Goals of the course: 1) to strengthen your communicative skills in speaking and writing, 2) to improve your receptive skills in listening and reading, 3) to build your vocabulary, 4) to increase your awareness of cultural difference, 5) to improve your analytical and interpretative skills.

Vocabulary acquisition: In your note book you will enter the 5-8 items of new vocabulary selected by the class each day, numbered consecutively throughout the semester. It will be collected at regular intervals. For each new word write your own two sentences. Memorize each item so that you can use it readily. Don't forget the principal parts of verbs, plural of nouns, etc. There is a complete list of strong verbs in Appendix 4 of the Handbuch.

It is highly suggested that you procure a standard hardcover German/English Dictionary (paper-back versions and web dictionaries do not give enough information on usage).

Compositions: You will be assigned four written compositions. Adhere to the following format: 1-2 pages, typed double-spaced, margin of 1-1 1/2 inches on each side (ca. 350 words). Both content and grammar/style will be graded. Each composition is to be re-worked in a second draft. Each version will be graded. Both content and grammar/style will be graded.

Language Laboratory (= LLARC): "Hörverständnis" exercises (marked in the syllabus under Audioprogramm) are assigned regularly (in Section 2 of the Arbeitsheft). This material is on CD in the LLARC under GE 011 and in digital form on the LLARC server.
accessible via a link on our course web site.

The Arbeitsheft will be collected at regular intervals. Additional audio and video tapes on contemporary German topics, as well as some of the reading of texts will be assigned for the Lab, marked in the syllabus under im Labor. Lab worksheets and and other worksheets are to be turned in as part of the regular homework and will be corrected and counted as such. "The Language Learning and Resource Center" is located in Building 16-644 and is open at the following times:

Mo-Th 8:30a.m. – 10:30p.m.
Fri 8:30a.m. – 3:00p.m.
Sun 1:00p.m. – 10:30p.m.

Tests: 4 Tests will be given during the term, covering readings, vocabulary, grammar and lab materials. There will be no midterm or final. Consult with me ahead of time, if you have a legitimate excuse for missing a scheduled test. Make-ups are not to be taken for granted. If you should fall ill on the day of the test, please leave a message on voice mail.

Grading: Final grade: 30% homework (incl. lab. assignments) and compositions, 40 % class participation and attendance, 30% tests.

If, however, you have an F in any one of the three categories, you will fail the course.

Daily preparation and attendance is mandatory, and more than three unexcused absences will lower the participation grade.

Note: There is a pedagogical reason for the strict and controlled organization of this course: the secret to success in foreign language acquisition lies in sustained daily effort, frequent practice, and repetition. Therefore, late homework will not be accepted, including essays, unless you have gotten an extension from the instructor beforehand. If an emergency situation or sleep deprivation should prevent you from preparing for class, please let the instructor know at the beginning of the hour, we'll find a way for you to get the most out of class.

Plagiarism Clause: According to Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, to plagiarize is "to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (a created production) without crediting the source; to commit literary theft: present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source." This includes copying from a book, newspaper, journal or any other printed source, as well as electronic resources such as the World Wide Web without the appropriate acknowledgement. According to this definition, plagiarism also includes the following:

• using material created by another student and passing it off as your own (with or without their consent)
• using a paper-writing "service" which offers to sell written papers for a fee.
• translations (with or without translation software) of texts from other languages and submitting them as your own work.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Students should be aware that they will be severely penalized if caught engaging in any form of plagiarism. If you have any questions about how to document your sources, please consult your instructor. For further information you can consult the MIT Libraries.