Course Title
German Language, Elementary I

Course Number
GERM-UA 9001D04

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Lecturer Contact Information
Jana Hulbert
jana.hulbert@nyu.edu

Course Details
MTR / 11:00am to 12:15pm

Location
Rooms will be posted on Albert before your first class. Please double check whether your class will be taking place at the Academic Center (BLAC) or at St. Agnes (SNTA).

Prerequisites
None

Units earned
4

Course Description
This is an introductory course to the language and everyday culture of German-speaking countries for students with no previous experience in learning German. It focuses on the development of communicative competence in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course will help you learn to convey essential information about yourself, your family and friends; to obtain information by asking questions; to describe daily activities; to state likes and dislikes; to give and follow simple directions; to tell time and specify when events take place; to make generalizations; and to relate events from the present as well as the past. You will learn vocabulary and expressions related to oneself and family; personal possessions; food and restaurants; furniture; entertainment; hobbies and sports; body and health.
In order to succeed in our classroom, please be prepared to spend up to one and a half to two hours of independent study per classroom hour.

Course Objective
This course covers the first two parts of a four-part German sequence. Together, these courses (Elementary I and II; Intermediate I and II) will help you develop a level of proficiency in German that will enable you to study abroad in German-speaking countries, to pursue
advanced study of German in the US, and to use German for travel, leisure, and work. At the end of Intermediate German II (or Intensive Intermediate German), you will be prepared to successfully take a proficiency exam.

**Assessment Components**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Active Participation</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework: Workbook, Compositions, Portfolio</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Tests (210) &amp; Grammar Quizzes (40)</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral presentation</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>200</td>
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Failure to submit or fulfill any required component may result in failure of the class, regardless of grades achieved in other assignments.

**Required Text(s)**

All material will be provided by your instructor.

Electronic Resources (via NYU Classes / NYU Library)

Books can be bought at Dussmann on Friedrichstraße 90, where the books are pre-ordered for students. One copy of each book is kept in the Reading Room of NYU Berlin's Academic Center, for you to read in the center but not to take out. [NYU Berlin Library Catalogue](#) or follow the link on NYU Berlin’s website (Academics/Facilities & Services).

**Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)**

Grammar Reader, provided by your instructor

**Internet Research Guidelines**

To be discussed in class

**Additional Required Equipment**

German–English dictionary, e.g. [PONS](#) or [Linguee](#) (both include pronunciation, gender and plural indication of nouns and past tense of verbs)
Semesterplan
(subject to change)

Week 1 – [3 Sept – 6 Sept]
Content/Communication Goals
Willkommen! Students get to know each other, classroom policies; introduce oneself and others; greetings; learn how to spell in German; formal and informal form of address; classroom communication (how to ask, answer, clarify in German)

Grammar Topics
Personal pronouns and verb conjugation in present tense; w-questions; the alphabet and pronunciation of German vowels and consonants; female suffix -in

Week 2 – [10 Sept – 13 Sept]
Content/Communication Goals
Ich hätte gern einen Cappuccino. Name objects; Learn how to order drinks and food; numbers 0 – 1000

Grammar Topics
Personal pronouns and verb conjugation in present tense; w-questions; sentence structure in statements and questions; gender of nouns; definite and indefinite articles; negative article kein/e

Week 3 – [17 Sept – 20 Sept]
Content/Communication Goals
Magst du gern…? Talk about food; express likes and dislikes; buying food

Grammar Topics
Singular and plural forms of nouns; the verb mögen; the coordinate conjunctions denn and aber

Requirement
Quiz 1: Thursday, 20 September

Week 4 – [24 Sept – 27 Sept]
Content/Communication Goals
Meine Familie, meine Hobbys. Talk about your family and hobbies

Grammar Topics
Conjugation of haben; accusative case; possessive articles in nominative; verb conjugation in present tense; further w-questions; sentence structure in statements and questions

Requirement
Test 1: Thursday, 27 September

Week 5 – [1 Oct – 5 Oct]
Content/Communication Goals
Warst du schon einmal in Frankreich? Talk about countries, languages and sights; give more information about oneself

**Grammar Topics**
Verb conjugation in present tense; past tense (Präteritum) of *sein*; sentence structure in statements and questions; further w-questions;

**Excursion 1:** Field trip to the farmer’s market at Wittenbergplatz, Thursday, 4 October, 11am to 12.15pm.
You will meet Jana at a farmer’s market. There, you will practice communication in German with local vendors, ask for prices and the origin of produce and buy small amounts of fruits and vegetables.

**Week 6 – [8 Oct – 11 Oct]**
**Content/Communication Goals**
*Ein Wochenende in Paris.* Talk about weekend activities; vacations and travelling; weather

**Grammar Topics**
Past tense of *haben*; review past tense of *sein*; perfect tense; dative articles; dative prepositions; syntax: the “verbal bracket”

**Week 7 – [15 Oct – 18 Oct]**
**Content/Communication Goals**
*Routine I: Von Montag bis Freitag.* Speak about daily routines (workdays / leisure time); time; weekdays; date and ordinal numbers

**Grammar Topics**
Review perfect tense, separable prefix verbs; question pronoun *wann*; adverbs of time (*immer, oft, manchmal, selten, nie*); word order in sentences – inversion/TiMoLocO; syntax: the “verbal bracket”; modal verbs *können/müssen/wollen*;

**Requirement**
Test 2: Tuesday, 17 October

22 Oct – 28 Oct Fall Break – No Class

**Week 8 – [29 Oct – 1 Nov]**
**Content/Communication Goals**
*Routine II: Früh aufstehen oder ausschlafen?* Talk about Fall Break; speak about daily routines (workdays / leisure time); time; weekdays; date and ordinal numbers

**Grammar Topics**
Review perfect tense; separable prefix verbs; question pronoun *wann*; adverbs of time (*immer, oft, manchmal, selten, nie*); word order in the sentence – inversion/TiMoLocO; syntax: the “verbal bracket”; modal verbs *können/müssen/wollen*

**Week 9 – [5 Nov – 8 Nov]**
**Content/Communication Goals**
Wohnst du noch oder lebst du schon? Learn how to describe and comment on houses; apartments and furniture; colors

Grammar Topics
Perfect tense; adjectives and adjective declination; two-way prepositions with dative; definite and indefinite accusative articles; possessive articles in accusative

Requirement
Quiz 2: Tuesday, 6 November

Excursion day: 8 November

Week 10 – [12 Nov – 15 Nov]
Content/Communication Goals
In Vincents Schlafzimmer. Learn how to describe and comment on houses; apartments and furniture

Grammar Topics
Adjectives and adjective declination; two-way prepositions with dative

Week 11 – [19 Nov – 22 Nov]
Content/Communication Goals
Das ist ganz einfach! Ask and give directions; sights in Berlin; places in a city

Grammar Topics
Further dative prepositions; accusative prepositions; imperative (formal)

Requirement
Test 3: Thursday, 22 November

Week 12 – [26 Nov – 29 Nov]
Content/Communication Goals
Von Kopf bis Fuß I Make an appointment; excuse oneself; body parts and health; give advice and orders; forbid or allow something

Grammar Topics
Review: modal verbs können/müssen/wollen; imperative; local prepositions; further dative prepositions; accusative prepositions

Week 13 – [3 Dec – 6 Dec]
Content/Communication Goals
Von Kopf bis Fuß II Body parts and health; give advice and orders; forbid and allow something

Grammar Topics
Modal verbs dürfen and sollen; imperative

Requirement
Oral Presentation; on Tuesday, 4 December, or Thursday, 6 December
Week 14 – [10 Dec – 13 Dec]
Content/Communication Goals

… auf Liebe eingestellt. Love and emotions; listen to a love song; write a love letter

Grammar Topics
Pronouns in accusative; general review

Week 15 – [17 Dec – 20 Dec]
Final Examination: Monday, Dec 17, 10:00am to 12:00pm

Classroom Etiquette
No eating nor cell phones, please.

Suggested Co-Curricular Activities
Please use the opportunity to take part in the Berlin Buddies Program and the Tutoring Program at NYU Berlin.

Your Lecturer
Jana Hulbert teaches German language classes at NYU and Freie Universität Berlin. She has also worked as a lecturer at Humboldt-University. Jana studied Cultural Studies, Linguistics and Literature in Frankfurt/Oder and Valencia, Spain and German as a Foreign Language at Humboldt University where she earned her Master's degree. Jana was born in Berlin, but she has also lived in other parts of Germany and in Spain. Since 2001, she has lived full-time in the city and currently lives near Gleisdreieck-Park in a diverse neighborhood. Jana's scholarly interests are literature, politics, social sciences, and sociolinguistics. In her free time, she likes to spend time with her friends and siblings, go to the movies, visit art exhibitions, read, dance, and bike or hike outside of Berlin. Jana loves nature and cares about the environment and the treatment of animals.
Academic Policies

Assessment Expectations

Grade A: The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers well-structured arguments in their work. The student writes comprehensive essays/answers to exam questions and their work shows strong evidence of critical thought and extensive reading.

Grade B: The candidate shows a good understanding of the problem and has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy.

Grade C: The work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However, the work fails to organize findings coherently and is in need of improvement.

Grade D: The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research.

Grade F: The work shows that the research problem is not understood; there is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible.

Grade Conversion
Your lecturer may use one of the following scales of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

A = 94-100 or 4.0
A- = 90-93 or 3.7
B+ = 87-89 or 3.3
B = 84-86 or 3.0
B- = 80-83 or 2.7
C+ = 77-79 or 2.3
C = 74-76 or 2.0
C- = 70-73 or 1.7
D+ = 67-69 or 1.3
D = 65-66 or 1.0
F = below 65 or 0

Attendance Policy
Participation in all classes is essential for your academic success, especially in courses that meet only once per week. Your attendance in both content and language courses is required and will be checked at each class meeting. As soon as it becomes clear that you cannot attend a class, you must inform your professor by e-mail immediately (i.e. before the start of your class). Absences are only excused if they are due to illness, religious observance or emergencies. Your professor or NYU Berlin's administration may ask you to present a doctor's note or an exceptional permission from NYU Berlin's Director or Wellness Counselor as proof. Emergencies or other exceptional circumstances must be presented to the Director. Doctor's notes need to be submitted to the Academics Office, who will inform your professors. Doctor's notes need to be from a local doctor and carry a signature and a stamp. If you want the reasons for your absence to be treated confidentially, please approach NYU Berlin's Director or Wellness Counselor.
Unexcused absences affect students' grades: In content courses each unexcused absence (equalling one week's worth of classes) leads to a deduction of 2% of the overall grade and may negatively affect your class participation grade. In German Language classes two or three (consecutive or non-consecutive) unexcused absences (equalling one week's worth of classes) lead to a 2% deduction of the overall grade. Three unexcused absences in one content course and five unexcused absences in your German language course may lead to a Fail in that course. Being more than 15 minutes late counts as an unexcused absence. Furthermore, your professor is entitled to deduct points for frequent late arrival or late arrival back from in-class breaks. Please note that for classes involving a field trip, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to arrive in time at the announced meeting point.

Exams, tests and quizzes, deadlines, and oral presentations that are missed due to illness always require a doctor's note as documentation. It is the student's responsibility to produce this doctor's note and submit it to the Academics Office; until this doctor's note is produced the missed assessment is graded with an F and no make-up assessment is scheduled. In content classes, an F in one assignment may lead to failure of the entire class.

Regardless of whether an absence is excused or not, it is the student's responsibility to catch up with the work that was missed.

**Attendance Rules on Religious Holidays**

Members of any religious group may, without penalty, excuse themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Students who anticipate being absent due to religious observance should notify their lecturer AND NYU Berlin's Academics Office in writing via e-mail one week in advance. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Academics Office will schedule a make-up examination or extend the deadline for assignments. Please note that an absence is only excused for the holiday but not for any days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. See also University Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays

**Late Submission of Work**

1. Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

2. Late work should be submitted in person to the lecturer or to the Academics Office, who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff may also personally accept the work and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above.

3. Work submitted late receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100 point scale for each day it is late (excluding weekends and public or religious holidays), unless an extension has been approved (with a doctor's note or by approval of NYU Berlin's administration), in which case the 2 points per day deductions start counting from the day the extended deadline has passed.

4. Without an approved extension, written work submitted more than 5 days (excluding weekends and public or religious holidays) following the submission date receives an F.

5. End of semester essays must be submitted on time.
(6) Students who are late for a written exam have no automatic right to take extra time or to write the exam on another day.

(7) Please remember that university computers do not keep your essays - you must save them elsewhere. Having lost parts of your essay on the university computer is no excuse for a late submission.

Provisions for Students with Disabilities
Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980 or see their website for further information.

Plagiarism Policy
The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism. Proper referencing of your sources avoids plagiarism (see as one possible help the NYU library guide to referencing styles.

NYU Berlin takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. Your lecturer may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form.

It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.

For a summary of NYU Global's academic policies.