Liebe Deutschstudierende,

Academic advising and choosing your courses for the Fall semester are coming up quickly. Now is the time to think about your goals in the German Program.

If you are taking GERM 102 this semester, and you enjoy working with the “Auf geht’s” program, a sequence awaits you with “Weiter geht’s” in GERM 201. The best way to learn a foreign language is by continuing to practice, reinforce, and expand on what you already accomplished this semester.

Aside from short course descriptions, this newsletter focuses on the many aspects of the German language, from the play with words on this front page to the infamous German compound nouns (those unbelievably long words, never knowing what their grammatical gender could possibly be) to the international day of “Muttersprache” and the competition for the most beautiful German word sponsored by the Goethe-Institute.

Let us know which German word or phrase is your favorite. We’ll publish them in the next Newsletter.

We wish you the best for the upcoming finals, a wonderfully relaxing summer and new energy and enthusiasm for German in the fall.

Dr. Poeter and Dr. Dysart

Wortspiele und Scherzgedichte

Wer mit beiden Beinen auf dem Boden steht kommt nicht vorwärts.

Wer seine Stimme abgibt, hat nichts mehr zu sagen.

Jeder Tag ist 24h lang, aber unterschiedlich breit …

Zuerst schließen wir die Augen, dann sehen wir weiter

Das Wiesel

Ein Wiesel saß auf einem Kiesel
Inmitten Bachgeriesel

Wißt ihr weshalb?

Das Mondkalb verriet es mir im stillen:

Das raffinierte Tier tat’s um des Reimes willen.

Christian Morgenstern
GERM 301 — Advanced German I
The course expands and deepens your knowledge and understanding about German culture: behavioral patterns, routines, and rituals of German speaking people and relates these to your personal experiences and cultures. Topics for conversations and writing will include differences in the understanding of “Heimat” and homeland, patterns of communications, science and art and more. will gain expanded factual knowledge about individual Germans such as film directors; writers; visual artists; media personalities and others.
MWF 11-11:50; E. Poeter

GERM 201L — Intermediate German I
Our 200 level sequence also goes beyond the current Bulletin description “to strengthen and expand basic language skills...” You have already invested a considerable amount of time and dedication to German studies. Why not solidify it? Why not carry it to the next level, perfecting a skill and expanding a body of knowledge—self-knowledge, knowledge of the “other”, and the ability to view Germany and its culture not only with the eyes of an outsider, but also from within. This learning experience will stay with you for the rest of your life... regardless of your chosen profession.
MWF 11-11:50; D. Dysart

GERM 300L — Modern German Culture
The course offers a critical understanding of the complexity and diversity of modern German culture by investigating how Germans respond to the challenges and transformations of their nation in the modern and postmodern age. We will focus on the roles that art, literature, film, architecture, music and other forms of cultural practices play in affirming and/or challenging contemporary notions of national identity. Our understanding of these cultural products will be based on categories such as gender, race and ethnicity, and social class. These analytical tools will help us to move beyond a traditional focus on dominant cultural narratives in order to conceive of German culture as a space of conflicting, competing and/or consensual identifications that are continuously challenged in any given historical moment.
TR 11:30-12:45; E. Poeter
Was bedeutet “Abmagerungskur”?

After all the excesses of the holiday season and, for some folks, the fun-filled days of winter carnival, many people turn to thoughts of an "Abmagerungskur" (diet) to lose weight and get into shape before the summer.

For many predominantly Catholic western and southern Germans who participate in carnival festivities, this is immediately followed by the fasting period of lent, during which people often give up certain types of food or drink in the six weeks running up to Easter. The compound noun Abmagerungskur is comprised of the prefix "ab" (off), the adjective "mager" (lean, thin, skinny, scrawny, gaunt, meager) and the noun "Kur" (health/spa cure, treatment). The word "Kur" is also used to express a specific dietary regimen, such as a "Schlankheitskur" (‘slimming’ diet) or "Diätkur" (diet). The adjective "mager" is moreover integrated into the noun "Abmagerungskur" to aptly describe the process of dieting. So if you hear someone in Germany say "Ich muß jetzt wirklich eine Abmagerungskur machen" this means "I really need to be on a diet right now."

How about Extrawurst

Another word for “hell”. Begins with a “D” - Diet!

Ampelmännchen

Beziehungskiste

Nachrichten aus Deutschland

Internationaler Tag der “Muttersprache”
21. Februar 2013

Compound nouns are unique to the German language. The longest German word has 80 characters and has made to the Guinness Book of Records.* The Council of the German Language and the Goethe-Institute initiated an international competition for the “schönste deutsche Wort”. Here are some of the worldwide favorites:

Habseeligkeit—Geborgenheit—lieben—Augenblick—Rhababermarmelade.

More than 100 Million people speak German in the EU. That amounts to just about 20% of the EU population. Worldwide 14.5 Million people speak German as a foreign language. Countries like China, India and Brazil become increasingly interested in the German language. Reasons for the increasing interest in the German language is Germany’s economic strength, its political importance and its leading position in modern technology. The online encyclopedia Wikipedia.de has about 1 Million articles and is second to the English Wikipedia.

(source: Deutschland.de) * reprinted on back of this newsletter

⇒ Did you know that “E” is the most common letter of the German language?
⇒ Did you know that the “Deutsches Wörterbuch” is the largest and most comprehensive dictionary of the German language? The two guys you see here started it in 1838. Who are they are? Die Gebrüder Grimm
THE GERMAN MAJOR AND MINOR
Bachelor of Arts Degree in German

I. General Education Requirements — 10 units
The student must complete the General Educational Requirements of the College of Arts & Sciences.

II. Major Requirements — 11 units
GERM201 — Intermediate German I
GERM202 — Intermediate German II
GERM301 — Advanced German I
GERM302 — Advanced German II

Three of the following
GERM303B — Germany and the Search for National Identity
GERM 304 — Modern German Culture
GERM305A — Contemporary German Cinema
GERM390 — Special Topics in Conversation and Composition
LING301 — Introduction to Linguistics

III. Electives
Units to total a minimum of 32

Minor in German
Minor Requirements — 5 units
Five Units at the GERM 202 level and above.

Mark your calendar: Traditional End of the Academic Year Picnic at Dr. Dysart’s
Thursday April 25, 5pm until… Get your EXTRAWURST

Answer key

Extrawurst: There may be more and more vegetarians in the land of schnitzel and beer, but Germans do still love sausage, or Wurst to be exact. It’s no surprise then they also love a bit of Extrawurst - but not served up on their plates. In Austria, Extrawurst is actually a type of sausage, but in Germany it’s a special privilege. For example, if a boss allows one employee to come in extra late to work or take longer lunches without a reprimand, in German you’d say that person gets an Extrawurst. And there's no doubt that for one person at least, it “tastes” pretty good too!

Ampelmännchen: An "Ampelmännchen" is, literally translated, the little man of the pedestrian traffic light. But if you’re thinking of thin stick-figures whose heads are not attached to their bodies, you’ve got the wrong idea. In fact, the "Ampelmännchen" is steeped in history -- he originated in former East German history, where the traffic lights looked different than in the West. After the reunification of Germany, these little men where supposed to be replaced by their thin cousins, widespread in the West, but that raised a lot of protest among former East Germans and there were finally allowed to keep their beloved "Ampelmännchen." Nowadays, he is an icon in Berlin and tourists can pick up t-shirts, pens, postcards and anything else you can think of with the little guy’s picture on it.

Beziehungskiste: Anna and Tim are stuck in a difficult Beziehungskiste - literally, "relationship box." Beziehungskiste is the colloquial term for a relationship that isn't going particularly well. "What a complicated Beziehungskiste!" a friend of Mara’s might say, or "You’ve gotta get out of this Beziehungskiste!"
Some people really do have a relationship box - in the literal sense. They keep their memories of a lost sweetheart safe in a box: love letters, cinema tickets from the first date, jewelry and other mementoes. That way they can remember the good times, even if they found themselves at times in a trying Beziehungskiste.

Longest German word: „Donaudampfschifffahrtselektrizitätenhauptbetriebswerkbauunterbeamtengesellschaft”