

## **LG4316 READINGS IN THEOLOGICAL GERMAN** Spring Semester, 2008-2009

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### **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

Readings of selected theological German literature. Attention given to building theological vocabulary and developing speed and comprehension. College or university courses in intermediate German assumed. Half course

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To encourage and gain proficiency in reading theological works in German
2. To develop vocabulary and review German grammar, as necessary

### **RECOMMENDED BOOKS:**

H. Ziefle, *Modern Theological German: A Reader and Dictionary*  
A German-English dictionary and a review grammar

### **ONLINE HELPS:**

Note the several online dictionaries now available, for example (there may be others):

<http://dict.leo.org>  
<http://dictionaries.travlang.com/GermanEnglish/>  
[http://www.quickdic.org/index\\_e.html](http://www.quickdic.org/index_e.html)  
<http://www.wordreference.com/>  
<http://dict.tu-chemnitz.de/>  
<http://www.ego4u.com/en/dictionary>  
<http://dictionary.reverso.net/german-english>

A quite useful site for working on theological German:

<http://ergebung.wordpress.com/>

Also, for the hardness of your hearts, the Google translator, at:

<http://www.google.com/ig?hl=en&referrer=ign>

(Note: This can be useful for shorter and simpler phrases; it cannot be trusted for more complex constructions; unlike a good dictionary, it gives no alternatives or nuances for word meanings; and, of course, regular use of it will ensure that the user never actually learns the language.)

**FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO WORK INDEPENDENTLY:**

- Waltraud Coles and Bill Dodd, *Reading German*, 1997—not a primary grammar, but potentially quite useful as a secondary tool
- Hubert Jannach and Richard Korb, *German for Reading Knowledge*, 1998 (4<sup>th</sup> ed.)—thorough, but “dense,” according to reviewers
- Karl Sandberg and John Wendel, *German for Reading*, 1973—highly recommended by Luther Seminary graduate students, but out of print
- H. J. Siliakus, *500 German Theological Terms and Their English Translations Together with 500 Useful Phrases*—particularly useful for vocabulary building
- April Wilson, *German Quickly*, 2002 (3d rev. ed.)—a primary grammar, highly recommended by reviewers particularly for its clear explanations
- Cecile Zorach and Charlotte Melin, *English Grammar for Students of German*, 1994 (3d ed.)—especially valuable for those whose study of German would be helped by a review of English grammatical constructions (and how they relate to their German counterparts)

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Attend all class sessions and be prepared to read, translate, and discuss the assigned material. After missing more than one class session, students must hand in written translations of the material assigned for any subsequent missed classes.
2. Prepare occasional written translations to be handed in, if assigned.
3. An optional final translation exam (normally required for students desiring a letter grade; recommended for any preparing for the M.Th./Ph.D. German exam).