Course Title
German Language, Intermediate II

Course Number
GERM-UA 9004 D01

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Lecturer Contact Information
Antje Rebecchi
antje.rebecchi@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
You have taken GERM-UA9003001 Intermediate German I at NYU and received a passing grade; or you have taken equivalent German courses at another university and have been awarded transfer credit for the course; or you have been referred to this course after a placement test or interview with the Language Coordinator.

Units earned
4

Course Description
Intermediate German II is the second part of a two-semester-long intermediate sequence. You will continue to study grammar, vocabulary and other aspects of language. The class is entirely taught in German and emphasizes the language skills necessary to communicate effectively in a foreign language – speaking, listening, viewing, reading and writing. During the course, you will engage with a large variety of topical subjects from German culture and history as well as art, films, theater, literature and music. This course aims to create a balance between working with intellectually stimulating subjects and practicing the skills needed to communicate in a foreign language. To learn another language requires a great deal of commitment, diligence, discipline, and effort on the part of the student. 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 fourth part 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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<td>Homework, Portfolio</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compositions (3x50)</td>
<td>150</td>
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<td>Tests (3x50)</td>
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<td>Oral presentation (1x100)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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(written exam 170 points; oral proficiency exam 30 points)

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)**

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)**

Your instructor will provide copies and materials on NYU classes for you.

**Internet Research Guidelines**

You can use the following authentic resources as websites or apps on your computer, smartphone, or tablet in order to stay up-to-date:
- Spiegel Online (German news magazine)
- Stern (German news magazine)
- Die Zeit (German weekly newspaper)
- Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung/FAZ (daily newspaper)
- Süddeutsche Zeitung (daily newspaper)
- Deutsche Welle (German newscast)
- ARD (German TV station with an extensive media library)
- ZDF (German TV station with an extensive media library)

German News, Online Courses, Audiobooks, Podcasts:
Deutsche Welle
Young Germany
Simsalabim – Phonetik Online

These are all free and a great way to practice your German (reading, audio files, videos) wherever you are.

Additional Required Equipment
You will be asked to use a dictionary. You can rely on the online mono- and bilingual dictionaries from Pons.

We will use Quizlet for vocabulary learning:

Semesterplan
(subject to change)

Week 1 – [3 Sept – 6 Sept]
Dickes B – Introduction; expectations; first impressions of Berlin

Content/Communication Goals
Introduction: get to know each other; classroom policies
Learn to talk about your first impressions of Berlin and about your expectations; read and discuss texts about life in Berlin; listen to a song about Berlin

Song: Dickes B by Seeed
Reading: Wir sind ein Berliner (Tip); Am Puls der Stadt (Deutsch Perfekt 06/16)

Grammar Topics
Review: Word order; perfect tense

Week 2 – [10 Sept – 13 Sept]
Über Brücken – Berlin, the ever-changing city

Content/Communication Goals
Learn about changes and gentrification in Berlin; read a satirical short story about a bridge located in Kreuzberg; read an article about the changes taking place in Wedding (=name of a district)

Reading: Über Brücken by Sarah Schmidt (in: „Bitte nicht freundlich“, 2010); Wie ein Kiez den Wandel der Stadt erlebt (Tagesspiegel, 02.08.17)

Grammar Topics:
Review: Verbs with prepositions; da- and wo-compounds
Week 3 – [17 Sept – 20 Sept]
Ich bin ein Berliner – Berlin personalities

Content/Communication Goals
Learn about famous Berliners; read short biographies. Hold a brief presentation about an interesting personality. Write a biographic narration.

Reading (excerpts): Berlin. Eine Stadt in Biographien by Dorothee Fleischmann (Merian Portraits)

Grammar Topics
Review: Past tense (Präteritum); temporal connectors (als, wenn, wann, während, seit, bevor, bis)

Week 4 – [24 Sept – 27 Sept]
Eine leere Flasche – The bilingual author Yoko Tawada

Content/Communication Goals
Read and discuss texts from the Japanese author Yoko Tawada. Prepare the lecture and talk with Yoko Tawada. Write a text interpretation.


Viewing: Schriftstellerportrait Yoko Tawada (SWR, 20.01.18)
https://swrmediathek.de/player.htm?show=6a76ad20-fe0a-11e7-a5ff-005056a12b4c

Grammar Topics
Relative clauses (all cases)

Requirement:
Thursday, 27 Sep: Composition 1

Week 5 – [1 Oct – 4 Oct]
Liebesgrüße aus Deutschland – Intercultural communication; tabus; German stereotypes

Content/Communication Goals
Talk about “good” manners and intercultural conflicts; reflect on common stereotypes about Germans and where they come from. Learn to express your opinion and to argue about a topic.


Grammar Topics
Review: Infinitive clauses; final clauses

Requirement:
Thursday, 4 Oct: Test 1
Thursday, 4 Oct, 7:30 –9pm: Lecture with Yoko Tawada.
Yoko Tawada, a popular author of contemporary German literature, will read and discuss selected texts from her books. Tawada writes in both Japanese and German, making her an exophonic writer.
Your participation is required. To compensate for this, there will be no German class on Monday, 29 Oct.

**Week 6 – [8 Oct – 11 Oct]**
*Kleiner Mann – was nun? – The (not only) Golden Twenties in Berlin*

**Content/Communication Goals**
Read an excerpt of a German novel and learn about the times of the Weimar Republic in Berlin. Describe history and social developments of the past. Discuss different perspectives of literature.

Reading (excerpt): *Kleiner Mann – was nun?* by Hans Fallada (1932)

**Grammar Topics**
Subjunctive II present & past tenses (Konjunktiv II Präsens & Vergangenheit)

**Week 7 – [15 Oct – 18 Oct]**
*The Comedian Harmonists – Germany in times of the rising Nazis*

**Content/Communication Goals**
Watch a German movie and learn about the story of the famous group of singers “The Comedian Harmonists” and their struggle during the times of the Nazi dictatorship.
Analyze and interpret different aspects of a movie. Listen to (and sing) songs. Write a description of a character.

Viewing: *Comedian Harmonists* (1997, Joseph Vilsmeier)

**Grammar Topics**
Review: Declination of adjectives; comparative & superlative

**Requirement:**
Thursday, 18 Oct: Composition 2
Excursion TBA

22 Oct – 28 Oct Fall Break – No Class

**Week 8 – [29 Oct – 1 Nov]**
*Die Entdeckung der Currywurst (1) – The last days of WWII in Germany*

**Content/Communication Goals**
Start reading the short novel *Die Entdeckung der Currywurst* by the contemporary author Uwe Timm. The novel is about a German woman living in Hamburg near the end of WWII.
Interpret a piece of literature. Reflect on changing gender roles over the course of the past 75 years in Germany and the impact of these changes on society.
Reading: Easy Reader version of *Die Entdeckung der Currywurst* by Uwe Timm (1993)

**Grammar Topics**
Review: Participles as adjectives

**No German class on Monday, 29 Oct, as compensation for the lecture on 4 Oct.**

**Week 9 – [5 Nov – 8 Nov]**
*DIE ENTDECKUNG DER CURRYWURST* (2) – Zero Hour: Germany in 1945

**Content/Communication Goals**

Reading: Easy Reader version of *Die Entdeckung der Currywurst* by Uwe Timm (1993)

**Grammar Topics**
Review: n-declination; passive with *werden* and *sein*

**Requirement:**
Tuesday, 6 Nov: Test 2
Thursday, 8 Nov: German excursion day

**Week 10 – [12 Nov – 15 Nov]**
*Auf der anderen Seite* – A movie about generations; home; paths; love; protest, ends and new beginnings…

**Content/Communication Goals**
Watch the German movie *Auf der anderen Seite* by the successful film director Fatih Akin. Describe the characters, analyze the dramaturgy of the plot and interpret what this movie is about. Write your personal review about the movie.

Viewing: *Auf der anderen Seite* (Fatih Akin, 2007)

**Grammar Topics**
Passive with modal verbs; passive substitutes

**Week 11 – [19 Nov – 22 Nov]**
*Bäume* – Environmental movement and environmental awareness in Germany

**Content/Communication Goals**
Read and interpret German poems about nature and the environment. Learn about the history of the environmental movement and environmental awareness in Germany. Describe environmental problems and reasons for climate change.

Reading: *Gefunden* by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1810); *Der Panther* by Rainer Maria Rilke (1907); 2084 by Lutz Rathenow (1982); *Bäume* von Sarah Kirsch (1984);
*Vom Naturbewusstsein vom Engagement; Umweltschutz in Deutschland* (Neue Blickwinkel, Kap.7/1)
Grammar Topics
Declination of nouns: genitive; prepositions with genitive (*trotz, während, statt, wegen*)

Requirement:
Thursday, 22 Nov: Composition 3

**Week 12 – [26 Nov – 29 Nov]**
**Future Futter** – Sustainability trends in Germany

**Content/Communication Goals**
Discuss consumerism and how it has changed during the past few decades in Germany. Learn about new trends, ideas and projects in sustainability and talk about what more can be done.

Reading: *Future Futter* (Zitty, 16.01.18)

Grammar Topics
Discontinuous conjunctions (*entweder…oder, sowohl…als auch, weder…noch*)

Requirement:
Thursday, 29 Nov: Test 3

**Week 13 – [3 Dec – 6 Dec]**
**Die Physiker** – German inventions and innovations

**Content/Communication Goals**
Learn about German inventions and technical developments made in Germany. Discuss the responsibility of scientists after reading and watching scenes from Friedrich Dürrenmatt’s play *Die Physiker*. Learn how to write a formal letter.

Reading: *Made in Germany; Erfinderinnen – Die gab’s!* (Neue Blickwinkel Kap.7/1); *Die Physiker* by Friedrich Dürrenmatt (Premiere 1962);

Grammar Topics
Reported speech (subjunctive I = Konjunktiv I)

**Requirements:**
Oral presentation
Excursion TBA

**Week 14 – [10 Dec – 13 Dec]**
**QualityLand** – Future Germany, digital society

**Content/Communication Goals**
Talk about the digital “selfie-society” of the present and the advantages and disadvantages of the global, 24/7 availability of people. Which cultural differences become evident in regard to media use? How do people in Germany deal with privacy? Discuss the thoughts of the author Juli Zeh about this topic after reading an interview with her. Read an excerpt out of Mark-Uwe Kling’s satiric novel *Qualityland* about future society. Make predictions about the future.
Review and reflection of the semester
Reading: *Ein beobachteter Mensch ist nicht frei* (Interview with Juli Zeh, Frankfurter Rundschau, 17.09.13); *QualityLand* (excerpt) by Mark-Uwe Kling (2017)

**Grammar Topics**
Review: Future tense (Futur I); review of the semester

**Requirement:**
Oral presentation

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

**Classroom Etiquette**
Be kind to one another, have fun and speak in German. Be punctual and please use your cell phones only as a dictionary.

**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**
Antje Rebecchi has been teaching German courses at NYU since 2006. She holds an MA in German and Theatre Studies from the Free University of Berlin and an additional degree in German as a Foreign Language. Antje comes from Hamburg and came to Berlin in 1989. In 1993, she founded an independent theater group and created theater projects before she started working as a language teacher with international students in 2000. Antje lives with her family in Kreuzberg.
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 (equaling 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 (equaling 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.