Homework 21: Other German-Speaking regions:

Due: extended to 4/11

I. Bring one or two important observations about a topic to class

II. Review the information below and choose a few videos to watch.

III. Review current events (link on our website: http://homepages.utoledo.edu/bsulzer
And then click on our icon or go directly to:

http://moderngermanculture.yolasite.com

IV. Write your summary (100 words): focus on a few interesting „observations‘ you make and a few questions you want to ask in class.

Possible topics:

Historical facts of the German-speaking regions

What is it you find extraordinary about any or all of these regions?

Which of these regions would you visit and why?

German in the US

Info:

In Belgium:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German-speaking_Community_of_Belgium
German-speaking Community
Deutschsprachige Gemeinschaft (German)
Communauté germanophone (French)
Duitstalige Gemeenschap (Dutch)

— Community of Belgium —

Country: Belgium
Established: 1984
Capital: Eupen
Government
• Minister-President: Karl-Heinz Lambertz
Population (2010): 75,222
Day of the German-speaking Community: 15 November
Language: German
Website: www.dglive.be
The Executive (government) of the German-speaking Community meets in Eupen.

The **German-speaking Community of Belgium** (German: *Deutschsprachige Gemeinschaft Belgiens* ['døɪtsˌspraxɪɡə ɡəˈmaɪ̯nt ˈbɛliːjəns], DG; French: *Communauté germanophone de Belgique*; Dutch: *Duitstalige Gemeenschap België* ['dœytςˌta : lɪːja dəˌme : nˌsxap ˈbɛlˌiːja]) is one of the three federal communities of Belgium. Covering an area of 854 km² within the province of Liège (German: *Lüttich*) in Wallonia, it includes nine of the eleven municipalities of the so-called East Cantons (German: *Ost-Kantone*). Traditionally speakers of Ripuarian and Moselle Franconian varieties, the local population numbers over 75,000—about 0.70% of the national total. Bordering the Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg, the area has its own parliament and government at Eupen. Although in the Belgian province of Luxembourg many of the inhabitants in the border region next to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg speak Luxembourgish, a West Central German language, they are not considered part of the German-speaking Community. The German-speaking Community of Belgium is composed of the German-speaking parts of the lands that were annexed in 1920 from Germany. In addition, in contemporary Belgium there are also some other areas where Germanic languages were or are spoken (the division line between German, Dutch, Luxembourgish, Limburgish, ... is very thin since they are all part of the same dialect continuum) that belonged to Belgium even before 1920, but they are not currently officially considered part of the German-speaking community in Belgium: Bleiberg-Welkenraedt-Baelen in northeastern province of Liège and Arelerland (city of Arlon and some of its nearby villages in southeastern province of Belgian Luxembourg). However, in these localities, the German language is declining due to the expansion of French.

In the early 1960s Belgium was divided into four linguistic areas, the Dutch speaking Flemish area, the French speaking area, the bilingual capital of Brussels, and the German speaking area of the east cantons. In 1973, three communities and three regions were established and granted internal autonomy. The legislative **Parliament of the German-speaking Community**, *Rat der
Deutschsprachigen Gemeinschaft, was set up. Today the German-speaking Community has a fair degree of autonomy, especially in language and cultural matters, but it still remains part of the region of predominantly French speaking Wallonia. There has been much argument in the past few years that the German-speaking Community should also become its own region which is an ongoing process with the permanent transfer with previous accord of some competences concerning social policy, conservation of sites and monuments, environment protection policy, transport, the financing of municipalities, among other things from the Walloon Region. One of the proponents of full regional autonomy for the German-speaking Community is the current Minister-President Karl-Heinz Lambertz. Especially regional autonomy for spatial planning, city building and housing should be considered, according to the government of the German-speaking community.

Please also explore the following contents:

- 1 History
- 2 Government
- 3 Municipalities in the German-speaking Community
- 4 Flag and coat of arms
- 5 See also
- 6 References
- 7 External links

End of quotes

Official website of the German-Speaking Region of Belgium:


The German-speaking Community is a political independent entity, a small state within the Belgian federal system and is legally recognized by article 2 of the constitution.

The German-speaking Community has about 75,000 citizens, for the most part German-speakers.

Its territory, about 854 square kilometres, corresponds to that of the German language region. It is composed of nine municipalities.

German is used in administrative, educational and court matters. The French-speakers receive special language rights called “facilities” i.e. that they get the administrative documents in French.

The territory consists of two distinct parts: in the North, the « Eupener Land » (district of Eupen) is small, but heavily populated and in the South, the Belgian Eifel (district of St Vith).
**Eupen and its region** house many industries of supraregional importance such as the Eupen cable works and the Jacques chocolate factory. Eupen (18,500 inhabitants) is the seat of the Parliament, the Government and the public radio station of the German-speaking Community, BRF. The sole Belgian German-speaking newspaper (Grenz-Echo) is also published in Eupen.

Many forest and pastureland areas characterize the landscape of the **Belgian Eifel**; walkers and tourists may find many leisure-time possibilities.

Forestry and agriculture are no longer as important resources as they used to be. In reality, they have been replaced by small and medium-sized craft enterprises. St. Vith is an important commercial and educational centre in the south; there, you can find the Tourist Office of the East Cantons e.g.

The German-speaking Community is perfectly linked to an international road network; you can reach Eupen in one hour’s drive from the congested areas of Brussels, Cologne and Düsseldorf. It is also connected to the Euregio Meuse-Rhine territory and to the cross-border cooperation area Saar-Lor-Lux. Many persons working in Germany or in Luxembourg live in the German-speaking Community.


**The inhabitants of the German-speaking Community.**

The inhabitants of the German-speaking Community live at the heart of a European area easily accessible from the neighbouring countries (France, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands).

They identify themselves with the German language and are linked to German culture through the media and daily cross-border contacts with Germany. They enjoy the direct neighbourliness of the Walloons and the Flemish and share their rather unworried lifestyle.

They are loyal Belgians, mainly in favour of the Monarchy; they feel respected by the State since German has been recognized as one of three administrative and constitutional languages. The political recognition of the German-speaking Community has contributed to the fact that the German-speaking population considers itself as an integral part of the Belgian State.

**Language**

Most of the inhabitants speak High German in administration, schools, churches and social fields. However, like before, dialects still play an important role in the social relationships:
- in the canton of Eupen: Rhenish Franconian and Low Franconian
- in the canton of Sankt-Vith: Moselle Franconian and Rhenish Franconian

There is a French-speaking population minority mainly in the municipalities of Kelmis, Lontzen and Eupen. However, on account of the Belgian territorial principle, no survey has been conducted into the ratio of French- and German-speakers.

**Religion**

Roman Catholic religion prevails in the German-speaking Community (3 deaneries with 32 priests belonging to the diocese of Liege), but there is a small Protestant community.

**History:**


The execution of a treaty between Belgium and Germany in September 1956 put an end to the questionings concerning the border that had remained unanswered until then. The Federal Republic of Germany emphasized the unwarrantedness of the annexation of Eupen and Malmedy in 1940 under international law. The both countries agreed on a border adjustment, a cultural agreement and war indemnity payment. These bilateral decisions made way for reconciliation and cooperation, which was very advantageous for Eupen and Sankt Vith.

**Most recent political developments:**


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**Eupen** (capital of the German-speaking Region of Belgium):


**Controversial Issues: Belgium's German-speaking cantons ponder their position:**

[http://www.dw.de/belgiums-german-speaking-cantons-ponder-their-position/a-15890523](http://www.dw.de/belgiums-german-speaking-cantons-ponder-their-position/a-15890523)

**Quote:**

Backwards and forwards
Two swathes of land make up the community, the northern Eupen region and the southern Belgian Eiffel. Both were part of Germany until end of the First World War and were given to Belgium under the Treaty of Versailles. The Nazis snatched the region back during the Second World War, only for it to return to Belgium upon liberation. Gradual autonomy has come since then, and has become a cherished part of life here.

"The people in the German-speaking community, I'm really convinced, are very proud of the autonomy," says Schmitz. "We have our own politics with a lot of things. When we were German it was not so good for us so this is very, very important for our identity."

In addition to its parliament, the German-speaking region has four paid government ministers, including Minister President Karl-Heinz Lambertz. Given their historic to-and-fro between states, Lambertz explains, German-speaking Belgians place a great value on autonomy.

"The identity of the people in this frontier region is a very delicate issue," Lambertz says. "They know what they are not. They are not Walloon people and they are not Germans. The positive formulation is a little more difficult."

**Messy divorce averted**

When the Flemish separatist N-VA became the largest party in the Brussels parliament in 2010, its demands led to 18 months of political stalemate.

A complete break-up of the nation was averted. Despite their difference, Flanders and Wallonia have one thing in common. Neither wants to lose the bilingual crown jewel that is Brussels. Lambertz was involved in the tortuous procedure of negotiation.

"Each time something changes in Belgium it is also important for the German-speaking part," he says. "It is not federalism invented for cooperation, but for more separation, and there the place of the little Belgian German speaking minority is very interesting."

In the event of a break-up, a variety of solutions were put forward. The area could go with Wallonia, or go it alone. It could be absorbed in part or in whole into neighbouring Luxembourg or - a more unpopular option in light of Hitler's annexation - into Germany. For the minister
president, such options are not on the cards. The country will not split, even if the N-VA win more seats in 2014, he believes.

"It is not a real perspective," says Lambertz. "I think that the very important aspect of Belgium is that Belgians are always able to make a compromise."

Video: Picturesque Belgium:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1odUnwc4YFA

Video: Belgium, the movie:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJVd6qp7Fqg

especially from 9:40

Video: Wallonia: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzlYmg28QC0

Luxembourg:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luxembourg

German and the other Languages in Luxembourg:

Where is German spoken in Luxembourg?

Video: is it true what they say about Luxembourg:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BekwlqzNWT4

Video: Scenic “Vianden” on the German border:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDnuTV6Y78c

Vianden:
http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vianden
Opole Voivodeship, or Opole Province[1] (Polish: województwo opolskie [vɔjɛˈvuxdʐtwɔ ɔˈpɔlskʲɛ]; German: Woiwodschaft Oppeln/Oppelner Schlesien), is a Polish voivodeship, or province, created on January 1, 1999, out of the former Opole Voivodeship and parts of Częstochowa Voivodeship, pursuant to the Polish local government reforms adopted in 1998. The province's name derives from that of the region's capital and largest city, Opole, pronounced [ɔˈpɔle]. It is part of Silesia, and the territorial successor of the former German Upper Silesia, which had the same city — then Oppeln — as its capital.

Opole Voivodeship is bordered by Lower Silesian Voivodeship to the west, Greater Poland and Łódź Voivodeships to the north, Silesian Voivodeship to the east, and the Czech Republic to the south.

Opole Province's geographic location, economic potential, and its population's level of education make it an attractive business partner for other Polish regions (especially Lower Silesian and Silesian Voivodeships) and for foreign investors. Formed in 1997, the Praděd/Pradziad Euroregion has facilitated economic, cultural and tourist exchanges between the border areas of Poland and the Czech Republic.

Up until 1945, the area of the current Polish voivodeship was actually a part of the Prussian province of ‘Upper Silesia’. After the Second World War the area was annexed by Poland, this came about as a direct result of the Allied Powers agreement on the realignment of states in Eastern Europe reached at the Yalta Conference in February 1945. The region was originally merged with the pre-existing Polish Silesian Voivodeship, until in 1950 it regained its status as a region, thanks to a reform of Polish regions. The towns of Brzeg and Namysłów were later
transferred to Opole from the neighbouring Lower Silesian Voivodeship. As the result of a third regional shake-up in 1975 the voivodeship was broken up and Racibórz was transferred to the new Katowice Voivodeship whilst a part of Olesno was given up to the Częstochowa Voivodeship.

Finally, as the result of a 1999 land reform; the objective of which was to restore the historical voivodeships of Poland, the Opole Voivodeship as we know it today came into being. Originally, the government, advised by prominent historians, had wanted to disestablish Opolskie and partition its territory between the more historically ‘Polish’ regions of Lower Silesia and Silesia. The plan was that Brzeg and Namysłów, as the Western part of the region, were to be transferred to Lower Silesia, whilst the rest was to become, along with a part of the Częstochowa Voivodeship, an integral part of the new ‘Silesian’ region. However, the plans resulted in an outcry from the German minority population of Opolskie, who feared that should their region be abolished, they would lose all hope of regional representation (in the proposed Silesian Region, they would have formed a very small minority amongst a great number of ethnic Poles). To the surprise of many of the ethnic Germans in Opole however, the local Polish Silesian population and groups of ethnic Poles also rose up to oppose the planned reforms; this came about as a result of an overwhelming feeling of attachment to the voivodeships that were scheduled to be ‘redrawn’, as well as a fear of ‘alienation’ should one find themselves residing in a new, unfamiliar region.

The solution came in late 1999, when Olesno was, after 24 years apart, finally reunited with the Opole Voivodeship to form the new legally defined region. A historic moment came in 2006 when the town of Radłów changed its local laws to make German, alongside Polish, the district’s second official language; thus becoming the first town in the region to achieve such a feat.

**Video:** Opole:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uSiLswC1vSU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uSiLswC1vSU)

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**In Slowakia:**


**Krahule**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Jump to: [navigation](#), [search](#)

**Coordinates:** 48°44′N 18°56′E
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Krahule</strong></th>
<th><strong>Village</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Geographical center of Europe near Krahule

![Image](image_url)

Coat of arms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Country</strong></th>
<th>Slovakia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Region</strong></td>
<td>Banská Bystrica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>District</strong></td>
<td>Žiar nad Hronom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coordinates</strong></td>
<td>48°44′N 18°56′E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Highest point</strong></td>
<td>988.8 m (3,244 ft)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lowest point</strong></td>
<td>872 m (2,861 ft)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
<td>155 (2004-12-31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Postal code</strong></td>
<td>967 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Car plate</strong></td>
<td>ZH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Krahule (German: Blaufuß; Hungarian: Kékellő, till 1899: Blaufusz) is a village in Žiar nad Hronom District in the Banská Bystrica Region of central Slovakia. It is the only municipality in Slovakia that officially uses German along with Slovak.

**History**

The town was first mentioned in writing in 1331 as Blaufuß (literally "blue" + "foot") and was created by German miners as a forest homestead village.

Throughout its history, most of the area legally belonged to the Crown and the village was administered by a local judge. In 1601 there were 39 houses in the village. A 1640-year decree appointed Paul König as Judge, after the death of James König. The first chapel and the first school were built in 1788. In 1806 the Baroque-Classical style Roman Catholic St. John Nepomuk Church was dedicated. In 1828 there were 635 inhabitants, entirely German speakers, mostly local miners and farmers, in 57 houses. From 1895 there was a state funded Bobbin lace making school.

In 1899 Hungarian authorities officially changed the name of the village to Kékellő against the will of the inhabitants. After 1918 the Czechoslovak state restored the name Blaufuß.

Over 1944 and 1945 many Carpathian Germans fled the advancing Soviet army and never returned. The Communist regime then renamed the town "Krahule" in 1948 and brought in Slovak settlers.

From 1980 to 1992 the town was a part of the Kremnica municipality.

In the 2001 census 35 of the then 144 residents indicated that they were Carpathian German (Karpatendeutsche). The Krahule municipality therefore adopted German as the second official language in addition to Slovak.

In the same census 89 people gave their religion as Roman Catholic. One person described himself as a Hussite, 21 residents reported to be without confession and 21 Protestant.
Today the town is a popular winter sports and hiking venue. Krahule is located directly above Kremnica on a high terrace about 880 feet in the Kremnické vrchy (Kremnitzer Bergen) mountains.

The current Mayor, or Bürgermeister, is Miroslav Schwarz.

Other regions: German as a minority language, not an official language:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_as_a_minority_language

German-speaking minorities (Ethnic Germans) live in many countries and on all six inhabited continents: the countries of the former Soviet Union, Poland, Romania, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Belgium, Italy, Canada, Chile, the United States, Latin America, Namibia, South Africa, Israel, and Australia. These German minorities, through their ethno-cultural vitality, exhibit an exceptional level of heterogeneity: variations concerning their demographics, their status within the majority community, the support they receive from institutions helping them to support their identity as a minority.

Amongst them are small groups (such as those in Namibia) and many very large groups (such as the almost 1 million non-evacuated Germans in Russia and Kazakhstan or the near 500,000 Germans in Brazil), groups that have been greatly "folklorised" and almost completely linguistically assimilated (such as most people of German descent in the USA, Canada, Australia, Argentina and Brazil), and others, such as the true linguistic minorities (like the still German-speaking minorities in the USA, Argentina and Brazil, in western Siberia or in Romania and Hungary); other groups, which are classified as religio-cultural groups rather than ethnic minorities, (such as the Eastern-Low German speaking Mennonites in Paraguay, Mexico, Belize
or in the Altay region of Siberia) and the groups who maintain their status thanks to strong identification with their ethnicity and their religious sentiment (such as the groups in Upper Silesia, Poland or in South Jutland in Denmark).

Alsace (France)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alsace

Video: bilingualism a thing of the past
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYH7OmW7iR0

Strasbourg:


Video: Crossing the border from Germany to Metz:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfuexr4LG0

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metz

Metz is the capital of the “Lorraine” region (German: Lothringen)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lorraine_%28r%C3%A9gion%29

The administrative region has two cities of equal importance, Metz and Nancy. Metz is considered to be the official capital since that is where the regional parliament is situated. However, Nancy's status as ducal and cultural capital of the independent Lorraine for most of a millennium, in many respects still makes it the "unofficial" capital of Lorraine as a historical nation of autonomous people and heritage. Lorraine's name is derived from the separate medieval kingdom of Lotharingia, which in turn was named for Charlemagne's grandson Lothar I, who was Lorraine's first king.

"Lorraine" as a region may refer to two entities: Lorraine as a cultural, regional, and national identity as it has stood since it came into being in the year 843 A.D., and "Lorraine" as an administrative political "region" of the Republic of France, with the borders it arbitrarily acquired over many separate historical events. As a "region" in modern France, it consists of the four departments Meurthe-et-Moselle, Meuse, Moselle and Vosges, and contains 2,337 communes. Lorraine maintains nearly half of France's border with Germany, and also borders Belgium and Luxembourg (independent nations of historical Upper Lorraine which still officially speak variants of Lorraine's historical Franconian language, Lorraine-Franconian.)
Alsace – Lorraine: History


http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alsace_Lorraine

Other German-speaking Regions:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_language

Where is German spoken:

http://german.about.com/od/culture/a/germanspoken.htm

Amish and Mennonites in America:


High German, language of Amish church

High German is the language of Amish worship

Bibles used by Amish are written in High German, and verses read in church are also in High German, as is the Amish songbook, the Ausbund. Proficiency in High German can vary among
Amish. It is safe to say that Amish are a bilingual people, with individuals having a varying degree of ability in High German.

**Video:** Learn to count in Pennsylvania Dutch (Deitsch):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuEN1xJAYQg

**Video:** Good example of what the language sounds like (Pennsylvania Dutch):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8qP_hPNkM

**Video:** German speakers from Mexico:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lxhx6EwU_Ow

**Video:** The Amish German: a mix of German dialects and English: interview with an Amish woman
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NX8q84-4&feature=endscreen

**Video:** Amish: A Secret Life (more on their culture than the language)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOeISlUIS06U

**Video:** Learn Amish
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=faccHus6QYo

**Video:** Die Amish (The Amish): German video
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1dwGfEMnEMM

**The Mennonites:**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1B5vi6QouDc
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mennonites