

COURSE OUTLINE
General Education/Area C1

German 150: GERMAN CIVILIZATION: Beginning to 16th Century

Fall 2009
MWF 9:00-9:50
Eureka 102
class call number: 81718

Instructor: Dr. Marjorie D. Wade
Office: Mariposa 2021
Office phone: 278-5508 (no voice mail)
mdwade@csus.edu
Office Hours: WF 11-11:50; MW 5-5:30

Required Textbooks: Kurt F. Reinhardt, *Germany: 2000 Years*. volume I, (Ungar Publishing Co., New York)
C. Tacitus, *The Agricola and the Germania*, (Penguin Books)
Additional Reading Assignments will be made from selections
in the Reserve Room in the Library

Catalogue Description: German 150. Historical, social and artistic forces in German civilization from
the time of the Great Migrations to the Reformation.
All readings and lectures in English. 3 units

Prerequisite: None. There is no German language requirement for this class.
All lectures, class discussions and readings are in English.
Course approved for General Education/Area C1

Course Requirements: The course material is presented in lecture format with discussion of the assigned reading. Slides, videotapes, and recordings will be used to supplement the lectures and reading. Students will be responsible for the material in the Reinhardt text (chapters 1-8), the description of *Germania* by Tacitus, and the material presented in lectures. Students are urged to stay current with their reading assignments and to maintain and organize their own notes on both the reading and the lectures throughout the semester. Regular attendance and participation in class discussion and writing exercises are considered to be an important part of the course requirements and will have an effect on your grade.

Method of Instruction: This course will introduce the students to the political and cultural background of the civilization of all the German-speaking regions of the world through lectures, readings, discussion, videos, recordings, and worksheets.

Course Objectives: The German-speaking countries, geographically at the very heart of Europe, have played a central role in European civilization since Carolingian times and have had a major influence on world history and world thought. This course is designed to provide a background of the political and cultural history of the German-speaking world and presents an overview of the geography, political, social and intellectual history with attention to the major trends in art and music. The course provides a foundation for study in depth of the literature, life and culture of the German-speaking countries and is intended to help the student develop an appreciation and knowledge of the contributions of the German-speaking world to Western civilization.

The following objectives will be addressed:

1. Awareness and understanding of the origins, nature, and scope of the contributions of the German-speaking countries to Western culture.
2. Documentation of the changes and transformations which took place as the German-speaking peoples struggled to provide leadership after the collapse of the Roman Empire, to unify the medieval Christian world under Charlemagne and his successors, and merge the Classical, Christian and Germanic worlds into the multi-national, multi-cultural Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation. The development of natural and civic, social and economic rights will be traced through the centuries as the many social classes and religious groups within the Empire gained political, social and economic freedoms. These changes will be studied in the context of historical, social, economic and cultural perspectives.
3. Development of analytical and comparative approaches to acquire socio-historical perspectives on the intellectual ideas, political and social institutions, moral and aesthetic values present in German culture, which have contributed to the shaping of what we know as "Western civilization".
4. Familiarization and development of research library skills in accessing information (books and articles) on different topics; how to secure appropriate primary and secondary sources and organize information.
5. Development of analytical writing skills.

Tests and homework: One written paper will be assigned on a selected topic during the semester, and will be the subject of a class presentation. Worksheets that develop analytical and critical thinking skills are to be completed weekly based on the material from the reading and lectures. These worksheets help in organizing the material and afford the opportunity to gain the ability to compose thoughtful responses to essay questions and acquire the basic skills of a liberal arts student. Each student is expected to write over 1500 words over the course of the semester.

There will be five fifty minute tests (administered every third Friday of the semester). The final exam is scheduled for Friday, December 18th at 8:00 AM in Eureka 102.

Grades will be determined on attendance and the quality of classroom participation, the written and oral reports, grades received on the five one-hour tests. Grading Scale: 90-100% =A, 80-89% =B, 70-79% =C, 60-69% = D, less than 60% F

(For students making class presentations that require use of smart classroom facilities, please contact IT techs personally in MRP 2054, in advance of your presentation date, for assistance with specific cords and attachments to be used with projectors and laptops.)

Students with special needs should consult the University's office for services to Students for Disabilities.