

Germany Today

Last Updated: Wed, 01/07/2026

Course prefix: GRMN

Course number: 3011

Section: A

CRN (you may add up to five):
34763

Instructor First Name: Annika

Instructor Last Name: Orich

Semester: Spring

Academic year: 2026

Course description:

Dieser Kurs konzentriert sich auf deutsches Zeitgeschehen – auf aktuelle Ereignisse und Debatten, die die Menschen in Deutschland gegenwärtig bewegen. Um uns ein vielfältiges Bild der deutschen Gegenwart zu machen, werden wir in unserem Kurs das Tagesgeschehen besprechen. Damit wir uns einen guten Überblick über das aktuelle Geschehen und gegenwartsbezogene Diskussionen in Deutschland verschaffen können, werden wir vor allem gesellschaftliche Debatten und Nachrichten verfolgen. Um über den Zeitgeist des heutigen Deutschlands zu lernen, werden wir Ausschnitte aus verschiedenen Bestsellern der letzten zwei bis drei Jahre lesen, sowie die aktuellen Krisen des Jahres 2026 debattieren.

Course learning outcomes:

Dieser Kurs wird Ihnen also umfassende Kenntnisse über das heutige Deutschland vermitteln. Das heißt, dass Sie am Ende des Semesters

- ein reflektiertes, tiefgreifendes Verständnis vom Wesen des heutigen Deutschlands haben werden
- Zusammenhänge zwischen historischen und zeitgenössischen Ereignissen und Diskursen besser erkennen, verstehen und erklären können
- kulturelle Eigenheiten in Beziehung zu Deutschlands Geschichte, Ihrer eigenen Kultur und globalen Entwicklungen setzen können.

Die Auseinandersetzung mit dem Thema „Deutschland heute“ erlaubt Ihnen im Laufe der nächsten Wochen zudem

- Ihre grammatikalischen Kenntnisse zu vertiefen und Ihr Vokabular zu erweitern
- Ihre Sprachfähigkeit und Diskussionskompetenz zu verbessern
- sowie weitere relevante Fertigkeiten für Studium und Beruf (Sprachverständnis allgemein / Lese-, Schreib-, Denk- und Argumentationsfähigkeiten / Projektmitarbeit / Teamarbeit / Allgemeinwissen) zu entwickeln.

Required course materials:

- *Miss Merkel. Mord in der Uckermark* von David Safier (16,00 Euro plus shipping)
- Weitere (Lese)Materialien auf Teams
- Wort des Tages-App, https://www.deutsch-perfekt.com/deutsch-perfekt-wort-des-tages-app?_branch_match_id=659712935488119281

Kurswebseiten

Microsoft Teams, Canvas

Grading policy:

Seminarleistung Bachelorstudium

Benotung nach Prozenten

Mit- & Zusammenarbeit 20%

Miss Merkel 15%

Rilkeprojekt 10%

Präsentation mit Aufsatz 20%

Kursprojekt Film 35%

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A	90-100%, excellent
B	80-89%, good
C	70-79%, satisfactory
D	60-69%, passing
F	0-59%, failure

Pass/Fail Students: You need a Grade of C to pass the class.

Attendance policy:

Please reconsider taking this class if you believe that there is no value in learning and collaborating with your peers. This is the space in which deep learning takes place—and where you will make lifelong friends. Through interaction with others, you will reach the goals you set for yourself for this class and beyond. It is therefore vital that you participate. Participating means being actively engaged in class, as well as completing homework on time.

If you are feeling ill (cold, flu, COVID-19, etc.), please do not come to class—no doctor's note is needed, a simple email informing me of your absence due to illness counts as excused. Please consult GT policy for further Institute approved absences at <https://studentlife.gatech.edu/resources/class-attendance> and <https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4/>, as well as <https://studentlife.gatech.edu/>, <https://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/students/classroom-and-academic-accommodations> and <https://mentalhealth.gatech.edu/>. If you have any other reasons why you cannot participate, don't hesitate to get in touch with me ASAP and prior to deadlines. It is up to you to communicate with me to have your absences count as excused. I trust that you will not abuse this policy—otherwise, we will meet to discuss your options (lower participation grade, dropping the class/withdrawing, leave of absence etc.).

If you miss a class, please get in touch with one of your peers to find out what you missed. If you have any additional questions afterwards, you are more than welcome to get in touch with me.

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code at <https://catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> and the Student Code of Conduct at <https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18>. Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing or using generative AI on a quiz, exam, assignment, or any other work for this class will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity (<https://osi.gatech.edu/>), who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See the GT Student Faculty Expectations (<https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/21/>) for some basic expectation that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment

we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Arts, Humanities & Ethics area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic, and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts in English or other languages, or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Ethical Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Intercultural Competence