Course Title

German Language, Intensive Elementary

Course Number
GERM-UA9010003

SAMPLE SYLLABUS – ACTUAL SYLLABUS MAY VARY

Instructor Contact Information
Nina Gerland
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Office hours: Mondays 1:30pm – 2:30pm
Room: Das Sprechzimmer

Course Details
MTR 11am – 1:30pm
NYU Berlin in der Kulturbrauerei

Prerequisites
None

Units earned
6

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; 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active Participation</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework: Workbook, Portfolio/Lerntagebuch, Compositions</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Tests (3 x 70) &amp; Quizzes (40)</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentations</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>200</td>
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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.

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
- Online exercises: [http://www.cornelsen.de/studio_21/1.c.3237787.de](http://www.cornelsen.de/studio_21/1.c.3237787.de)
- German News, Online courses, Audio-stories, Podcasts:
  - [http://www.dw.de/](http://www.dw.de/)
  - [http://www.young-germany.de](http://www.young-germany.de)
  - [http://simsalabim.reinke-eb.de/index.html](http://simsalabim.reinke-eb.de/index.html) (free course on German phonetics & pronunciation)

**Internet Research Guidelines**
To be discussed in class

**Additional Required Equipment**
A German – English dictionary.  

**Semesterplan**  
*(Subject to change)*

**Week 1 [1 Feb – 4 Feb]**
*Studio 21 A1 – Start auf Deutsch; Chapter 1 & Suppl. material*

**Communication skills:** Meeting and greeting; introducing yourself and others; the alphabet; spelling your name; numbers 1-1000; giving/asking for phone numbers; survival German: order and pay at a café; understand cognates in German texts; classroom policies;

**Grammar topics:** The prepositions in and aus; w-questions; word order in statements and questions; personal pronouns; conjugation of verbs in the present tense (*heißen, kommen, sprechen, wohnen, trinken, sein, haben, nehmen*)

**Office Hour**
Week 2 [8 Feb – 11 Feb]  
*Studio 21 A1 – Chapter 1 & 2*
Communication skills: Communicating in the classroom (asking for information/clarifications/spellings of words, asking for names of objects, naming objects in the classroom); working with a dictionary; Mnemonic techniques for gender

Grammar topics: Definite articles, indefinite & negative articles (nominative); sentence structure of yes/no questions; singular and plural forms of nouns; present tense conjugation of the auxiliary haben; conjugation of irregular verbs lesen und sprechen, conjugation of verbs in the present tense (review); present tense with future reference

Office hour

Week 3 [15 Feb – 18 Feb]
Suppl. Material & Studio 21 A1 Chapter 10
Communication skills: Expressing likes and dislikes regarding food; shopping: ordering politely; inquiring about prices; paying for your purchase; measuring units

Grammar-Topics: Present tense conjugation of regular and irregular verbs (suchen, brauchen, kaufen, nehmen); irregular verb essen; modal verb mögen; the verb schmecken + dative; definite articles, indefinite & negative articles (nominative); singular and plural forms of nouns (review); temporal adverbs immer, oft, manchmal, selten, nie

Week 4 [22 Feb – 26 Feb]
Studio 21 A1 Chapter 3, 4 & Suppl. Material
Communication skills: Talking about countries, cities, languages and sights; learn about sights and districts in Berlin; asking about locations; talking about living situations in your country and abroad; talking about furniture; describing rooms/apartments; talking about your family

Grammar-Topics: (Past) tense conjugation of sein & haben; definite and indefinite articles in accusative; possessive articles in nominative & accusative; predicative adjectives; declination of attributive adjectives (nominative), Genitiv - s

Requirement
Thursday, 25 Feb: Test 1
Friday, 26 Feb: German language excursion: Einkaufen in der Marheineke Halle

Make-Up Day: Friday, 26 Feb

Week 5 [29 Feb – 3 March]
Studio 21 A1 Chapter 5 & 6
Communication skills: The time; weekdays; talking about daily routines; making an appointment; excusing delays; read a newspaper article; places/orientation in the city; learn about the city of Leipzig; saying where one lives and works

Grammar – Topics: W-questions with wann; temporal prepositions am, um, von...bis; separable verbs; syntax: the „verbal bracket“ and inversion; negation with nicht; two-way prepositions in, neben, unter, auf, vor, hinter, an, zwischen and position verbs (hängen, stehen, liegen); prepositions with dative bei und mit; ordinal numbers
Week 6 [7 March – 10 March]
Studio 21 A1 Chapter 6, 7 & suppl. Material
Communication skills: Talking about work and daily routines; introducing someone at work; work and everyday life

Grammar-Topics: Word formation with -in; modal verbs (können, müssen, wollen, sollen) and the „verbal bracket“; possessive articles in accusative (review); prepositions (review)

Requirement
8 & 10 Mar: Oral Presentation 1

Week 7 [14 March – 17 March]
Studio 21 A1 Chapter 8
Communication skills: Talking about childhood; asking for and giving directions; talking about activities in the city; write a postcard; sights in berlin; making plans for the weekend; „take an imaginary walk through the city“

Grammar-Topics: Modal verbs in the preterite (past) tense; the verbal bracket (review); two-way prepositions (in, an, auf, zwischen, etc.) with accusative; prepositions zu und an ...vorbei with dative; directional prepositions zu und nach; preposition with accusative durch

Midterm office hours

Week 8 [21 March – 24 March]
Studio 21 A1 Chapter 9 & suppl. material
Communication Skills: Talking about vacation and travelling; writing a postcard; talking about a weekend in Berlin; describing an accident

Grammar-Topics: Conjugation of the verb gefallen + dativ; perfect tense of regular and irregular verbs; prepositions with accusative in, durch und über; prepositions (review), preterite (past) tense of haben und sein (review)

Midterm office hours

Requirement
Thursday, 24 Mar: Test 2

25 March – 3 April Spring Break – No Class

Week 9 [4 April – 7 April]
Studio 21 A1 Chapter 10 & Suppl. material
Communication Skills: Talking about typical German food; learn about Easter customs in Germany; making comparisons; giving reasons; expressing polite requests
Grammar-Topics: Conjugation of the verb *schmecken* + dativ; personal pronouns in dative case; comparative and superlative; comparison of irregular adjectives *viel*, *gern*, *gut*; subordinate conjunctions *weil* and *obwohl*; interrogative (*welch-*?); subjunctive II of *haben*

**Week 10** [11 April – 14 April]
*Studio 21 A1 Chapter 11 & Suppl. material*
**Communication Skills:** Talking about clothing and fashion; talking about the weather; understanding the weather forecast

**Grammar Topics:** Declination of attributive adjectives (review: nominative) and accusative; conjugation of the verb *stehen* + dativ; personal pronouns in dative case; modalverb *mögen* (review); demonstrative pronouns *dies*-, *der*;

**Requirement**
**Thursday, 14 Apr:** Test 3

**Week 11** [18 April – 21 April]
*Studio 21 A1 Chapter 12 & suppl. material*
**Communication skills:** Talking about body and health; giving advice; expressing polite requests and desires; making recommendations; expressing emotions

**Grammar Topics:** Modal verbs *dürfen* and *sollen* (review); subjunctive II of *haben*, *können*, *sollen* and with the auxilliary verb *würden*; personal pronouns in accusative case; reflexive verbs

**Tuesday, 19 Apr:** German Language Excursion: Theater workshop

**Week 12** [25 April – 28 April]
*Suppl. Material*
**Communication skills:** Talking about hobbies; talking about the education system in Germany; reading and talking about biographies; expressing your opinion; read a fairy tale

**Grammar Topics:** Verbs with prepositions; *wo*- & *da* - compounds; subordinate conjunction *dass*; modal verbs in the preterite (past) tense (review); preterite (past) tense of *haben und sein* (review); preterite (past) tense of regular verbs; subordinate conjunction *als*

**Week 13** [2 May – 4 May]
*Suppl. Material*
**Communication skills:** Talking about your family; talking about gifts and souvenirs from Berlin or other trips; expressing alternatives and contradictions

**Grammar Topics:** Pronouns in accusative and dative (review); verbs with two objects; preterite (past) tense/perfect tense (review), possessive articles (review); conjunctions *aber* and *oder*; subordinate conjunction *wenn*

**Requirement**
**2 & 3 May:** Oral presentation 2
5 May Public Holiday - No Class

Week 14 [9 May – 13 May]

Suppl. Material

Communication skills: Read a short story in German; watch a short German movie

Grammar topics: Personal pronouns in dative and accusative; verbs with two objects (review); syntax (review); exam preparation and general review

Make-Up Day: Friday, 13 May

Week 15 [17 May – 19 May]

Final Examination: 19 May, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Classroom Etiquette
No phones or eating in class, please!

Required Co-Curricular Activities

Exkursion #1 – „Shopping“: Wir gehen zusammen in die Marheineke Halle einkaufen und üben, was wir gelernt haben – We will go shopping at the Marheineke Market hall and practice everything we have learned.

Exkursion #2 – Excursion Theater Workshop, Tuesday, 19 April 2016, 10:00am – 1:00pm

Evening show, t.b.a.

During this workshop at Maxim Gorki Theater, students will have the opportunity to practice their German language skills in a fun and creative way through improvisations and role-playing games. The three-hour workshop provides an authentic, immersion-like situation and an intensive language learning experience. Students will also learn about key aspects of a recent play and see the show shortly after the workshop.

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

Professor Gerland was born in Bochum and grew up in Munich, Nuremberg and Berlin. She studied German and Italian Literature at the University of Potsdam and at Università degli Studi di Perugia. After her M.A. she moved to London where she discovered her passion for teaching while working at the Goethe-Institute and Brunel University. She also worked as a translator and editor. After a period of travelling in 2010, she finally came back to Berlin in 2011 and became a member of NYU in the same year. Nina lives in Charlottenburg (which she considers the most beautiful part of Berlin) and in her free time, you can see her either at concerts in Berlin or strolling through one of Berlin’s wonderful parks or flea markets.