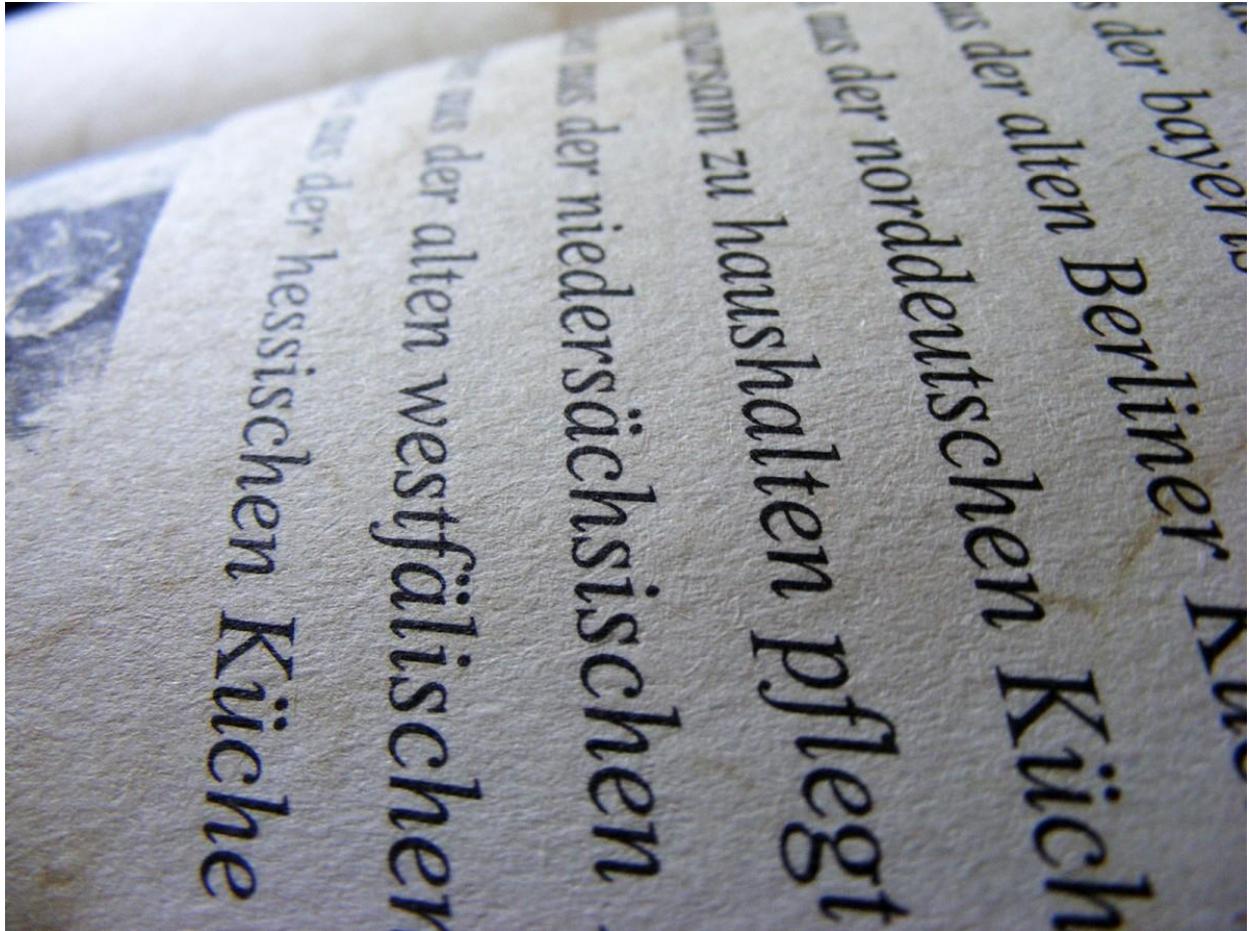


Theological German CH/MS/NT/OT/TH 3XX3



McMaster Divinity College
Winter 2020

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Course Designation

Theological German (Ph.D. Students)

Concentrations

Church History
Old Testament
Theological Studies

Ministry Studies
New Testament

Theological German

Winter 2020

Course Schedule

Class meets Wednesday 2:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.

First Class Wednesday January 8

No Class Wednesday February 19 (Intensive Hybrid Week)

Final Exam Wednesday April 8

Course Description

The course will consist of a systematic introduction to German grammar, vocabulary, and exercises with the sole goal of learning to read academic German. The course will not include conversational German nor is there a high expectation of memorized vocabulary. There is however an expectation that the student will analyse, comprehend, and accurately translate German at a complex syntactical level such as is used in scholarly journals and texts. There are no minimal expectations of knowledge of German to enter the course, but some familiarity with German will assist in maintaining the pace of the course.

Course Objectives

Knowing

The student will be able to pass a German reading exam for the purposes of the Ph.D. program upon completion of the course. Passing the exam will qualify the student for the language requirement of their respective Ph.D. programs. There will be no need for any further exams.

Being

German Quickly is designed to be an introductory text that the student will enjoy. The whole course will be designed to make the experience fun and profitable. Learning languages should not be drudgery. Concepts will be covered so that better clarity is achieved in all use of language. *Frisch begonnen ist halb gewonnen!* (A fresh start is half the victory.)

Doing

The student will read German voluntarily for enjoyment, will not hesitate to include research available only in German, and will become a little bit familiar with Germany.

Course Texts

Grammar

April Wilson, *German Quickly: A Grammar for Reading German*, sixth revised edition, Peter Lang Publishing, 2015.

It is very important to obtain the latest revised version of the text because it is significantly revised and expanded, both in grammatical aids as well as information on resources for learning and using German. The earlier editions are not comparable.

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Reader

Martin Luther, *Die Bibel nach Martin Luthers Übersetzung: Lutherbible mit Apokryphen Revidiert 2017*, Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft.

This Bible is a revision of the translation of Martin Luther on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Martin Luther set the form of written German with his translation. This translation includes the Apocrypha, as did that of Martin Luther. It is excellent theological German that retains much of the sense of the original translation.

Lexicon

Students will use an online lexicon such as Collins for vocabulary. However, to translate German correctly, it will be important for students to learn to use a good German – English dictionary properly, which usually includes English – German as well. The text by Wilson provides an evaluation of lexicons which the student should consult before making a purchase. Since dictionaries like Collins are readily available online, there are many advantages to Cassells in learning to use a dictionary accurately, something not easily done in online dictionaries. Its main disadvantage is that it has not been revised since 1978, which is disgraceful. It is generally available used at cost effective prices. The student should begin using a dictionary near the beginning of the course.

Textbook Purchase

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstore, 304 The East Mall, Suite 100, Etobicoke, ON M9C 5K1: phone 416.620.2934; fax 416.622.2308; email books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

Class Exercises

The entire text of Wilson (36 chapters) will be covered in the course. This is not as daunting as it sounds, as the lessons are very focused and complement each other. Assignments will be given from the text, but other reading assignments, including *Die Bibel*, will be given for which the text will serve as a resource. Once some familiarity with basic vocabulary has been gained as well as foundational knowledge of syntax, the student will translate some of the explanatory material of *Der Bibel* and other readings. Time should be allotted for this course equal to that of other courses.

The quickest way to learn to read German is to begin with familiar texts of modest syntactical complexity. It quickly builds vocabulary and comprehension. *Die Bibel* will be used in every class, both to learn German as well as to engage in the theology of Martin Luther and the exegesis of translation. This course will have a component of Biblical studies.

In the last weeks of the of term, students will be given translation exercises that will be the equivalent of those that will be required on the exam. This will be preparation for the final exam.

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There will be written work to be turned in each week. These will be graded and returned by the next class. The written work will be reviewed in class or questions from the translations will be reviewed as necessary. It will be very important for the student to remain current with the written assignments, as is true for any language course.

Grading

The German exam is graded on a pass / fail basis. Assignments will all be corrected but will not be evaluated, as they do not contribute to a grade for the course and the course does not contribute to the grade point average of the program. Any concerns with progress should be taken up with the professor, but students will be advised if they are on a trajectory that will enable them to successfully pass the exam.

Course Policies

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College.

Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty: <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>.

Gender Inclusive Language

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

Style

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses: <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>. Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

Disclaimer: This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes up to and including the first day of class.