

German 320
German Civilization I: From the Vandals to Kant
Fall, 2016

Instructor

Dr. Robert Godwin-Jones (rgjones@vcu.edu)
Lafayette Hall, room 307
Office hours: Mon, 8-10 & by appointment
Office phone: 827-1111 (leave message)
Email: rgjones@vcu.edu (best way to reach me)

Required Materials

Wolf Koepke, *Die Deutschen*, 5th edition
Photocopied and on-line readings
On-line audio/video (available in Blackboard and through "mobile companion")
German-English dictionary (recommended)
German proofing tools (recommended)

Course Objectives

The course is the first of a three-semester sequence covering German cultural and literary history from the beginnings to the present. German 320 deals with the early Germanic period through the Enlightenment

Specific class goals:

- Gain knowledge of key aspects of German cultural and political history, including distinctive qualities of the German way of life compared to other cultures (especially USA)
- Explore key figures and works in German arts, literature, music
- Follow and discuss contemporary developments in Germany
- Develop your active and passive German vocabulary, so as to enhance abilities in reading and listening comprehension
- Develop further German language skills in all areas, including doing presentations in German

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester you should be able to ...

- read German more proficiently, both academic writing (our textbook) & selected authentic texts
- give a brief presentation in German, using Powerpoint or the equivalent
- understand oral presentations in German (by the professor & other students)
- discuss what you have read
- provide basic information about:
 - German tribes, early German history
 - Medieval German life and culture
 - Luther and the Reformation
 - Early German art and architecture
 - The birth of German music and its greatest composers
 - The early development of different parts of Germany, Austria, & Switzerland
 - The 30-years war and the German Baroque
 - Frederick the Great and the German Enlightenment

Course Requirements

1) All reading and other assignments must be completed by the date assigned. This includes both chapters in the text as well photocopied and on-line materials. You should come to class prepared to be able to discuss in German the readings, video clips, and other assignments. Answers to the questions at the end of each chapter will be written out and turned in.

2) There will be a vocabulary quiz approximately every other week, based on vocabulary taken from readings. No make-up quizzes will be given. You may miss one quiz without a penalty or, if you take all the quizzes, may drop the quiz with the lowest grade.

3) Each student will do a presentation (≈ 15 min) in German on a topic related to the course content.

4) There will be 3 hourly exams and a comprehensive final exam.

Grading

Chapter exams	30% (10% each)
Classwork (class participation & HW)	30%
Attendance	10%
Quizzes	10%
Final exam	10%
Presentation	10%

Attendance

Regular attendance is required. Each student will start with an attendance grade of 100 points. Students having 0 to 1 absences at the end of the semester will receive 15 bonus points. 2 absences reduce the attendance grade to 90 points, 3 absences to 80, 4 absences to 70, etc. More than eight absences will result in a classwork grade (30% of final grade) of 0. Assignments must be handed in when due in order to receive full credit. Repeated tardiness is unacceptable; 2 tardies will be equivalent to 1 absence.

Important dates

Last day to drop the class with a "W": November 4

Hourly exams: Sept 20, Oct 13, Nov.10 (projected dates, may change)

Presentations: Nov. 29 - Dec. 8

Final exam: Take home, due Dec 13, noon

iPads

This course has been selected to participate in a pilot iPad project. All students in the class may check out for the semester an iPad 2 for use in this and other courses. You are responsible for the iPad you are assigned and will need to sign a waiver to receive the iPad and return it at the end of the semester. Should you already own an iPad (iPad mini or version 2 or higher of full size iPad), you can use your own device. That is the case as well should you have an Android or Windows tablet. Course materials designed for mobile access can also be viewed on smartphones. Mobile companion for the course: http://www.germanstories.vcu.edu/grmn_320/mobile/

Other

Students with disabilities should self-declare during the first week of classes.

The *VCU Honor Code* will be strictly enforced in this class; The Honor System in its entirety can be reviewed on the Web at <http://www.policy.vcu.edu/sites/default/files/Honor%20System%20-%20Interim.pdf>

What to Know and Do To Be Prepared for Emergencies at VCU

1. Sign up to receive VCU text messaging alerts: <http://www.vcu.edu/alert/notify>
2. Know the safe evacuation route from each of your classes (posted in classrooms).
3. Listen for and follow instructions from VCU or other designated authorities.
4. Know where to go for additional emergency information: <http://www.vcu.edu/alert>
5. Know the emergency phone number for the VCU Police: 828-1234
Report suspicious activities and objects.

See this web page for additional information on VCU policies from the Provost: <http://go.vcu.edu/syllabus>