Class code: GERM-UA 9004

Instructor Details: Josef Ager
josef.ager@volny.cz
mobile: 732 579 132
office hours: Mon/Wed 11:30 – 12:00, professor’s office

Class Details: Intermediate German II
Time - TBA
Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites: Intermediate German I at NYU; or transfer credit for a first semester Intermediate German at another university.

Class Description: Intermediate German II is intended to develop communication, writing, and argumentation skills at a higher level. Students examine and discuss texts of various genres, then write short essays related to these areas. The course includes a selected review of grammar, idioms, and phraseology of the previous three semesters. The course focuses on building writing skills while continuing to enrich conversational abilities. Other features of the course are presentations, guided writing, and reading of literary excerpts. On the basis of assorted passages and articles from various books, magazines, and newspapers students train to comprehend and to discuss present-day issues of German-speaking countries. Part of the class is also an introduction to a few representative (Jewish) German writers who had lived in Prague. However, the main goal of the course is to consolidate students’ command of spoken German.

Desired Outcomes: Upon completion of the course, students will be able to
- make use of an eloquent vocabulary to handle complex everyday situation
- present, discuss, and analyze opinions
- relate and value events that happened or could have happened in the past
- create detailed texts and reports that are parts of modern business life
- react and interact in a clear and profound manner

Assessment Components:
- Participation, preparation, homework: 20%
- Composition assignments (4): 20%
- Mid-term test: 20%
- Final exam: 40%

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
Assessment

Expectations

**Grade A:** Excellent work

**Grade B:** Very good work

**Grade C:** Satisfactory work

**Grade D:** Passable work

**Grade F:** Failure to achieve a passable standard

NYU in Prague uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

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

Grading Policy

NYU in Prague aims to have grading standards and results similar to those that prevail at Washington Square. At the College of Arts and Science, roughly 39% of all final grades are in the B+ to B- range, and 50% in the A/A- range.

We have therefore adopted the following guideline: in any non-Stern course, class teachers should try to ensure that no more than 50% of the class receives an A or A-.

A guideline is not a curve. A guideline is just that - it gives an ideal benchmark for the distribution of grades towards which we work.

Attendance Policy

Each unexcused absence will result in your final grade being reduced by 3%. Absences only for medical reasons will be excused. To obtain an excused absence, you are obliged to supply either a doctor’s note or corroboration of your illness by a member of the housing staff (either an RA or a Building Manager). Absences due to travel will not be excused.
Late Submission of Work

Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor. Unless an extension has been approved, work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100 point scale. Written work submitted more than 5 weekdays after the submission time receives a penalty of 5 points. End of semester essays must be submitted on time.

Plagiarism Policy

Required Text(s)


Internet Research Guidelines

To be discussed in class.

Additional Required Equipment

A good dictionary.
Assorted articles and passages from various books. (Provided by the teacher)

Session 1

Overview of course; Prepositions of time

Monday, September 2

Session 2

Numerals and measurement; Small talk

Wednesday, September 4

Session 3

Fieldtrip: The New Jewish Cemetery

Friday, September 6
(make up for Monday classes)

Session 4

Simple past tense; World population

Monday, September 9
### Session 5
**Wednesday, September 11**
Simple past vs. present perfect tense; Specialization

### Session 6
**Monday, September 16**
General subjunctive; Václav Havel

### Session 7
**Wednesday, September 18**
Expressing wishes; *als ob, als wenn*; Egon Erwin Kisch

### Session 8
**Monday, September 23**
Uses of *es*; The average German

### Session 9
**Wednesday, September 25**
Prepositional phrases; Languages in the European Union

### Session 10
**Monday, September 30**
Wo-compounds; Walter Serner

### Session 11
**Wednesday, October 2**
Prepositional *da*-compounds; The multicultural society

### Session 12
**Monday, October 7**
Expressing opinions; Writing a job application
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Wednesday, October 9</td>
<td>Equivalents for English to; The varieties of cultures</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Monday, October 14</td>
<td>Genitive prepositions; Rainer Maria Rilke</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Wednesday, October 16</td>
<td>Midterm test</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Monday, October 21</td>
<td>Adjective nouns; Environmental protection in Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Wednesday, October 23</td>
<td>Neuter adjective nouns; Making a phone call</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Monday, October 28</td>
<td>Holiday</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Wednesday, October 30</td>
<td>Animal idioms; Nature, zoos, pets</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Friday, November 1 (make up for Mon/Oct. 28)</td>
<td>Conjunctions; Franz Kafka (biography)</td>
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Session 21  Passive with modal verbs; *Erinnerungen an F.K.* (Rudolf Fuchs)

Monday, November 4

Session 22  Substitutes for the passive voice; *Ein Besuch im Bergwerk* (Franz Kafka)

Wednesday, November 6

Fall Break  November 11 - 15

Session 23  Expressing probability; Student life in Germany

Monday, November 18

Session 24  Types of comparisons (*wie, als*); Demographic trends in Germany

Wednesday, November 20

Session 25  Adjectives with endings; Body language

Monday, November 25

Session 26  Abbreviations; Use of the coma; In the office

Wednesday, November 27

Session 27  Use of modal verbs; Paul Kornfeld

Monday, December 2

Session 28  Phrases with numbers; Gender differences; Review

Wednesday, December 4
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Session 29</th>
<th>Final exam</th>
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**Monday, December 9**

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<tr>
<th>Classroom Etiquette</th>
<th>Mobile phones should be set on silent and should not be used in class except for emergencies. Laptops are only be used with the express permission of the professor. Toilet breaks should be taken before or after class.</th>
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<tr>
<th>Required Co-curricular Activities</th>
<th>none</th>
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| Suggested Co-curricular Activities | Make trips to Germany. Read short stories by Kafka. |