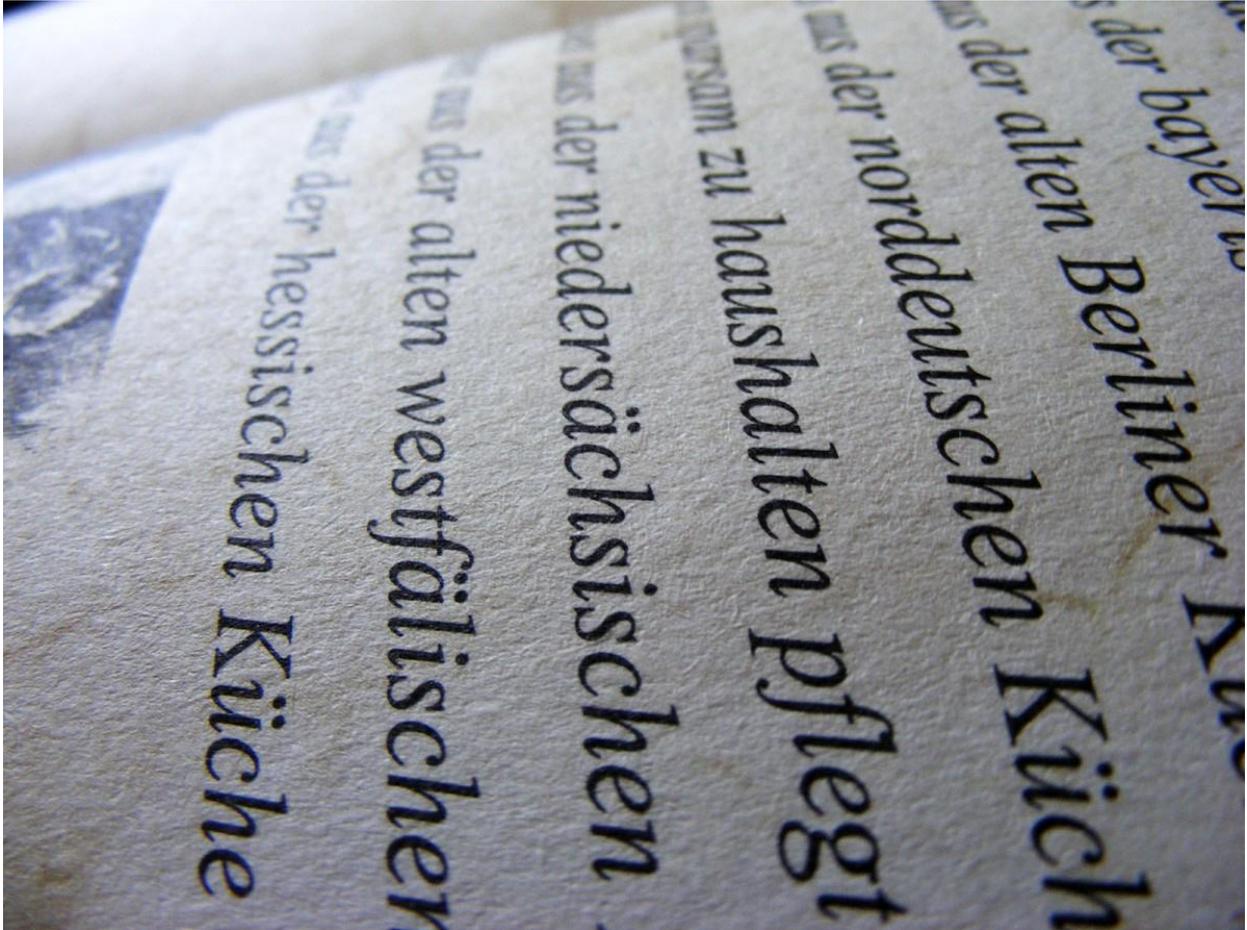


Theological German



McMaster Divinity College

Spring 2022

May 4 – June 15

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mcmasterdivinity.ca/faculty/core/august-h-konkel

Course Designation

TH 3XX3

Concentrations

Church History
Old Testament
Theological Studies

Ministry Studies
New Testament

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Course Schedule

Synchronous Sessions every **Wednesday 10:00 – 11:50 a.m.**

Asynchronous sessions according to student schedules

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

Christopher Ryan Jones and Katharina Hirt, *Handbook of Reading Theological German*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 2021.

This is the working text for the course and is required by all students. It contains all the basic German grammar and the readings that will be used in class and for the assignments. This text is an excellent introduction to the most influential German theologians.

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Auxiliary Text

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

This text has much more detailed explanations of grammar with many helpful examples and exercises. Charts and exercises from this text will be used in the synchronous sessions and in assignments. These are all available in Avenue to Learn. Students will find it very helpful to have access to this text and many will find it valuable for future reference.

The revised edition will be referred to in class and is considerably expanded. The older editions have the same section numbering and progression and are less expensive. Unfortunately all editions of this text have numerous typographical errors.

Lexicon

The student must have access to an unabbreviated hard copy German-English lexicon. It will be used as part of class exercises and is required for the exam.

It is critical to learn to use a German – English dictionary. It is important to know how to consult for idioms, unique uses of words, principal parts of verbs and general abbreviations. Dictionaries vary considerably in usefulness in how they address these various requirements. Online dictionaries are mostly quick and easy for general lexical equivalents, but much less so for learning German.

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 and effectively. 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 in standard order, and most common idioms in bold type. Its main disadvantage is that it has not been revised since 1978, which is disgraceful but not a great disadvantage. It is generally available used at cost-effective prices.

Collins German Unabridged Dictionary, 9th ed., HarperCollins Publishers Ltd., 2019 is the most current and complete unabridged dictionary for advanced students of German and professionals. The ninth edition covers all the latest vocabulary. It can often be difficult to find the particular meaning needed in a sentence in this dictionary. It

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.

Resources for Learning German

Readers

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

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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.

There are variant editions of this reader. It provides a specialized vocabulary with a variety of biblical and theological readings. 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 several Bible translations for basic reading and theological readings of prominent theologians (Barth, Bonhoeffer, etc.).

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. It is most useful for learning German.

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. Some of these we also have in English (e.g. train of thought), but in German *Zug* is commonly used in all writings with meanings unrelated to the referent 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

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Class Sessions

This is an online course. There will be synchronous class sessions each week according to the schedule above. There will also be optional sessions in which students may discuss problems and ask questions. Optional sessions will be arranged according to student schedules.

The synchronous sessions will follow the lessons and exercises by Wilson. These will be complemented by the grammatical section of Jones and Hirt. Both versions of grammar presentation have advantages in learning to translation German and both will be utilized.

Class Exercises

Class exercises will be submitted each week, all exercises will be reviewed and returned in the same week. Questions should be brought to the optional online sessions. The assignments each week will largely be translations with related exercises from Jones and Hirt.

Grading

Ph.D. students in a McMaster program will write the German exam on a pass / fail basis. A pass on the exam given by the department of these students fulfills the program requirement for reading 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. 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.

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

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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.