

**GR 420**

**Advanced German Grammar**

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**Text:** Schaum's Outline of German Grammar, by Elke Gschossmann-Hendershot.  
New York: Mc-Graw Hill, 1996. ISBN: 0070251347.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** GR 420, Advanced German Grammar, provides a deeper understanding of the basic principles guiding German grammar, in part by introducing new grammar rules, but primarily by reviewing and explaining in depth the grammar rules that were learned on the 100 through levels.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Advanced German Grammar teaches students to use grammatical knowledge practically and critically by having them complete and analyze daily grammar exercises in the book and on the web and by administering periodic quizzes and exams. The goal of Advanced German Grammar is to improve students' understanding of the rules of German grammar, and to increase their ability to express themselves accurately and comprehensibly through the use of these rules in controlled and open exercises. Additional exercises will supplement the course text to provide additional practice with areas presenting more complexity.

**Topics to be covered:**

Nouns and Articles

Definites, indefinites, plurals, and special genitive case constructions

Adjective and Adverbs

Adjective endings, comparisons, irregular adjectives and adverbs, possessives, demonstratives

Prepositions

Place, time, in adverbial clauses of manner, and introducing infinitives

Numbers, Dates, Times

Cardinals, ordinals, collectives, and fractions.

Verbs

Formal v. familiar, reflexives, imperatives, present participles, simple past, present perfect, past perfect, future, compound tenses, subjunctive, infinitives, and the passive voice.

## Interrogative Words and Constructions

Inversions, interrogatives, Word order issues

## Negative Words and Constructions

## Pronouns

Nominative, Genitive, Dative and Accusative forms of pronouns, reflexives, demonstratives, and possessives.

## Idiomatic Expressions

### **EXPECTED STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon completion of GR 420, students will have a thorough grasp of German grammar. More specifically, upon completion of GR 420, it is expected that students will be performing at ACTFL Level Advanced . As regards the targeted four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, this proficiency level reflects competency as follows:

- Listening:

Able to understand main ideas and most details of connected discourse on a variety of topics beyond the immediacy of the situation. Comprehension may be uneven due to a variety of linguistic and extra-linguistic factors, among which topic familiarity is very prominent. These texts frequently involve description and narration in different time frames or aspects, such as present, non-past, habitual, or imperfective. Texts may include interviews, short lectures on familiar topics, and news items and reports primarily dealing with factual information. Listener is aware of cohesive devices but may not be able to use them to follow the sequence of thought in an oral text.

- Speaking:

Able to satisfy the requirements of everyday situations and routine school and work requirements. Can handle with confidence but not with facility complicated tasks and social situations, such as elaborating, complaining, and apologizing. Can narrate and describe with some details, linking sentences together smoothly. Can communicate facts and talk casually about topics of current public and personal interest, using general vocabulary. Shortcomings can often be smoothed over by communicative strategies, such as pause fillers, stalling devices, and different rates of speech. Circumlocution which arises from vocabulary or syntactic limitations very often is quite successful, though some groping for words may still be evident. The Advanced-level speaker can be understood without difficulty by native interlocutors.

- Reading:

Able to read somewhat longer prose of several paragraphs in length, particularly if presented with a clear underlying structure. The prose is predominantly in familiar sentence patterns. Reader gets the main ideas and facts and misses some details. Comprehension derives not only from situational and subject matter knowledge but from increasing control of the language. Texts at this level include descriptions and narrations such as simple short stories, news items, bibliographical information, social notices, personal correspondence, routinized business letters, and simple technical material written for the general reader.

- Writing:

Able to write routine social correspondence and join sentences in simple discourse of at least several paragraphs in length on familiar topics. Can write simple social correspondence, take notes, write cohesive summaries and resumes, as well as narratives and descriptions of a factual nature. Has sufficient writing vocabulary to express self simply with some circumlocution. May still make errors in punctuation, spelling, or the formation of nonalphabetic symbols. Good control of the morphology and the most frequently used syntactic structures, e.g., common word order patterns, coordination, subordination, but makes frequent errors in producing complex sentences. Uses a limited number of cohesive devices, such as pronouns, accurately. Writing may resemble literal translations from the native language, but a sense of organization (rhetorical structure) is emerging. Writing is understandable to natives not used to the writing of non-natives.

Course Objective and Assessment

OBJECTIVE	ASSESSMENT
290-3-3-.11(2)(b)2.(ii) Ability to ask questions and compare answers to interpret literary and cultural texts from both native and target cultures for the purpose of interpreting and reflecting on the perspectives of both cultures.	Homework, including text-based grammar review and supplementary exercises. Quizzes, Tests, MOPI Exams.

**Grading:**

- Homework      20%**
- Quizzes        20%**
- Three tests    60% (20% each)**

As a course fulfillment requirement, and as a means of assessing progress and performance with respect to the *ACTFL Guidelines*, a Modified Oral Proficiency Interview (**MOPI**) will be administered at the beginning and end of the course. In addition, you will take the **Webcape Placement Exam** in the Foreign Language Lab, or online at [<http://webcape.byuhttrsc.org/nwcregister.php?acct=una> ], **twice**: once during the first week of class, and once again during the final week of class. This will provide me, and you, a measure of your achievement and appropriate placement level for continuing study in the language.