Course Title

German Language, Elementary I

Course Number
GERM-UA9001001

SAMPLE SYLLABUS – ACTUAL SYLLABUS MAY VARY

Instructor Contact Information
Jessica Menz
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Office hours: Mondays, 2:00-3:00pm in room Schöneberg

Course Details
MTR 9:30am – 10:45am
NYU Berlin in der Kulturbrauerei

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 textbook Studio 21, in conjunction with current, culture-rich supplemental materials, offers a balanced approach to developing your individual language competencies. 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; clothing; furniture; shopping; weather; food and restaurants; hotels; entertainment; hobbies and sports; and the workplace. Throughout your engagement with the German language you will also learn about Berlin and the Federal Republic of Germany today, its history, climate, landscape, food, arts, education system and cities.
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 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.

**Grading**
Grading for this course is based on a point-accumulation system. Every component of the course has a specific value on a scale of 1000 points. You accumulate credit through participation, tests, written assignments, and oral performances as follows:

**Assessment Components**
- **Active Participation**: 200 points
- **Homework: Workbook, Portfolio/Lerntagebuch, Compositions**: 250 points
- **Chapter Tests (3 x 70) & Quizzes (40)**: 250 points
- **Oral Presentations**: 100 points
- **Final Examination**: 200 points

Your active participation in the course is crucial and will be assessed by your instructor throughout the semester. Since the primary goal of our course is to become speakers of German, this class will be primarily conducted in German. You are expected to adequately prepare for each session.

**Homework**
Homework will be assigned daily and is absolutely crucial to the progress you make in class. In order to participate in class, you must complete homework assignments. During the semester, you will receive a lot of additional handouts, texts, and exercises. Please use the binder distributed on the first day of class for keeping your materials and printouts organized and in sequence. If you intend on continuing with German, please hold on to all materials.

**Tests**
There will be three tests throughout the semester. Although all tests will be cumulative, they will focus on the most recently covered material. Bring your Intensive Trainer and Vocabulary booklets to class on test days so that your instructor can check that you have completed all of the assignments.

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

- B+ = 87-89
- C+ = 77-79
- D+ = 67-69
- F = below 65
- A = 94-100
- B = 84-86
- C = 74-76
- D = 65-66
- A- = 90-93
- B- = 80-83
- C- = 70-73

Alternatively:
A= 4.0       A- = 3.7
B+ = 3.3      B = 3.0       B- = 2.7
C+ = 2.3      C = 2.0       C- = 1.7
D+ = 1.3      D = 1.0       F = 0.0.

Attendance Policy
Participation in all classes is essential for your academic success, especially in NYU Berlin’s content courses that, unlike most courses at NYU NY, meet only once per week in a double-session for three hours. 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. If you want the reasons for your absence to be treated confidentially and not shared with your professor, please approach NYUB’s Director or Wellness Counselor. Your professor or NYUB’s administration may ask you to present a doctor's note or an exceptional permission from the Director or Wellness Counselor. Doctor's notes need to be submitted to the Assistant Director for Academics, the Arts Coordinator, or the German Language Coordinator, who will inform your professors.

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. Three unexcused absences in one course may lead to a Fail in that course. 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. Five unexcused absences in your German language course may lead to a Fail in that course. Furthermore, faculty is also entitled to deduct points for frequent late arrival to class or late arrival back from in-class breaks. Being more than 15 minutes late for class counts as an unexcused absence. Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at the announced meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Exams, tests, 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; until this doctor's note is produced the missed assessment is graded with an F. In content classes, an F in one assignment may lead to failure of the entire class.

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 because of any religious observance should notify their instructor AND NYUB's Academic Office in writing via e-mail one week in advance before being absent for this purpose. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Director or Assistant Director will re-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.

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 instructor or to the Assistant Director for Academics, 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) Unless an extension has been approved (with a doctor's note or by approval of the Director or Assistant Director), work submitted late receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100 point scale for each day it is late.

(4) Without an approved extension, written work submitted more than 5 weekdays following the session date fails and is given a zero.

(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 (http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-andwellness/students-with-disabilities.html) 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: http://nyu.libguides.com/citations).

NYUB takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the instructor. Your instructor 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 please see: www.nyu.edu/global/academic-policies

Required Text(s)

Books can be bought at Saint Georges bookshop in Wörther Straße 27 near NYUB, where the books are pre-ordered for students. Students can re-sell their used books at the end of the semester to Saint Georges (with the exception of German language books). Additionally, one copy of each book is kept in the Reading Room of NYUB’s Academic Center, for you to read in the center but not to take out.

Readers can be bought at Sprintout copy-shop (situated under the railway arches in front of Humboldt University's main library, the Grimm-Zentrum, in Georgenstraße / Universitätsstraße – S-Bahn-Bogen 190 - please allow five hours between booking and collecting readers).

Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)
- Grammar Reader, provided by your instructor
- The StudyBlue.com course “German 001” by Engel /Fuehrer /Hulbert /Menz offers vocabulary flash cards accompanying each unit in the course book; You will have to sign up for a free account in order to access the sets
- Check Cornelsen.de (cornelsen.de/studio_21/1.c.3237787.de) for additional online exercises accompanying your course book
- For creating your own individual flash cards use http://ankisrs.net/
- Genusly is a useful gender marking tool: genusly.com (marks German nouns in different colors according to their gender)
- For cultural studies on Germany: young-germany.de
- A good workshop on German phonetics: simsalabim.reinke-eb.de
- University of Iowa provides an excellent technical overview over the sounds of German and where and how they are produced anatomically at uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics
- See Deutsche Welle (dw.de) for lots of interesting articles as well as free German online courses for independent study

Internet Research Guidelines
To be discussed in class

Additional Required Equipment
- German–English dictionary, e.g. de.pons.com or dict.leo.org (both include pronunciation, gender and plural indication of nouns and past tense of verbs)
Semesterplan
(Subject to change)

Week 1 – [1 Feb – 4 Feb]
*Studio 21 A1, Introduction Start auf Deutsch*

Content/Communication Goals
Students get to know each other; greetings; introduce yourself and friends; formal and informal address; the alphabet; understand cognates in German texts; classroom communication; talk about weekend plans

Grammar Topics
The prepositions *in* and *aus*; W-questions *wie*, *wo*, *woher*

Week 2 – [8 Feb – 11 Feb]
*Studio 21 A1, Chapter 1*

Content/Communication Goals
Talk about the weekend; introduce yourself and friends; formal and informal address; understand cognates in German texts; the numbers 1-1000

Grammar Topics
Word order in statements and questions; personal pronouns; conjugation of verbs in the present tense; present tense with future reference

Week 3 – [15 Feb – 18 Feb]
*Studio 21 A1, Chapter 2*

Content/Communication Goals
Ask for information and clarification; name objects; mnemo-techniques for gender

Grammar Topics
Word order in statements and questions; personal pronouns; conjugation of verbs in the present tense; present tense with future reference; singular and plural forms of nouns; definite and indefinite article in nominative; negative article

Week 4 – [22 Feb – 26 Feb]
*Studio 21 A1, Suppl. Material*

Content/Communication Goals
Order and pay for food and beverages; ask for groceries in the supermarket; buy groceries at the market

Grammar
Definite and indefinite article in accusative

Requirement
Test 1, Thursday, 25 Feb

Make-Up Day: Friday, 26 Feb
Excursion 1: “Rathaus Schöneberg und auf dem Markt”: 10:00am-12:00pm (subject to change)

**Week 5 – [29 Feb – 3 March]**
*Studio 21 A1, Chapter 3*
**Content/Communication Goals**
Learn how to give further information about yourself (college majors, languages); learn about sights and districts in Berlin; learn about D-A-CH – the German speaking countries; talk about cities, countries, landscapes and sights in Germany and Europe; talk about places you’ve visited in the past

**Grammar Topics**
Personal pronouns; conjugation of verbs in the present tense (*heiß*en, *kommen*, *sprechen*, *wohnen*, *trinken*, *sein*, *haben*, *arbeiten*, *nehmen*); past tense of *haben* and *sein*; singular and plural forms of nouns; definite and indefinite article in nominative and accusative; negative article; possessive articles in nominative; word formation (feminine endings)

**Week 6 – [7 March – 10 March]**
*Studio 21 A1, Chapter 4*
**Content/Communication Goals**
Describe an apartment and a house; talk about furniture; the colors; express likes and dislikes; cultural concept: Gemütlichkeit

**Grammar Topics**
Possessive articles; adjectives in nominative

**Week 7 – [14 March – 17 March]**
*Studio 21 A1, Chapter 5*
**Content/Communication Goals**
The time; weekdays; talk about daily routines; make an appointment; excuse oneself; read a newspaper article

**Grammar Topics**
Questions with *wann*; prepositions of time (*am*, *um*, *von…bis*; *zwischen*); separable prefix verbs; negation with *nicht*; position of the verb in a sentence; inversion

**Requirement**
Test 2, Thursday, 16 Mar

**Midterm Office Hour**

**Week 8 – [21 March – 24 March]**
*Studio 21 A1, Chapter 6*
**Content/Communication Goals**
Places in the city; learn about the city of Leipzig; talk about music; say where one lives and works; talk about travel plans; learn about Easter customs and other holidays
Grammar Topics
Two-way prepositions; prepositions bei, mit with dative; ordinal numbers in nominative and dative; future tense

Midterm Office Hour

25 March – 3 April Spring Break - No Class

Week 9 – [4 April – 7 April]
Studio 21 A1, Chapter 7 & 8, Suppl. Material
Content/Communication Goals
Talk about travels and vacation; ask for and give directions; express possibilities, abilities, desires and obligations; talk about professions, career aspirations and internships

Grammar Topics
Prepositions with accusative durch, über; prepositions with dative zu, an…vorbei; Modal auxiliary verbs können, wollen, müssen in present and past tense

Studio 21 A1, Chapter 9
Content/ Communication Goals
Talk about travels and vacation; describe an accident

Grammar Topics
Perfect tense

Excursion Scheunenviertel: Tuesday, 14 April 2015, 9:45am-11:45am (subject to change)

Week 11 [18 April – 21 April]
Studio 21 A1, Chapter 9 & 10
Content/Communication Goals
Talk about travels and vacation; describe an accident; express likes, dislikes and preferences

Grammar Topics
Perfect tense; interrogative (welch- ?); the modal verb mögen; comparison of irregular adjectives viel, gern, gut

Week 12 – [25 April – 28 April]
Studio 21 A1, Chapter 12
Content/Communication Goals
Talk about the body and health; give health tips; express polite requests, recommendations and desires; express emotions; write a love letter
Grammar Topics
The modal auxiliar verbs dürfen and sollen in present and past tense; personal pronouns in accusative; (imperative); declination of adjectives in accusative; conjunctions weil, denn, aber, obwohl, wenn

Requirement
Oral presentation, Thursday, 27 Apr

Week 13 – [2 May – 4 May]
Studio 21 A1, Chapter 12 & 11
Content/Communication Goals
Talk about clothing and fashion; talk about weather and understand the weather forecast

Grammar Topics
Declination of adjectives in accusative; conjunctions weil, denn, aber, obwohl, wenn;
(Demonstrative pronouns dies- / der)

Requirement
Test 3, Thursday, 3 May

5 May Public Holiday - No Class

Week 14 – [9 May – 13 May]
Supplemental Material
Content/Communication Goals
Berlin souvenirs and gifts; talk about your study abroad experience and plans for the future

Grammar Topics
General review and exam preparation

Make-Up Day: Friday, 13 May

Week 15 – [17 May – 19 May]
Final Examination: 17 May, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Classroom Etiquette
No phones or eating in class, please!

Required Co-Curricular Activities
1) Excursion to the market and Rathaus Schöneberg, Friday, February 26, 2016, 9.30 am (subject to change)

Jessica will accompany you to a farmers’ market in Berlin. You will practice communication with local vendors, ask for prices and the origin of produce and buy small amounts of fruits and vegetables. You will also visit the exhibition “Wir waren Nachbarn” and learn about the former Jewish community in the neighborhood of Bayerisches Viertel, as well as learn about Rathaus Schöneberg, a historic site and strong symbol of German-American relations. If you
like, you can join Jessica for a walk in one of Berlin’s most legendary neighborhoods afterwards.

2) Excursion Scheunenviertel, Tuesday, April 14, 2016, 9.45am - 11.45am (subject to change)

The Scheunenviertel in the center of Berlin is a lively and culture-rich neighborhood with a long history that has always been strongly connected to Jewish life in that area. During this excursion, students will go on a walking tour and practice reading comprehension and orientation in the city by following directions in German. On their tour, students will search for information by reading signs and asking locals, as well as learn about the history of the Scheunenviertel.

**Suggested Co-Curricular Activities**
Please use the opportunity to take part in the Tandem Program, the Language Trainings and the Tutoring Program at NYU Berlin.

**Your Instructor**
Jessica Menz grew up in the vicinity of Freiburg, in southern Germany. She studied English and Intercultural German Studies in Bayreuth, renown for the annual Richard Wagner opera festival, and graduated from Humboldt University, Berlin, after completing a master’s program in Teaching German as a Foreign Language in 2010. Over the past ten years, she has spent several semesters abroad and worked for the Universidad de Valladolid, Spain; the Pedagogical University Alexander Herzen in St. Petersburg, Russia; the Goethe Institut, Glasgow, Scotland; and the Freie Universität, Berlin. She is also affiliated with the distance-learning department of the Goethe Institut headquarters in Munich, Germany. Jessica’s special interests and research projects include computer assisted language learning, intercultural communication and phonetics.