

## **2013 German Course Testimonials**

### **Instructor: Ron Ditmars**

The quizzes and tests given seemed adequately leveled to class progress and translations given, though difficult, helped to deepen concepts already studied (I found it particularly helpful if I was able to begin working on one of the translation blocks immediately following the class session; it then immediately reinforced what we had studied in the class)

[The format] was different, but I appreciated the real time component. I was afraid that it would be something of a correspondence-type course, which it was not. There were certain aspects of the “traditional” classroom that I missed—the large chalkboard, the immediate face-to-face contact with the instructor, etc.—but I felt this format worked quite well.

A Monday-Thursday or Tuesday-Friday format might have worked better for me to fully complete all of the materials assigned for the second session of the week.

Quality of instruction was excellent. I fully appreciate what Ron has done in setting this up, and I feel appreciative that we live in an age where I can take such a course online.

Jonathan Ripke July 10, 2013

The textbook was user friendly and the grammar charts and explanations were straightforward and concise.

The detailed recordings of the assigned sentences along with grammar explanations were very helpful and provided immediate feedback.

The few handouts provided during my individualized instruction were quite useful; especially the vowel pattern and verb stem charts.

The translation assignments were very useful especially the brief passages at the end of each chapter. These passages often provided the opportunity to dissect the complex structures of sentences.

Most of the translations assigned were good practice and provided important exposure to the vocabulary and grammar learned in the corresponding chapter.

The online course was very effective and it allowed flexibility in traveling (which is important during the summer months) because one can participate in the course from virtually any location. The downside of this learning method however is the occasional technical problems which can arise.

There were no problems or inefficiencies in terms of the administration of the course.

Mr. Ron Ditmars is an exceptional teacher with a warm, engaging, and empathetic personality. He not only brings his knowledge of the German language to the classroom, but a wide array of professional, academic, and cultural experiences which enrich his methodology and teaching. I cannot enthusiastically endorse him enough as a scholar and teacher. I look forward to working with him next summer as we continue individualized instruction.

Shane R. Brinegar      7/17/13

Jannach 1980: I liked this version of the text. I think this book should be the main text, rather than the later edition(s).

Easy Key: helpful.

100 Stems: also helpful.

Recordings of Jannach 1980 were extremely helpful, and just the right length and amount of commentary.

The quizzes were way too long, in my opinion.

The translations were always stretching (this is good).

The format worked very well. The technical difficulties were minimal.

It met and exceeded them (my expectations). Our instructor was extraordinarily competent, experienced, and friendly.

This [class] was fantastic. The instructor knew the material very well and was highly competent and professional.

Steve Shargel      July 7, 2013

