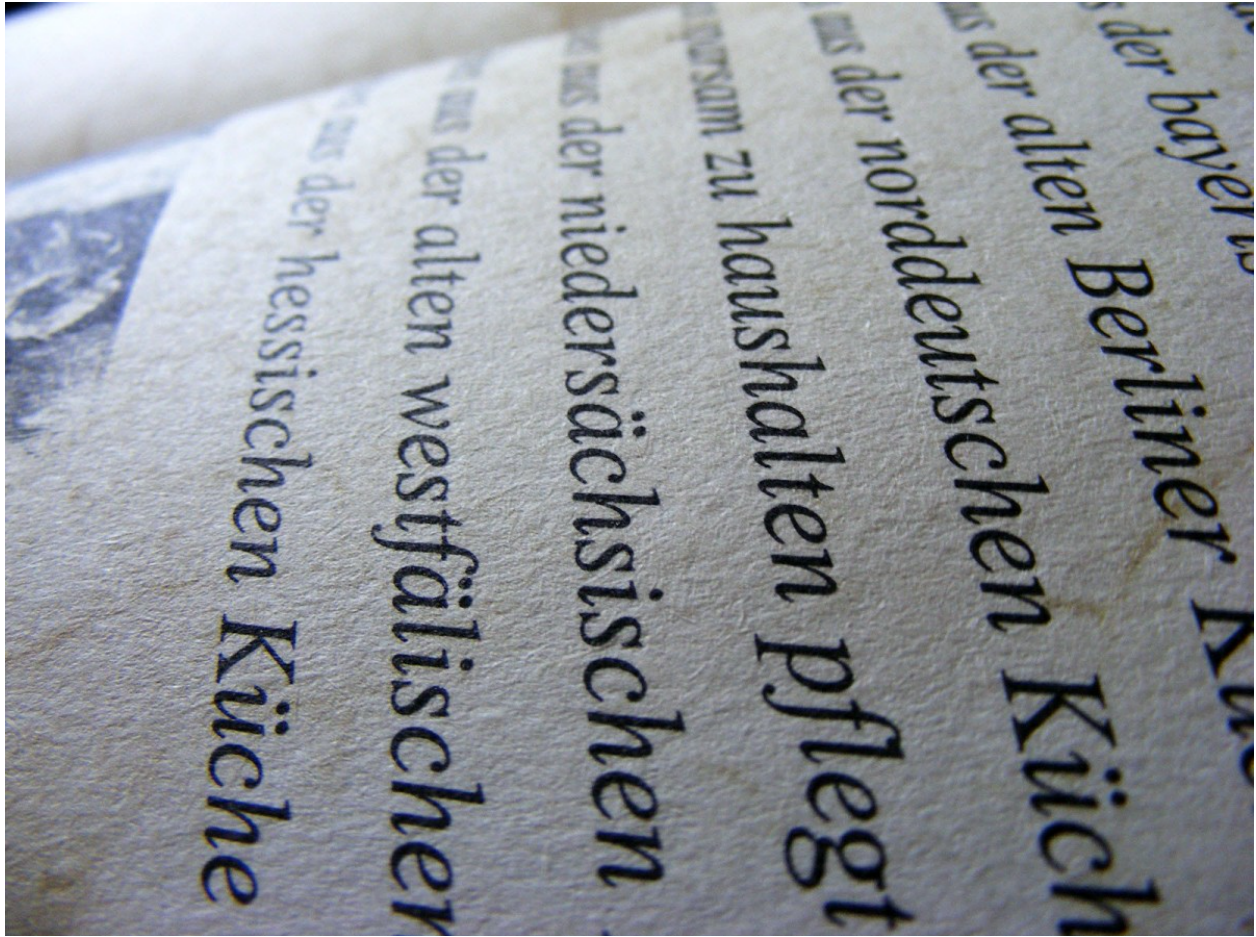


# Theological German



McMaster Divinity College

Spring/Summer 2021

April 26 – June 11

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## Course Designation

TH 3XX3

*Specializations:*

Church History and Worldview

Pastoral Studies

Biblical Studies: Old Testament, New Testament

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### **Course Schedule**

Synchronous Sessions Monday 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

First Class Monday April 26

Final Exam Monday June 7

### **Course Description**

The course will consist of a systematic introduction to German grammar and will develop a foundational working vocabulary. Exercises will be provided with the focused 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 know all basic syntagms and be able to analyse, comprehend, and accurately translate German at a complex syntactical level, such as is used in scholarly journals and texts. There are no minimal requirements 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 modern language requirement of their respective Ph.D. programs at McMaster Divinity College.

#### *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*

Students will read German voluntarily for enjoyment, but more importantly, they will search all relevant German bibliography for research on a particular topic. There will be a minimal introduction to general German literature and culture.

### **Course Texts**

#### *Grammar*

April Wilson, *German Quickly: A Grammar for Reading German*, revised edition, Peter Lang Publishing, 2007, 2015 reprint.

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*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, but more importantly will not be compatible with the one used in class.*

### *Lexicon*

The student must have a good hard copy German-English lexicon. It is important to learn to use a lexicon and its various resources. It will also be required for the exam. For this course, the following is recommended.

*Collins German Unabridged Dictionary*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed., HarperCollins Publishers Ltd., 2019.

This is the most current and complete unabridged dictionary for advanced students of German and professionals. The ninth edition covers all the latest vocabulary.

Students will use an online lexicon such as Collins for much of their translation (<https://woerterbuch.reverso.net/>). A requirement for full use of an online German dictionary is a German keyboard to distinguish the marked vowels. However, to translate German correctly, it will be important for students to learn to use a German – English dictionary properly, especially knowledge of consulting for idioms and principal parts of irregular verbs.

The text by Wilson provides an evaluation of lexicons which the student may wish to consult before making a purchase. There are numerous dictionaries and individual preferences differ. There are many advantages to the large Cassells in learning to use a dictionary accurately. Reflexive meanings of verbs are distinctly listed, the third person singular for all verbs with a different vowel, past and participial form of irregular verbs, and idioms in bold type. It is the best for learning to use a dictionary. Its main disadvantage is that it has not been revised since 1978, which is disgraceful. It is generally available used at cost-effective prices.

## **Resources for Learning German**

### *Readers*

J. D. Manton, *Introduction to Theological German: A Beginner's Course for Theological Students*, Wipf and Stock Publishers, 1971.

This is a very brief grammar with specialized vocabulary and selections of German readings. It is a nice complement to Wilson for theological students. Some readings for the course will be drawn from this text.

Helmut W. Ziefle, *Theological German: A Reader*. Baker Book House, 1986.

This text has good readings for practice of theological German, as it provides a specialized vocabulary with each reading. Word definitions are paraphrased to the meaning in the accompanying text, so the student is not made aware of highly idiomatic uses of some words or expressions. Readings include

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several Bible translations for basic reading and theological readings of prominent authors (Barth, Bonhoeffer, etc.). Readings for the course will also be drawn from this text.

### *Resources for Advanced Students*

*Duden: Das Fremdwörterbuch*, 7., neu bearbeitete und erweiterte Auflage, Dudenverlag, Duden Band 5, 2001.

This dictionary lists 53,000 foreign words incorporated into the German language not usually listed in dictionaries. Most words are drawn from English, but they may have unique nuances in German.

*Der kleine Duden, Deutsche Grammatik*, 5., überarbeitete Auflage, Dudenverlag, 2016.

This is a comprehensive but concise German grammar, easy to consult for all German grammar explanations and clarification.

*Duden: Das Bedeutungswörterbuch*, 5., neu bearbeitete und erweiterte Auflage, Duden Band 10, Dudenverlag, 2018.

This German dictionary can be especially helpful in ascertaining the meaning of polymorphous words. *Zug* (train) for example has 9 distinct common meanings, with subsets in some of them. It is commonly used in all writings with meanings unrelated to the concept of a train. It can be very confusing to differentiate these senses from a dictionary like Collins. The Duden dictionary is clear and concise, invariably the sense required in a context is clear from the Duden dictionary. It only lists 20,000 words, so is very limited in vocabulary range, but its importance is for common words and idioms.

### **Textbook Purchase**

Read On Bookstore  
5 International Blvd  
Etobicoke, Ontario. M9A 3C3

Bookstore Phone: 416 620 2934  
**Cell to text orders:** 416 668 3434  
**Email for orders** [books@readon.ca](mailto:books@readon.ca)

### **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 will be given for which the text will serve as a resource.

In the last weeks of the 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.

There will be written work to be turned in each week. These will be graded and returned before the next class. The written work will be reviewed in class or questions from the translations will be reviewed as

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necessary. It will be very important for the student to remain current with the written assignments, as is true for any language course.

### **Grading**

For Ph.D. students in a McMaster program the German exam is graded on a pass / fail basis. A pass on the exam given by the department of these students fulfills the program requirement for reading in an additional modern language. Assignments for these students 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.

For those students wishing to take this course as credit incorporated into their program, perhaps as an elective, assignments will be graded and there will be a final exam. The final exam will count for 20% of the course grade. Eighty percent of the course grade will be calculated from the grades of the weekly assignments submitted.

### **Class Schedule**

All lessons refer to the text by Wilson. The content is covered in the synchronous sessions of the dates given.

April 26 Present tense, personal pronouns, cases (Lessons 2-3)

May 3 Adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, verb placement (Lessons 4-6)

May 10 Pronouns, comparatives, future tense (Lessons 7-11)

May 17 Verb prefixes, verb tenses and voices (Lessons 12-15, 26, 28-29)

May 24 Modal auxiliaries, dependent clauses, modifying phrases (Lessons 19-25, 27)

May 31 Subjunctive forms, other pronouns (Lessons 30-34)

June 7 Exam (Each department submits a German text for translation.)

The synchronous sessions will assume the student has no previous experience in German, though some knowledge will certainly be helpful. The first three weeks will give considerable practice for all the basic elements of German, so these are spontaneous when more complex verbal forms are addressed. Verb tenses, voices, and the modals are critical and much more complex. These are all fully addressed so there are two or three full weeks of experience with these structures before the exam.

### **Non-synchronous Web Sessions**

Every week each student will be required to schedule at least two hours of online time with the professor. These sessions will be arranged according to student's schedules. Depending on the class size, multiple students may be included in a private session, but numbers will be limited for maximum interaction on questions.

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### Course Assignments

Assignments will be given on a weekly basis through Avenue to Learn. These assignments will incorporate two levels for the first three weeks. The first level will provide basic practice, a second level will include readings that assume more knowledge of verbal structures. The last three weeks of assignments will be sentences of the type that will be encountered on the exam.

Assignment translations will include lessons from Wilson, other readings (current newspaper articles, various German editions of Scripture), and readings from Ziefle and Manton. All translations are to be turned in and will be returned to the students with comments within two days of submission.

### 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: <https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/rules-regulations/>.

#### *Gender Inclusive Language*

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all its publications. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected, but you will need to use gender-inclusive language for humans, and you will need to quote from a gender-inclusive version such as the following: NRSV (1989), NCV (1991), TEV/GNB/GNT (1992), CEV (1995), NLT (1996), TNIV (2005), and the Common English Bible (CEB 2011).

#### *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: <https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/resources-forms/mdc-style-guide/>. 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.**