Course Title

German language, Intermediate I

Course Number
GERM-UA9003001

SAMPLE SYLLABUS – ACTUAL SYLLABUS MAY VARY

Instructor Contact Information
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Office hour: Tue 12:30pm-13:30pm, room Schöneberg

Course Details
MTR 09:30am – 10:45am
NYU Berlin in der Kulturbrauerei

Prerequisites
You have taken GERM-UA9002001 Elementary German II at NYU and received a passing grade; or you have taken two semesters or equivalent of introductory German 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 I is the first part of a two-semester-long intermediate sequence. You will continue to study grammar, vocabulary and other aspects of language. The class is almost entirely taught in German and emphasizes the language skills necessary to communicate effectively in a foreign language – speaking, reading, viewing, writing, and listening. During this course, you will engage with a large variety of topical subjects from German culture, lifestyle and history.

This course intends to create a balance between working with intellectually stimulating subjects and practicing the skills needed to communicate in a foreign language. Learning another language requires a great deal of commitment, diligence, discipline, and effort on the part of the student. In order to succeed in this course, please be prepared to complete approximately 1.5 - 2 hours of homework per day.

Course Objective
This course covers the third part of a four-part German sequence. Together these courses (Elementary I and II; Intermediate I and II) should help you develop a level of proficiency in
German that will enable you to study abroad in German-speaking countries, pursue advanced study of German in the US, or use German for travel, leisure, and work.

**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active Participation</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework, Portfolio</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compositions (3x50)</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests (3 x 50)</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>200</td>
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**Grade Conversion**

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

- \( B+ = 87-89 \)
- \( C+ = 77-79 \)
- \( D+ = 67-69 \)
- \( F = \text{below 65} \)

- \( A = 94-100 \)
- \( B = 84-86 \)
- \( C = 74-76 \)
- \( D = 65-66 \)

- \( A- = 90-93 \)
- \( B- = 80-83 \)
- \( C- = 70-73 \)

Alternatively:

- \( A = 4.0 \)
- \( A- = 3.7 \)
- \( B+ = 3.3 \)
- \( B = 3.0 \)
- \( B- = 2.7 \)
- \( C+ = 2.3 \)
- \( C = 2.0 \)
- \( C- = 1.7 \)
- \( D+ = 1.3 \)
- \( D = 1.0 \)
- \( F = 0.0 \)

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 need to 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.

Please note: There will be regular online exercises on the learning site of our course book “Neue Blickwinkel”. Please go to [http://learningsite.waysidepublishing.com/site/login](http://learningsite.waysidepublishing.com/site/login), choose a
username and password and use the code in your course book to register for our class, which is called "Intermediate I NYU Berlin Spring 2016".

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 Portfolio to class on test days so that your instructor can check that you have completed all of the assignments.

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)
Course book: Neue Blickwinkel: Wege zur Kommunikation und Kultur by Cynthia Chalupa
Books can be bought at Saint Georges bookshop in Wörther Straße 27 near NYUB, where the books are pre-ordered for students. 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.

Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)
Your professor will provide supplemental materials.

Internet Research Guidelines
On your computer, smart phone, or tablet you can use the following authentic resources as websites or apps 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:
http://www.dw.de/
http://www.young-germany.de
http://simsalabim.reinke-eb.de/index.html (free course on German phonetics & pronunciation)

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 dictionary from Pons: http://de.pons.eu/%C3%BCbersetzung?l=dedx and the online German/English grammar dictionary from Canoo: http://www.canoo.net/index_en.html

Semesterplan

Week 1 – [1 Feb – 4 Feb]
Neue Blickwinkel: Kapitel 1 Junges Leben in Deutschland

Content/Communication Goals
Einführung: Students get to know each other; classroom policies
Kapitel 1 Der erste Schultag: talk about childhood memories of the very first day at school
Märchen: read and listen to a fairy-tale of the Brothers Grimm; write your own fairy-tale
Grammar Topics
Revision and past tenses: perfect tense and imperfect tense, word order in main and subordinate clauses, temporal clauses with als, wenn, wann

Week 2 [8 Feb – 11 Feb]
Neue Blickwinkel: Kapitel 1 Junges Leben in Deutschland

Content/Communication Goals
Kapitel 1 Schule und Freizeit: talk about your experience at school and free-time activities; talk about your childhood; Märchen: read and listen to a fairy-tale of the Brothers Grimm; write your own fairy-tale

Grammar Topics
Revision and past tenses: perfect tense and imperfect tense, separable verbs, reflexive verbs

Week 3 [15 Feb – 18 Feb]
Neue Blickwinkel: Kapitel 1 Junges Leben in Deutschland

Content/Communication Goals
Kapitel 1 Stationen im Leben: discuss about the appropriate legal age e.g. to drive a car (to watch a movie, to play computer/online games, to marry, to vote, to drink alcohol…)

Grammar Topics
Past perfect, temporal clauses with nachdem, bevor/ehe, seit/seitdem

Requirement
Thursday, 18 Feb: Composition 1

Week 4 [22 Feb – 26 Feb]
Neue Blickwinkel: Kapitel 2 Schule, Bildung und Beruf

Content/Communication Goals
Kapitel 2 Schulen in Deutschland – Mehr Chancen?: learn about the educational system in Germany

Grammar Topics
Comparison of adjectives, verbs with prepositions and da/wo-compounds

Requirement
Make-Up Day: Friday, 26 Feb: Test 1

Week 5 [29 Feb – 3 March]
Neue Blickwinkel: Kapitel 2 Schule, Bildung und Beruf

Content/Communication Goals
Kapitel 2 Einstieg in das Berufsleben: talk about future job perspectives, internships and German résumé
Grammar Topics
Verbs with prepositions and da/wo-compounds; excursus: prepositions with accusative and dative

Requirement
Tuesday, 01 March, 09:30am-01:00pm: Theatre workshop at the Maxim Gorki Theater! The workshop will be followed by a visit to a performance at the MGT (day and time of the theatre visit will be announced in a timely manner!).

Week 6 [7 March – 10 March]
Neue Blickwinkel: Kapitel 3 Mobilität und Medien: Erfindungen, Engagement, Kommunikation

Content/Communication Goals
Kapitel 3 Deutschland – Land der Technik: learn about inventions made in Germany

Grammar Topics
Passive and passive of modal verbs

Week 7 [14 March – 17 March]
Neue Blickwinkel: Kapitel 3 Mobilität und Medien: Erfindungen, Engagement, Kommunikation

Content/Communication Goals
Kapitel 3 Die Privatsphäre im Internet: talk about privacy protection on the Internet

Grammar Topics
Passive and passive substitutes, future

Requirement
Midterm office hour
Thursday, 17 March.: Composition 2

Week 8 [21 March – 24 March]
Germany after WWI

Content/Communication Goals
Film Comedian Harmonists: watch a movie and learn about Germany after WWI

Grammar Topics
Subjunctive II for present and past

25 March – 3 April Spring Break - No Class

Week 9 [4 April – 7 April]
Germany after WWII

Content/Communication Goals
Short Story Das Brot by Wolfgang Borchert: read a short story and learn about Germany after WWII
**Grammar Topics**
Declension of nouns and n-declination

**Requirement**
Thursday, 07 Apr: Test II

**Week 10 [11 April – 14. April]**
Life in the former GDR

**Content/Communication Goal**
Novel *Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee* by Thomas Brussig: read excerpts from the novel and watch the movie

**Grammar Topics**
Reported speech with subjunctive I

**Week 11 [18 April – 21 April]**
Neue Blickwinkel: Kapitel 4 *Die Kunst und die Revolution*

**Content/Communication Goal**
Kapitel 4 *Die Kunst und die Gesellschaft*: talk about works of art and learn about Expressionism in Germany

**Grammar Topics**
Declension of adjectives

**Requirement:**
**Tuesday, 19 Apr,** 10:00am-12:00pm: Excursion to the DDR-Museum. The DDR Museum focuses in its interactive exhibition on everyday life in the former GDR. It questions e.g. how did life in East Germany differ from experiences of West Germans and how did the state influence people’s lives?
**Thursday, 21 Apr:** Composition 3

**Week 12 [25 April – 28 April]**
Neue Blickwinkel: Kapitel 4 *Die Kunst und die Revolution*

**Content/Communication Goal**
Kapitel 4 *Die Kunst und der Widerstand*: learn about the resistance of authors during the Nazi period

**Grammar Topics**
Declension of adjectives, present and past participles as adjectives

**Requirement**
Thursday, 28 Apr: Test 3

**Week 13 [2 May – 4 May]**
Neue Blickwinkel: Kapitel 4 *Die Kunst und die Revolution*

**Content/Communication Goal**
Kapitel 4 *Graffiti und der künstlerische Widerstand*: explore the East Side Gallery; discuss graffiti as a form of art

**Grammar Topics**
Present and past participle as adjectives

**5 May Public Holiday - No Class**

**Week 14 [9 May – 13 May]**
Germany today and tomorrow

**Content/Communication Goal**
Read some articles and discuss about the perspectives of Germany today

**Requirement**
Make-Up Day: Friday, 13 May
Oral Presentation: Tuesday, 10 May

**Week 15 [17 May – 19 May]**
Final exam: Tuesday, 17 May, 10:00am-12:00pm

**Classroom Etiquette**
No phones or eating in class, please!

**Required Co-Curricular Activities**
1. Theater workshop at Maxim Gorki Theater, Tuesday, 01 Mar, 2016, 09:30am-12:45pm

   Julia will accompany you to the Maxim Gorki Theater workshop. You will reflect the process of acting on the stage and also play short sequences of a play that you can also watch later.

2. Excursion: Visit of the DDR Museum on Tuesday, 19 Apr, 10:00am-12:00pm

   The DDR Museum focuses in its interactive exhibition on everyday life in the former GDR. It questions e.g. how did life in East Germany differ from experiences of West Germans and how did the state influence people’s lives? Other questions are where did citizens feel the hand of the dictatorship? What, if anything, was good about the GDR? What is the truth behind popular prejudices and stories about life in East Germany? All these questions are addressed in a light-hearted and often ironic fashion.

**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

Julia Buchholz has been teaching German courses at NYU since 2013. She holds an MA in translation and teaching German as Foreign Language from Bonn University. Her academic interests include intercultural communication and language learning and teaching methods. Julia grew up near Düsseldorf and after teaching German at a Korean University in Seoul, South Korea, for three years, she came via Hamburg to Berlin in 2012. Julia lives now in Pankow.