trip itinerary!***

21 Januar, 5-6pm.

28 Januar, 5-6pm.

4 Februar, 5-6pm.

11 Februar, 5-6pm.

18 Februar, 5-6pm.

25 Februar, 5-6pm.

4 März, 5-6pm.

12 März Depart Casper 12:49, depart Denver 18:35, in-flight.

13 März Depart Frankfurt 13:45, arrive Berlin 14:55. Introduction to Berlin.

14 März Ausflug nach Dresden

15 März Flohmärkte, Ausflug nach Wittenberg.

16 März *Parlando Language School Classes, 8:30am-1:30pm*, Unter den Linden (Alexanderplatz, Berliner Dom, Bebelplatz, Brandenburger Tor, Klein Istanbul)

17 März *Parlando Language School Classes, 9:00am-1:30pm*, Hackesche Höfe, Blindenwerkstatt Otto Weidt /oder/ Theater (evening)

18 März *Parlando Language School Classes, 9:00am -1:30pm*, Museumstag

19 März *Parlando Language School Classes, 9:00am -1:30pm*, Sachsenhausen Tag

20 März *Parlando Language School Classes, 9:00am-1:30pm*, Mauertag

21 März West Berlin (KaDeWe, Gedächtniskirche), depart Berlin 22:14

22 März Arrive Stuttgart 6:52. Kunstmuseum, Schillerplatz.

23 März Introduction to Tübingen /oder/ Besuch im Schwarzwald

24 März Schloß Hohenzollern

25 März Depart Stuttgart 7:26, arrive Frankfurt 8:38, depart Frankfurt 13:20, arrive Denver 16:35 (customs), depart Denver 18:45, arrive Casper 19:49. *Hand in journals by 7pm.*

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16 April *Final Reflection Paper due at 10pm, Mountain Time, by e-mail to cewing@caspercollege.edu*