

Frequently Asked Questions

for German Class

What is due for the next class?

- [Check Canvas "Hausaufgaben" button for worksheet or other assignment.
- [Worksheet can be printed on paper, filled out on notebook paper, or on computer – online submission is also possible if you prefer that.
- [Worksheets are due at the beginning of class.
- [Worksheets are titled with the day they are DUE in class (example: "Arbeitsblatt für Tag 2").

What do I do with VHL Supersite?

- [Activate VHL Supersite access soon! Exercises very useful for learning our material. (Also worth 10% of course grade.)
- [Short online exercises each night, which are to be done on your own time. Just follow links from Canvas site.
- [You can do the exercises any time until the end of the semester, but it is recommended to stay up to date.
- [Other useful parts of VHL Supersite: the electronic version of the textbook, extra exercises and study aids, grammar charts and explanations, Fotoroman (telenovela) video.

How do I contact the instructor?

- [Email (nthuleen@miracosta.edu) is absolute best option
- [Please also keep an eye on YOUR email for announcements
- [I only rarely check cell phone messages or texts

What about absences?

- [EMAIL when you are absent, for your benefit and mine.
- [Absences will affect participation grade, especially more than 2-3 absences in the semester.
- [If you miss several classes in a row without contacting me, you may be dropped from the class!

What if I miss a test?

- [EMAIL to reschedule, prior to test if at all possible.
- [If no contact, it may be a 0.
- [Take test on your next day back in class.
- [There are no “dropped” tests, all count toward your grade.
- [There are no re-takes on tests once you take it, so if you are not prepared on a test day, please ask for an extension and take the test 1-3 days later.

What counts for a grade in the class?

- [Homework Worksheets (10%)
- [Participation (10%)
- [Online VHL Supersite: (10%)
- [Chapter Tests (25%)
- [Writing Projects (20%)
- [Oral Interview (5%)
- [Final Exam (20%)

Can I use Google Translate?

- [NEVER use a translator for more than 1-2 words at a time.
- [Sentences and phrases fail badly and are often incomprehensible.
- [Treat online translators like a dictionary (one word).
- [Overuse of translators is considered plagiarism, it is not YOUR creation.
- [Grades can be substantially lowered for translated material

How should I study?

- [Quizlet or other flash cards, online activities, reading handouts and textbook
- [**STUDY GROUPS** or partners are a wonderful idea
- [Try to maximize exposure to German
- [Vocabulary might be “crammed” before a test, but learning a language and grammar cannot.
- [Spend some time on German every day!

Any Questions?

- [Check Canvas for nearly everything!
- [Feel free to email nthuleen@miracosta.edu .
- [Available to consult before class, check Canvas for location and times of Office Hours.