

Course Syllabus

What to expect:

German 41/42 is a fast-paced, intense and exciting year of German study. Students are exposed to authentic German literature and film and study everything from the German classical period to the post-war period in Germany. Students will learn to speak, listen, read and write about various literary, cultural and historical concepts--in German! Students will complete and participate in discussions, guided conversations, presentations, projects, skits and plays. Although German 41/42 does not tackle a lot of *new* grammar, students are expected to use and master all grammar from years 1-3 as well as the few new concepts taught in German 41/42. Although German 41/42 is arguable the hardest level of German at WHS, students enjoy the course and always feel a tremendous sense of accomplishment after completing it. My goal for all of us this year is to grow in our understanding and appreciation of the German language and culture as well as to have a LOT of fun!

Language:

German 41/42 is taught exclusively in German. Students are expected to speak German to each other as well as to the teacher. All questions, opinions, answers etc should be posed and answered in German. Speaking in German both with the class as a whole as well as with individual peers during group/partner work makes up a large portion of the participation grade at the end of the term.

Textbooks:

There are no textbooks in German 41/42. Instead, students will use full-text stories, films, articles from magazines or accredited online sources, short videos and short stories. Aside from one easy-reader, all texts and films are in the original version--written and intended for native German speakers.

Notebook:

Because there is no textbook for German 41/42, I require students to have and bring a notebook to school everyday *exclusively* for German. I ask students to write one of the following two phrases on the front cover of their notebook: *Ich habe Deutsch gern/Deutsch macht viel Spass* OR *Deutsch ist mein Lieblingsfach*. In lieu of a textbook, students will receive one *Kurspaket* from me for each unit as well as a text of each story we are reading.

Homework:

Homework is not generally assigned in the German 41/42 classroom. Instead of homework, I ask students to remain in the target language 100% of the time. If they are unable to do this, I will return to assigning daily homework. However, there will be times that we cannot get through all the readings in class. On these occasions, students will have to finish the readings at home.

Tardiness and Attendance:

Per school policy, 1-3 tardies will earn you 60-minute detentions. Four or more class cuts will result in a loss of credits from the class. Please see the student handbook for more information about these policies.

Grading Policy:

Grades in German 4 consist of achievement and performance assessments as well as homework and class engagement. Within each term, homework, active engagement and achievement assessments (grammar and vocabulary quizzes) make up 10% of the grade, performance assessments (interpretive, interpersonal, presentational) make up 90% of the grade. For more detailed information about these percentages, please see the chart below. In addition to these breakdowns within a term, the CML department also has a sequential grading policy. The term weights are as follows: Term 1--14%; Term 2--22%; Term 3--29%; Term 4--35%. There will be NO Final Exam in this class. In addition, each performance assessment within a term is worth slightly more than the assessment before it—in keeping with the sequential grading policy. You can read more about this policy in the student handbook.

In addition to the grading system, the WHS CML department uses rubrics aligned with the three modes of communication: *interpersonal*, *presentational* and *interpretive*. The rubrics can all be found in your Course Packets.

Instructor Information:

If you have questions about the course, the homework, the grading or anything regarding German 41/42, please email me. My email address is: ellisd@wellesleyps.org. I will do my best to answer within 1 work day. If you would like to call me, my direct line is: (781) 446-6210 x4334. In addition to this contact information, students can also find everything they need to know about their course on our google classroom site. Students are also always welcome to stop by my room (334) at the high school with questions or concerns.

Grading Category Weights and descriptors:

Classical and Modern Language Category Weights and Descriptors for German AP		
PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT : 90 %		
<i>Presentational Communication</i>	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One-way speaking and/or writing done individually
<i>Interpretive Communication</i>	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One-way reading, listening or viewing tasks in the target language
<i>Interpersonal Communication</i>	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two-way speaking and writing tasks that are completed and/or performed in the target language with another member of the class (this can be face-to-face, online, synchronous or asynchronous)
ACHIEVEMENT ASSESSMENT / EFFORT : 10%		
<i>Language Use, Active Engagement, Achievement/effort Assessments</i>	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Memorized, “learned” material (forms, grammar, vocabulary)• Completion of homework• Use of the target language• Readiness for class (on time with necessary materials)