

The Germanic Languages Students' Union



Introduction

The Germanic Languages Students' Union (GLSU) holds events for students who are taking GER courses. If you are interested in joining the GLSU, please contact the ASSU office - Sidney Smith Hall, Room 1068.

Editor

GER 100Y1Y Introduction to German I

Instructor(s): V. Poenaru

Enr: 25	Resp: 14							Retake: 92%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	21	14	35	21	7	4.8
Explains	0	0	15	15	38	7	23	5.1
Communicates	0	0	0	0	21	57	21	6.0
Teaching	0	0	7	14	42	21	14	5.2
Workload	0	0	0	71	21	0	7	4.4
Difficulty	0	0	14	50	28	7	0	4.3
Learn Exp	0	0	0	64	0	28	7	4.8

Students generally liked the new instructor. They thought his class was fairly organized with a relaxed atmosphere. A few students sometimes had difficulty understanding what Poenaru was trying to say. Despite liking the course, students detested the textbook, claiming that it was riddled with spelling and grammar mistakes, and its content was often contradictory to what the instructor taught.

Instructor(s): V. Shanmuganathan

Enr: 22	Resp: 13							Retake: 100%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	8	0	8	66	16	5.8
Explains	0	0	8	0	8	50	33	6.0
Communicates	0	0	0	0	8	41	50	6.4
Teaching	0	0	8	0	0	41	50	6.2
Workload	0	0	0	66	25	8	0	4.4
Difficulty	0	0	8	33	33	16	8	4.8
Learn Exp	0	0	0	50	8	33	8	5.0

Students enjoyed the course and especially the instructor. They thought she was an excellent teacher, who was not only well-prepared, but also enthusiastic about the content. Students felt she explained concepts clearly and was flexible with her office hours to accommodate their schedules. Some students, however, disliked the reading material - finding it somewhat difficult to understand.

Instructor(s): J. Koster

Enr: 25	Resp: 19							Retake: 72%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	21	21	36	15	5	4.6
Explains	0	0	10	26	21	26	15	5.1
Communicates	0	0	0	5	26	31	36	6.0
Teaching	0	0	10	10	26	26	26	5.5
Workload	5	5	16	55	11	5	0	3.8
Difficulty	0	0	5	61	22	11	0	4.4
Learn Exp	0	7	0	35	28	14	14	4.9

Students enjoyed Koster's enthusiasm and sense of humour in his classes. It fostered a casual and comfortable atmosphere that some students enjoyed, while others felt the class lacked structure and organization. What most students agreed on was that the textbook was, as most described it, "horrible". Some felt that, with the spelling, grammar mistakes and overall incoherence, that it was not suitable for publishing, let alone a university course.

Instructor(s): E. Boran

Enr: 23	Resp: 16							Retake: 100%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	6	18	25	50	6.2
Explains	0	0	0	0	31	6	62	6.3
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	6	93	6.9
Teaching	0	0	0	0	12	31	56	6.4
Workload	0	0	6	62	31	0	0	4.2
Difficulty	0	6	6	50	31	6	0	4.2
Learn Exp	0	0	0	16	25	58	0	5.4

The course was excellent and Boran brought energy to the class with his enthusiasm. Many students found the course to be a positive experience in learning German. Students were not pleased about switching instructors half-way through the year. Most of all, students strongly disliked the textbook - some found it detrimental to their attempt to learn the German language because it had errors, typos and often contradicted what was taught in class. Fortunately, Boran did his best to compensate for the poor reading material.

Instructor(s): M. Hager

Enr: 17	Resp: 12							Retake: 91%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	8	16	16	58	0	5.2
Explains	0	0	16	25	8	16	33	5.2
Communicates	0	0	0	0	33	33	33	6.0
Teaching	0	0	0	16	16	33	33	5.8
Workload	0	0	0	33	50	16	0	4.8
Difficulty	0	0	8	50	16	25	0	4.6
Learn Exp	0	0	0	22	22	33	22	5.6

Hager taught the material well and conducted the course in a fun manner. "The question and answer sessions at the start of the class were very beneficial as they helped students learn the vocabulary a lot more." The textbook was not useful - it contained many errors and was confusing. The test covered material not taught in class, and was difficult.

Instructor(s): C. Gerth

Enr: 23	Resp: 20							Retake: 84%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	0	10	50	40	6.3
Explains	0	0	0	0	10	35	55	6.4
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	47	52	6.5
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	30	70	6.7
Workload	0	5	15	60	10	10	0	4.1
Difficulty	0	0	15	50	30	0	5	4.3
Learn Exp	0	5	0	0	33	27	33	5.8

Gerth was very funny, enthusiastic about the material, friendly, helpful

and organized. The textbook was poor - it had many mistakes and the explanations were hard to understand. A student suggested completing the homework because it would be easy to fall behind, and obtaining a German-English dictionary and grammar aids to figure out confusing concepts. Many students were upset that fluent German speakers were allowed to enrol in the course because "they created imbalance."

Instructor(s): D. McKenna

Enr: 14	Resp: 12							Retake: 90%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	25	8	41	16	8	4.8
Explains	0	0	8	8	8	50	25	5.8
Communicates	0	0	8	25	0	33	33	5.6
Teaching	0	0	16	25	25	16	16	4.9
Workload	0	8	0	16	41	16	16	5.1
Difficulty	0	0	16	41	8	16	16	4.8
Learn Exp	0	0	0	25	37	25	12	5.2

Students found McKenna a capable instructor, but a few thought she seemed "condescending", making them a bit uncomfortable. The tests were difficult and there was a lot of homework.

Instructor(s): A. Christova

Enr: 20	Resp: 19							Retake: 80%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	5	5	22	33	16	16	5.0
Explains	0	0	11	16	27	16	27	5.3
Communicates	0	0	0	5	27	11	55	6.2
Teaching	0	0	5	10	26	21	36	5.7
Workload	0	16	22	44	11	5	0	3.7
Difficulty	0	5	5	50	27	5	5	4.4
Learn Exp	0	13	0	6	40	20	20	5.1

Christova was enthusiastic about teaching and the material. Students generally liked her teaching methods, but were very disappointed with the textbook - it was very expensive, "full of typographical errors, unclear at times, had incorrect information, and was very frustrating to use."

Instructor(s): A. Jamal

Enr: 19	Resp: 16							Retake: 93%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	6	6	68	18	6.0
Explains	0	0	0	6	18	62	12	5.8
Communicates	0	0	0	0	37	50	12	5.8
Teaching	0	0	0	0	6	75	18	6.1
Workload	0	0	18	18	43	12	6	4.7
Difficulty	0	0	0	31	43	18	6	5.0
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	28	14	50	5.4

Jamal instructed in a clear, concise, enthusiastic and well-organized manner. Many students appreciated her willingness to help and for providing supplementary material to clarify grammar points. Students did not like the textbook at all "due to its lack of clarity, spelling mistakes, poor organization, and sometimes having English words in a German sentence." The course "was very valuable, forming a good foundation of the German language."

GER 200Y1Y Introductory German II

Instructor(s): M. Stock

Enr: 16	Resp: 9							Retake: 88%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	22	22	55	0	5.3
Explains	0	0	0	22	0	33	44	6.0
Communicates	0	0	0	11	11	33	44	6.1
Teaching	0	0	0	0	22	66	11	5.9
Workload	0	22	11	44	22	0	0	3.7
Difficulty	0	11	11	66	0	11	0	3.9
Learn Exp	0	0	20	20	40	20	0	4.6

Overall, students enjoyed both the course and the instructor. They found Stock very enthusiastic and that he engaged with students by teaching the material from different approaches. Students wished the course could have spent more time exploring new material, rather than reviewing material from earlier courses.

Instructor(s): M. Hepburn

Enr: 21	Resp: 16							Retake: 93%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	6	18	37	37	6.1
Explains	0	0	0	0	25	12	62	6.4
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	26	73	6.7
Teaching	0	0	0	0	6	25	68	6.6
Workload	0	6	13	73	6	0	0	3.8
Difficulty	0	12	6	62	12	6	0	3.9
Learn Exp	0	0	0	15	30	30	23	5.6

Students generally enjoyed this course. Hepburn taught with great enthusiasm and showed patience when dealing with her students. However, some students felt that the tutorials could have been more relevant to the course.

Instructor(s): D. McKenna

Enr: 10	Resp: 8							Retake: 37%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	12	75	12	0	5.0
Explains	0	0	12	37	25	25	0	4.6
Communicates	0	0	12	0	50	12	25	5.4
Teaching	0	0	25	12	37	25	0	4.6
Workload	0	0	0	28	0	71	0	5.4
Difficulty	0	0	0	37	37	25	0	4.9
Learn Exp	0	0	16	50	33	0	0	4.2

The respondents all agreed that the textbook was useless and expensive - it had no English explanations for grammar and examples provided were "horrible".

Instructor(s): M. Kumanatasan

Enr: 18	Resp: 15							Retake: 92%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	6	0	6	13	33	40	5.9
Explains	0	0	7	0	0	28	64	6.4
Communicates	0	0	0	0	6	13	80	6.7
Teaching	0	6	0	0	0	20	73	6.5
Workload	0	7	7	85	0	0	0	3.8
Difficulty	7	0	14	57	21	0	0	3.9
Learn Exp	0	8	0	33	33	16	8	4.8

Most students raved about Kumanatasan's teaching abilities! She was very humorous, explicit about her requirements, clear at explaining grammatical concepts, and patient in answering questions. "She went above and beyond her duties as an instructor," "giving lots of useful tips for exams and tests", and "gave out extra worksheets and quizzes to ensure that students knew the material inside out". Many appreciated her speaking German "100% of the time" "because it pushed them to really learn the language. Most found the tutorials problematic because the TA was not helpful and "impatient" with beginners, yet tutorial participation was worth 15% of the course grade. The textbook was "difficult to follow and did not offer any grammar support."

Instructor(s): C. Gerth

Enr: 18	Resp: 10							Retake: 70%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	10	0	20	40	20	10	4.9
Explains	0	11	0	11	22	44	11	5.2
Communicates	10	10	0	20	30	10	20	4.6
Teaching	22	0	0	11	33	22	11	4.4
Workload	0	0	30	30	10	10	20	4.6

108 GERMAN

Difficulty	0	0	20	30	20	0	30	4.9
Learn Exp	0	0	0	33	33	16	16	5.2

Gerth seemed fairly organized and was a "nice" person, but not as effective a teacher as students had wanted. A few found him "difficult to feel comfortable with and speak to because of his inappropriate comments at times". A few found him enthusiastic about the material.

GER 204H1S German Literature in Translation

Instructor(s): M. Kumanatasan

Enr: 21	Resp: 12						Retake: 100%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	0	33	41	25	5.9
Explains	0	0	0	0	16	41	41	6.2
Communicates	0	0	0	0	8	33	58	6.5
Teaching	0	0	0	0	16	50	33	6.2
Workload	0	0	33	66	0	0	0	3.7
Difficulty	0	0	33	66	0	0	0	3.7
Learn Exp	0	0	0	11	11	55	22	5.9

Kumanatasan was a very capable teacher. She was engaging, approachable, genuinely concerned with students' learning experience, very knowledgeable and passionate about the material. The class discussions and assignments were enjoyable. Many students appreciated German literature more after having taken this course!

GER 232H1F German Drama in Translation

Instructor(s): E. Boran

Enr: 15	Resp: 13						Retake: 100%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	7	46	23	23	5.6
Explains	0	0	0	7	38	38	15	5.6
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	30	69	6.7
Teaching	0	0	0	0	15	61	23	6.1
Workload	0	0	0	0	30	15	53	6.2
Difficulty	0	0	0	33	50	16	0	4.8
Learn Exp	0	0	0	22	33	33	11	5.3

Boran showed great enthusiasm when teaching this course. He was willing to listen to students, which students appreciated. Some were concerned that the workload was too demanding.

GER 300Y1Y Intermediate German

Instructor(s): J. Knorzer

Enr: 9	Resp: 7						Retake: 71%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	0	14	57	28	6.1
Explains	0	0	0	0	33	50	16	5.8
Communicates	0	0	14	0	42	42	0	5.1
Teaching	0	0	14	0	0	57	28	5.9
Workload	0	0	0	50	33	16	0	4.7
Difficulty	0	0	16	50	33	0	0	4.2
Learn Exp	0	0	20	0	20	40	20	5.4

Knorzer was a very good instructor - helpful, genuinely cared about the performance of her students, clear about the goals of the material and had a good sense of humour. She made the material as interesting as could be, and explained grammar rules better than the textbook. Many students were disappointed with the textbook, claiming it was confusing and had "very poor explanations of grammar points". Most thought that the soap opera project was fun, but not useful because the scripts did not involve the application of more complex grammar or the language in general.

Instructor(s): E. Boran

	Enr: 21						Resp: 18		Retake: 73%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean	
Presents	0	0	0	11	38	22	27	5.7	
Explains	0	0	5	5	16	22	50	6.1	

Communicates	0	0	0	5	11	16	66	6.4
Teaching	0	0	0	5	27	22	44	6.1
Workload	0	0	5	50	16	22	5	4.7
Difficulty	0	0	11	50	22	11	5	4.5
Learn Exp	0	0	0	40	20	20	20	5.2

Boran had a "profound understanding of the material, which enabled him to answer questions meaningfully and effectively." He explained concepts clearly. He provided lots of examples and was very willing to help. A few commented that fluent German speakers dominated the class, and non-native speakers could not participate as much as they wanted.

GER 305H1F German Literature II

Instructor(s): F. Seliger

Enr: 16	Resp: 11						Retake: 81%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	9	0	9	18	27	36	5.6
Explains	0	0	9	0	0	45	45	6.2
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	45	54	6.5
Teaching	0	0	10	0	20	30	40	5.9
Workload	0	0	9	72	18	0	0	4.1
Difficulty	0	0	0	72	9	18	0	4.5
Learn Exp	0	11	0	11	33	44	0	5.0

GER 310H1F Topics in Contemporary German Culture

Instructor(s): P. Broadbent

Enr: 15	Resp: 14						Retake: 92%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	0	14	35	50	6.4
Explains	0	0	0	0	7	35	57	6.5
Communicates	0	0	0	0	7	0	92	6.9
Teaching	0	0	0	7	7	21	64	6.4
Workload	0	0	0	35	35	21	7	5.0
Difficulty	0	0	0	42	35	21	0	4.8
Learn Exp	0	0	0	27	18	45	9	5.4

Many students added this course and the instructor to their list of favourites. They thought Broadbent was amazing, enthusiastic and knowledgeable. Students found that this course was a valuable asset to their understanding of German culture.

GER 324H1S Dreams - Desires - Delusions

Instructor(s): G. Mecky

Enr: 14	Resp: 13						Retake: 81%	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	7	15	38	38	6.1
Explains	0	0	0	0	23	53	23	6.0
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	38	61	6.6
Teaching	0	0	0	0	7	61	30	6.2
Workload	0	0	0	53	30	15	0	4.6
Difficulty	0	0	0	15	61	23	0	5.1
Learn Exp	0	0	0	36	18	27	18	5.3

Mecky was helpful, enthusiastic about teaching and the material, and successful in explaining very difficult text to the class. She welcomed input from students and actively encouraged interaction. The readings on theory were very difficult for many students.

GER 331H1F Kafka in Context

Instructor(s): J. Noyes

Enr: 10	Resp: 10					Retake: 100%		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	0	20	70	10	5.9
Explains	0	0	0	0	30	30	40	6.1
Communicates	0	0	0	0	20	20	60	6.4
Teaching	0	0	0	0	22	44	33	6.1
Workload	0	0	0	77	11	11	0	4.3
Difficulty	0	0	0	66	22	11	0	4.4

Learn Exp 0 0 0 33 33 33 0 5.0

The instructor was enthusiastic and knowledgeable.

GER 361H1S Yiddish Literature and Culture in Translation

Instructor(s): A. Shternshis

	Resp: 6							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	0	0	16	83	6.8
Explains	0	0	0	16	0	0	83	6.5
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	7.0
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	16	83	6.8
Workload	0	0	0	33	33	16	16	5.2
Difficulty	0	0	0	33	33	16	16	5.2
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	0	16	83	6.8

The course provided a good survey of Yiddish literature. The one essay and several short response assignments were great because they made the workload reasonable, and learning enjoyable. Shternshis was excellent: very articulate, passionate about the material, helpful, and always willing to answer any questions.

GER 362H1F Soviet and Kosher: Jewish Culture in the Soviet Union

Instructor(s): A. Shternshis

	Resp: 9							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	0	11	22	66	6.6
Explains	0	0	0	0	11	22	66	6.6
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	11	88	6.9
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	33	66	6.7
Workload	0	0	0	44	33	22	0	4.8
Difficulty	0	0	0	33	66	0	0	4.7
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	0	16	83	6.8

Though only a few commented on the course, there was consensus that it was a very enjoyable course and the instructor was excellent. The lectures were well-planned and organized, filled with great examples to support concepts. The reading material was very valuable too.

GER 370H1F Business German I

Instructor(s): M. Hager

	Resp: 24							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	4	0	20	29	45	6.1
Explains	0	4	0	0	12	16	66	6.4
Communicates	0	0	0	4	4	16	75	6.6
Teaching	0	0	4	4	4	33	54	6.3
Workload	0	0	8	75	12	4	0	4.1
Difficulty	0	0	12	70	12	4	0	4.1
Learn Exp	0	0	0	23	7	38	30	5.8

Students found the instructor to be dynamic and engaging with students. He was knowledgeable and very enthusiastic and his discussions were practical and useful. Overall, they loved the course and the instructor.

GER 400H1S Advanced German

Instructor(s): G. Mecky

	Resp: 20							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	10	25	45	20	5.8
Explains	0	0	5	0	25	35	35	5.9
Communicates	0	0	0	5	5	20	70	6.6
Teaching	0	0	5	0	10	35	50	6.2
Workload	0	0	20	70	5	5	0	4.0
Difficulty	0	0	30	60	5	5	0	3.8
Learn Exp	0	0	0	12	50	31	6	5.3

Mecky's performance as an instructor was admirable. In discussions,

she made a strong effort to get everyone to participate so even non-fluent speakers felt very comfortable expressing themselves. She was extremely helpful and corrected students' speech without intimidating them. She provided lots of examples and explained concepts clearly. Most of the class found the course well-organized and properly paced, and would take any course Mecky might be instructing.

GER 410H1F Topics in German Intellectual History

Instructor(s): S. Haas

	Resp: 7							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	14	57	28	0	5.1
Explains	0	0	14	28	14	28	14	5.0
Communicates	0	0	0	0	71	28	0	5.3
Teaching	0	0	0	28	28	42	0	5.1
Workload	0	0	0	71	28	0	0	4.3
Difficulty	0	0	14	71	14	0	0	4.0
Learn Exp	0	0	0	25	0	50	25	5.8

Haas was a very kind and accommodating instructor. However, some students have commented that it was difficult to write a final essay with no specific question.

GER 411H1S Introduction to Critical Theory

Instructor(s): M. Stock

	Resp: 6							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	0	16	50	33	6.2
Explains	0	0	0	0	0	33	66	6.7
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	7.0
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	66	33	6.3
Workload	0	0	0	50	16	33	0	4.8
Difficulty	0	0	0	33	16	50	0	5.2
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	0	40	60	6.6

Students would not hesitate to take any course taught by Stock! The instructor delivered the material with much passion and clarity. Students enjoyed a close reading of several German theorists. The material was "complex, abstract and theoretical", but Stock successfully guided his students. He actively encouraged dialogue among a diverse group of students, and was "skilled at drawing connections between diverse fields of thought, texts and ideas." All of which made the learning experience very high.

GER 421H1S Gender and Identity

Instructor(s): E. Boran

	Resp: 8							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	0	62	25	12	5.5
Explains	0	0	0	0	25	62	12	5.9
Communicates	0	0	0	0	12	25	62	6.5
Teaching	0	0	0	0	28	57	14	5.9
Workload	0	0	0	21	50	25	21	5.4
Difficulty	0	0	0	28	71	0	0	4.7
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	50	50	0	5.5

Boran was very enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the material.

GER 424H1S Writing the Self in Poetry

Instructor(s): M. Stock

	Resp: 7							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	0	14	57	28	6.1
Explains	0	0	0	0	28	28	42	6.1
Communicates	0	0	0	0	14	14	71	6.6
Teaching	0	0	0	0	14	28	57	6.4
Workload	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	4.0
Difficulty	0	0	0	71	28	0	0	4.3
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	60	40	0	5.4

Stock was an erudite instructor who delivered the material with much enthusiasm. The course was very theoretical, but students came out with practical knowledge.

GER 430H1S Topics in German Literature and Culture: Turkish-German Intersections: Art between Integration and Resistance

Instructor(s): E. Boran

Enr: 9	Resp: 7							Retake: 100%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	0	33	50	16	5.8
Explains	0	0	0	0	14	42	42	6.3
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	33	66	6.7
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	66	33	6.3
Workload	0	0	0	42	57	0	0	4.6
Difficulty	0	0	16	50	33	0	0	4.2
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	0	83	16	6.2

Boran's enthusiasm about the material and passion for teaching were commendable! Students who initially had very limited knowledge about the topics learned a great deal and found the material interesting.

GER 470H1S Business German II

Instructor(s): M. Hager

Enr: 24	Resp: 21							Retake: 95%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	5	15	40	40	6.2
Explains	0	0	0	0	10	35	55	6.4
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	40	60	6.6
Teaching	0	0	0	0	5	40	55	6.5
Workload	0	0	15	60	20	5	0	4.2
Difficulty	0	0	5	65	25	5	0	4.3
Learn Exp	0	0	0	15	30	38	15	5.5

"Hager was a dynamic and animated instructor." The concepts he taught were practical and delivered clearly. He adjusted his speaking pace so that students understood him well. He always asked the class if they had any questions or concerns, and was very engaging. Students loved the discussions and thought Hager was an excellent language instructor.

