

German 4 AP

Plainfield North High School
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Books

Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik
Der Weg zum Lesen
Besuch der Alten Dame
Im Land der Schokolade und Bananen
Das Fliegende Klassenzimmer
A variety of short stories

Summer reading, which includes a news article of your choice and the attached short stories.

Course Objectives and Expectations

Students will:

- * Expand speaking abilities and strengthen communicative fluency
- * Pursue active discourse with fellow students
- * Listen to authentic audio sources via the Internet, CDs and cassettes
- * Improve pronunciation and refine speaking skills in the language lab
- * Watch and comprehend German videos and DVDs
- * Observe culture via television programs, newspapers, magazines and stories
- * Read and discuss fictional and non-fictional texts
- * Read a book or story of their choice and re-tell the story
- * Write a brief summary of a reading
- * Write weekly journal entries and reflect on individual learning
- * Write essays that are approximately 200 words in length
- * Learn new grammar topics and build/expand on prior grammar
- * Review and prepare for individual sections of the AP Exam
- * Take a practice AP Exam
- * Take the actual AP Exam in the spring

Activities

Individual and group projects
Oral presentations and debates
Written essays and journal entries
Personal vocabulary
Vocabulary quizzes
Reading tests
Writing tests
Speaking tests
Listening tests
Semester Exam
Practice Advance Placement Exams
AP Exam

Course Overview

This class is comprised of six thematic units organized around essential questions and authentic materials. In addition to the objectives stated in the unit plan, vocabulary development continues throughout the year. For each thematic unit, I have also selected various grammar points ("structural foundations") for review and practice. In addition to grammar exercises from *Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik*, students practice the targeted structures through contextualized activities related to each unit's theme. Throughout the year we will conduct summative assessments to check text comprehension and interpretation, vocabulary and structural points. Most of the grading of speaking and writing is holistically evaluated using rubrics. The AP class is conducted almost exclusively in German, and students are encouraged to use German exclusively in class.

The course has no primary textbook. Instead we use a variety of materials, which include the short stories and exercises from *Der Weg zum Lesen* and from *Mal was anders*, a collection of short stories and poetry. We read the play *Besuch der Alten Dame*, *Das Fliegende Klassenzimmer*, *Bitterschokolade*, *Das Doppelte Lottchen*, and a variety of articles from current magazines, newspapers and a variety of German websites such as google.de, yahoo.de and Spiegel.de. We do vocabulary, grammar and listening activities from the *Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik*, in addition to *Reisefieber*, a story about a family on a trip around Germany, in a series of ten listening segments that are broken into two parts, each part with questions, analysis and a quiz. Both listening activities are appropriate for a college level course. We listen to a variety of podcasts and music incorporating the song lyrics and we watch the video series *Die Wahrheit über Deutschland* and *JoJo*, and other video segments, which are appropriate to what we are studying from a variety of sources. Throughout the year, we do several projects including but not limited to a project on poetry, famous Germans, Berlin, and a photostory project in order to integrate all four of the language skills utilizing authentic materials. Finally, we watch several movies throughout the year including *Schwarzfahrer*, *The White Rose*, *Das Fliegende Klassenzimmer* and *Besuch der alten Dame* to contribute to their cultural and historical understanding of the language and German speaking people.

We will spend 5-6 weeks on each of the following six themes: Familie und Gemeinschaft, Persönliche und Öffentliche Identität, Schönheit und Ästhetik, Globalisierung, Naturwissenschaft und Technologie, and Alltag.