



Greenwich Public Schools Curriculum Overview

Course Name: AP German

Personalized learning is achieved through standards-based, rigorous and relevant curriculum that is aligned to digital tools and resources.

Note: Teachers retain professional discretion in how the learning is presented based on the needs and interests of their students.

Course Description: (from COSG)

This course is designed for students who have chosen to develop their proficiency in German at the college level. Emphasis is on developing highly sophisticated communicative skills. Classroom activities will consist of oral presentations, discussions, reading of unabridged German literature and nonfiction texts, writing assignments, and oral and written examinations. Students taking this course are expected to take the corresponding national Advanced Placement exam given in May. The curriculum is focused on listening, speaking, reading and writing at the pre-advanced ACTFL proficiency level.

Unit Guide: (List of Major Units)

1. Unit 1: Modern Germany
2. Unit 2: Communication in the 21st Century
3. Unit 3: Travel and Leisure
4. Unit 4: Family and Multicultural Society
5. Unit 5: Our Environment
6. Unit 6: Beauty and Aesthetics

Enduring Understandings

- People have universally common as well as different characteristics that they use to identify and describe themselves and others.
- There are differences in how people from different generations in the German-speaking world address and interact with each other and with friends.
- People have universally common as well as different characteristics that they use to identify and describe themselves and others.
- There are differences in how families in the German-speaking world communicate and interact with each other and with friends. These differences in communication have an impact on society and individuals over time.
- Travel choices vary based on personal preferences and on personal finance.
- Travel choices in German speaking countries are in some ways similar to and other ways different from typical US travel preferences.
- Family members play different roles in society that can vary based on cultural differences.
- Family and friend relationships shape who we are as people.
- Environmental issues pose challenges to countries around the world.

- The environmental challenges faced by German-speaking countries are in some ways similar and other ways different from environmental challenges faced in the US.
- Music influences teenagers in German speaking countries in similar and different ways than US teenagers.

Performance Tasks: (Including Capstone Assured Experiences)

- Present and practice vocabulary
- Create and give presentations on modern German historical events
- Read articles pertaining to national identity and discuss in class
- Read literature and song texts, discuss relevance and point of view pertaining to differences in daily life and attitudes between East and West Germans before and after reunification
- Keep a journal on issues discussed in class such as political censorship and its effects on artistic development
- Keep a list of new vocabulary terms from readings, including “Ossi” and “Wessi” vocabulary
- Comparison of Kaufhaus des Westens v. Kaufhaus des Ostens
- Watch and discuss films about life in East Germany
- Role play interview with a former citizen of the DDR about life in East Germany using information from readings and films
- Present and practice vocabulary
- Create and give presentations on comparison of technology usage in US v. German speaking countries
- Read articles pertaining to communication in the 20th and 21st centuries and discuss in class
- Read literature, discuss relevance and point of view pertaining to differences in communication in 20th and 21st centuries
- Read articles, discuss modern communication trends, as well as differences in communication between US and German speaking young adults
- Keep a journal on issues discussed in class such as negative aspects of mass media communication
- Keep a list of new vocabulary terms from readings, including cognates related to technology vocabulary
- Watch and discuss films about challenges of communication given different points of view and personal challenges
- Role play conversation between parent and child about a recent 500 Euro cell phone bill
- Present and practice vocabulary
- Whole class discussions of readings and films
- Small group breakouts to compare and discuss differences and similarities between families in the US and Germany.
- Analysis of cartoons relating to family relationships
- Keep a journal on issues discussed in class such as responses to unit articles and films
- Keep a list of new vocabulary terms from readings, including cognates related to family and relationships
- Rewrite the Grimm poem “Die sieben Raben” as a play and perform it
- Write an essay on the familial/romantic relationships in Lola Rennt and how they change over the three segments of the film

- Conduct an interview with an international student at GHS and/or a German speaker in our community and present the synthesized information in class in German
- Present and practice vocabulary
- Whole class discussions of readings and films
- Small group breakouts to compare and discuss differences and similarities between environmental challenges and practices in the US and Germany.
- Internet research on a current environmental issue and presentation to the class including examination of the origins of this issue and possible solutions
- Keep a journal on issues discussed in class as well as use of new terms relating to most recent environmental issues
- Keep a list of new vocabulary terms from readings related to environmental themes.
- Present and practice vocabulary
- Whole class discussions of readings and films
- Small group breakouts to compare and discuss differences and similarities between music in the US and Germany.
- Internet research on a musical period and presentation to the class
- Keep a journal on musical themes discussed in class
- Keep a list of new vocabulary terms from readings related to musical themes.
- Write an analysis of how themes in written ballad are reflected in the musical rendition of the ballad
- Perspectives on the effects of becoming a child star including analysis across musical periods and famous musicians
- Role play one of the comedian Harmonists debating the question “Warum bleiben wir nicht einfach in den USA?”
- Write or perform a song which is a reflection of social criticism either in the US or a German speaking country
- Conduct research and prepare a presentation on a contemporary German singer or group
- Write an essay comparing and contrasting themes in popular American and German music and showing how music is a reflection of cultural perspectives in both countries

Standards

[World Readiness Standards for Learning Languages](#)

[WL Readiness Standards Alignment with Common Core Standards](#)

Resources

1. **Kaleidoskop** - Textbook
2. **Selected readings and literature**
3. **Film: Goodbye Lenin**
4. **Kurzfilm: Das Puzzle**
5. **Film: Barbara**