

Deutsch 1500: Text und Kontext

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Studentenzeit:
Kurszeiten:

STUDENT RESOURCES

IT and Tech Support

If you run into technical issues at any point during the semester contact <https://computing.sas.upenn.edu/help/students>. Please also inform me about the technical issue, so that we can all work together to find a feasible solution.

Weingarten Center

At the Weingarten Center, the *Office of Learning Resources* provides consultations for developing academic skills, such as time management and study strategies. The *Office of Student Disabilities Services* provides comprehensive, professional services and programs for students who self-identify with disabilities: <https://wlrc.vpul.upenn.edu/>

Student Wellness Programs

Please refer to Student Wellness for many more resources at Penn: <https://www.college.upenn.edu/wellness>

CAPS

Counseling and Psychological Services, CAPS, offers confidential and free professional mental health services to all Penn students. <https://caps.wellness.upenn.edu/>

PLC TUTORING

The Penn Language Center, PLC, offers free peer-tutoring: <http://plc.sas.upenn.edu/requesttutor>

OFFICE HOURS & COMMUNICATION POLICIES

Office hours are meant for everyone; thus, you should plan on no longer than 15-minute time slots. If you need a longer meeting, you can make an appointment with me. If you need intensive help, you should check in with PLC Tutoring and arrange a free tutor. I will check email regularly on weekdays during regular working hours (Monday-Friday from 9am – 5pm EST) and will try to get back to you within 24 hours.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, you will explore themes of cultural and historical significance in contemporary German-speaking countries through literature and nonfiction, through film and current event media coverage. This semester the course will focus on how Germans who identify as Black or People of Color renegotiate *Heimat* and *Belonging*. This is a required course for all majors, minors, and courses taught in German at or above the 200 level.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The undergraduate curriculum of the department encompasses two main goals: 1) Students will develop intercultural competence and understandings that are fundamental to communicative competence; 2) Students will develop appropriate levels of linguistic and discourse competencies necessary for cross-cultural and interactional communication in all modalities.

By the end of the semester, you will be able to

- gain insight into complexities of concepts of Heimat, Identity, and Belonging in relation to Black and Peoples of Color (BPoC) in the German context
- develop analytical & critical thinking skills, including the ability to interpret and analyze a wide range of cultural practices, products, and perspectives within their socio-historical contexts
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- gain awareness of cross-cultural differences between your own society & German society, including social and political structure, and an understanding of how these differences inform concepts of Heimat, identity, and belonging
- develop all four proficiencies (reading, writing, speaking, listening) in German to meet the standards of the advanced-mid level

REQUIRED TEXTS & RECOMMENDED ONLINE DICTIONARIES

All course material will be provided in digital format by me. The following are useful online resources:

Course Specific Glossary	Dictionaries	Wörterbuch
NdM-Glossar	Dict.cc	Duden
	Pons	
	Leo	

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Using the ideas, data, or language of another without specific and proper acknowledgement constitutes plagiarism. Furthermore, the use of AI or any translation program or website, as well as consulting friends or family to correct or change your work are considered forms of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for that assignment and may result in further disciplinary action, which may include receiving a failing grade for the course. If you are at all unsure about the appropriate form of acknowledgement in a particular situation, it is your responsibility, as stated in [Penn's Code of Academic Integrity](#), to consult with your instructor to clarify any ambiguities.

COURSE ASSESSMENTS

Attendance

Attendance is a vital part of your performance in this course. Any absences should be reported through the Course Absence Report system. You are permitted four (4) absences for any reason (two late arrivals equal one absence). Starting with the fifth absence, your course grade drops 1/3 letter grade for each additional absence (i.e., from an A to an A-). A maximum of ten (10) absences results in failing the course. All absences should be reported on Path@Penn as a *Course Absence Report*. In case of extended absences, contact me, your advisor, and/or a [CaseNet advisor](#) in the College Office to determine your ability to complete the course.

Participation and Homework

Your thoughtful in-class and asynchronous (Canvas) engagement will assure individual and community learning. Active participation is expected of all students. The quality of your participation will depend on your preparation and active engagement in the class. Thus, thoroughly completing all homework assignments will prepare you to engage actively during our in-person sessions. The content of homework ranges from synchronous and asynchronous short written assignments, recorded lectures, film screenings, and individual and small-group discussions. Contributions must be prepared in advance to each class. Since your asynchronous homework assignments (Canvas Assignments) prepare you to engage fully during our class sessions, it is critical that you complete them on time. All homework assignments are part of your grade. Failing to do your homework on time will result in no credit for the assignment and will also affect your participation

grade as the homework is meant as preparation and or review of materials to be covered in class.

Annotations

You will annotate texts and videos using the social annotation tool Perusal embedded in Canvas. The annotations are designed to facilitate reading comprehension, language acquisition, in-class discussions, and will ultimately serve as a helpful tool for your papers and final course project.

Quizzes

You will complete a total of three 10-minute quizzes throughout the semester to test your mastery of newly acquired language structures and content. These quizzes serve as feedback to you to see if you are beginning to master new linguistic structures and whether you retained new vocabulary.

Reflections

Throughout the semester you will create two reflections. The goal of your reflections is both to develop your linguistic skills and a reflective & self-reflective voice. You should engage with the material and focus on course themes

Presentation

You will have one group presentation during the semester. This presentation will include text and visualizations. Details will be provided on Canvas.

Projects

You will complete two individual projects. Based on my feedback, you will revise your project and turn in your final version. More specific guidelines for each project will be provided on Canvas.

Final Project

Your final project will consist of three major components:

1. Manifesto
2. Reflection
3. Peer Commentary

1. Manifesto – StoryMap

This will be a group assignment. You will create a [StoryMap](#), a multimodal text, which should illustrate, complement, support, extend, or explain why the concepts of Belonging, Heimat and German Identity need to be reconsidered /reconfigured/restated/redefined/reaffirmed in light of Germany’s colonial past, migration, and current efforts to decolonize Germany.

2. Reflection

You will create an individual reflection based on what you have learned about belonging, Heimat, and identity in relation to BPoC in Germany.

3. Peer Commentary

You will provide a video commentary on a peer’s reflection and should be no longer than 10 minutes.

THERE WILL BE NO FINAL EXAM FOR THIS COURSE

GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE

Grade Distribution (1000 Points)

1. Participation	
In-Class:	110 points
Homework:	200 points
2. Quizzes	60 points
3. Reflections	100 points
4. Presentation	80 points
5. Projects	200 points
6. Final Project	250 points

Grading Scale

990 – 1000 = A+	780 – 799 = C+
940 – 989 = A	740 – 779 = C
900 – 939 = A-	700 – 739 = C-
880 – 899 = B+	680 – 699 = D+
840 – 879 = B	630 – 679 = D
800 – 839 = B-	0 – 629 = F

HERZLICH WILLKOMMEN, VIEL SPAß UND VIEL GLÜCK IN DEUTSCH 2100!