

**BYU History 422
German Paleography**

**Fall 2003
T,Th 9-10:15 in 225 SWKT**

Instructor: Roger P. Minert, Ph.D.,A.G. Office phone: 422-2370 Hours: M 3-5, T 1-3, TH 11-12 or by appt.
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Course objective:

Students will be able to transliterate, translate, and interpret handwritten vital records of average to advanced difficulty from German sources written in the period 1550 to 1938. They will also be able to identify other types of handwritten documents from Germany written in German and to read basic vital records written in Latin in German sources. They will assist in the extraction and publication of data on German immigrants in the United States.

Required texts (available in the BYU Bookstore):

Brause. *Übungsheft für die Deutsche Schrift*. Iserlohn, Germany: Brause Büro und Schulbedarf, undated.
Minert, Roger P. *Deciphering Handwriting in German Documents*. Woods Cross, UT: GRT Publications, 2001 (*DH* below).
Minert, Roger P. *Spelling Variations in German Names*. Woods Cross, UT: GRT Publications, 2000 (*SV*).
Thode, Ernest. *German-English Genealogical Dictionary*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1996.

Recommended texts:

A basic German grammar (if not proficient in reading German)
A historical atlas of Germany, such as: Uncapher, Wendy. *Lands of the German Empire and Before*. Janesville, WI: Origins, 2000.

Grading components

Assignments	30
Indiana German Immigrants	25
Midterm examination	20
Final examination	25

Total	100%

Late work:

Any assignment received after the due date will accrue a penalty of 20% of the possible points per late week day. Students missing class are responsible for determining what assignment(s) was/were given and completing it/them on schedule. Clemency is possible under extraordinary circumstances.

Examinations:

Both the midterm and the final will consist of analyses of handwritten texts of increasing degrees of difficulty. Some essay questions will feature deciphering processes, strategies, and methodologies. Translations will involve vocabulary items of high frequency. The midterm examination will be done outside of class on an open-book basis, but no assistance may be accepted from other persons. The final examination will be written in class and must be finished within three hours, but students may bring and refer to any type of literature they wish.

The following schedule is subject to revision. Not all assignments are listed.

Rev. 27 Aug 2003

Date	Topics	Assignments (due at start of next class)
2 Sep Tue	Introduction, course objectives, standards, procedures ſtraktur (printed) alphabet (introduction)	Procure course literature <i>DH</i> Chapter 1 Learn ſtraktur alphabet (<i>DH</i> 132)
4 Sep Thu	History of alphabets in Germany Reading ſtraktur (review) History of church vital records in Germany	Select a parish in Germany with microfilmed records of at least 1800-1874 in URVFHC (make FHLC printout)
9 Sep Tue	Reading ſtraktur (cont.) History of civil vital records in Germany Introduction to Gothic handwriting alphabet	<i>DH</i> 6-8, 11-14 Transcribe ſtraktur text Assignment of Indiana records
11 Sep Thu	Identifying the language of vital records Contents of vital records The role of background knowledge in reading vital records	<i>DH</i> 14-21 <i>Brause</i> 1-6
16 Sep Tue	Reading Gothic text (introduction) Lower case Gothic characters	<i>DH</i> 22-26 Write your full name in Gothic alphabet <i>Brause</i> pages 9-12
18 Sep Thu	Lower case Gothic characters (cont.) Upper case Gothic characters	<i>DH</i> 26-27 <i>Brause</i> 13-16
23 Sep Tue	Consonant clusters, ligatures, gemination	<i>DH</i> 27-29 <i>Entry 1*</i> (upper case characters)

25 Sep Thu	Diacritical marks, punctuation, abbreviations	<i>DH</i> 30-32
30 Sep Tue	Similar and confusing characters	<i>DH</i> 32-34
2 Oct Thu	Numbers and dates	<i>DH</i> 34-38 Select a new parish for <i>Entries</i> with years 1675-1800
7 Oct Tue	Numbers and dates (cont.) Days of the week, months, years Adverbs of time	<i>DH</i> Chapter 2: A-1,C-1,E-1 <i>DH</i> Chapter 2: A-2,C-2,E-2 <i>DH</i> Ch. 2: A-3,B-1,C-3,D-1,E-3,F-1
9 Oct Thu	Column format vital records Sentence format vital records Paragraph format vital records	<i>DH</i> 45-49 <i>Entry</i> 2 (dates or numbers)
14 Oct Tue	Basic tactics in deciphering vital records (review)	<i>DH</i> 49-51
16 Oct Thu	Additional tactics in deciphering vital records; maps; reverse alphabetical indexes	<i>DH</i> 39-40 MIDTERM due 21 Oct 9 a.m.
21 Oct Tue	Grammar in vital records entries Syntax and word order in vital records entries	<i>DH</i> 40, 50 <i>Entry</i> 3 (sentence or paragraph entry)
23 Oct Thu	Syntax and word order in vital records entries (cont.) Vocabulary in vital records entries	
28 Oct Tue	No class — RPM in Sacramento	<i>DH</i> 41-42 3 additional hours in Indiana records
30 Oct Thu	Review	
4 Nov Tue	Vocabulary in vital records entries (cont.) Archaic words and variant spellings	SV v,vi, [section]1.0, 2.0 thru 3.4.4 Indiana examples for 13 Nov (details)
6 Nov Thu	The problem of spelling variations in German vital records Basic phonetics of English and German Variations of vowel sounds & spellings in German & English	SV 3.4.5 thru 3.11.12 <i>Entry</i> 4 (from Indiana records: German place names)
11 Nov Tue	Variations of vowel sounds (<i>Umlaut</i> etc.) Elision of vowels, non-phonetic spelling variations Variations of consonant sounds & spellings in German & English	SV 4.0 thru 4.4.7 Select a new parish for <i>Entries</i> with years before 1675
13 Nov Thu	Variations of consonant sounds & spellings (cont.)	SV 4.4.8.1 thru 4.4.22

18 Nov Tue	Case studies in variant surname and place name spellings; Indiana examples	<i>DH 79-81</i>
20 Nov Thu	Introduction to Latin in church vital records in Germany	<i>DH 81-83</i>
25 Nov Tue	Friday schedule	<i>Entry 5</i> (Latin abbreviations – RPM to provide microfilm no.)
27 Nov Thu	Latin abbreviations	
2 Dec Tue	No class — holiday	<i>DH 83-86</i>
4 Dec Thu	Latin dates and numbers	<i>DH 89-96</i>
9 Dec Tue	Format in Latin vital records entries	<i>DH 155-161</i> <i>Entry 6</i>
11 Dec Thu	Latin vocabulary for family history researchers Review and final student presentations	
15 Dec Mon	Final exam 7 - 10 a.m.	

* *Entry*: each student will locate in an original record or on microfilm a text that includes elements featured in the topic designated. Example: *Entry 1* (due at the beginning of class on 25 September) will include “upper case characters.” For each *Entry*, the student will provide a photocopy of the entry to every other student and the instructor, and will prepare an overlay to be used on the overhead projector. Each *Entry* will be identified as to precise date, parish name, and source, e.g., microfilm no. The student will present the *Entry* to the class. If time constraints do not allow the presentation to take place, the student will hand out and in all materials relating to that *Entry* for evaluation.