Class code
GERM-UA 9001

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

Class Details
Elementary German I
Mon/Wed 12:00 – 1:20 a.m.
Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites
none

Class Description
In Elementary German I students will learn the basics of the language. The course is focused on conversational skills; by learning a simplified structure of German grammar in a clear and concise format, students will be encouraged to use the new language as often as possible. The first steps into the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing) will be accompanied by an introduction to contemporary life and culture in German-speaking countries. The textbook “Deutsch heute” in conjunction with assorted supplemental materials offer a balanced approach to developing language competencies. At the end of the course students should be able to handle some essential structures of the (real-life functional) language and achieve a rough idea about the way how the German language works.

Desired Outcomes
Upon completion of the course, students will be able to
- make use of a basic vocabulary to satisfy needs of various everyday situation
- talk about some everyday topics
- relate personal experiences that happened in the recent past
- create short texts that are parts of modern communication
- react and interact by applying simplified language tools

Assessment Components
- Participation, preparation, homework: 20%
- Vocabulary quizzes: 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

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<tr>
<th>Grade Conversion</th>
<th>Numerical Equivalents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>below 65</td>
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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 Sience, 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 recieves 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

According to the Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook, plagiarism is defined as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else’s work as though it were one’s own. More specifically plagiarism is to present as one’s own a sequence of words quoted without quotation marks from another writer, a paraphrased passage from another writer’s work; facts or ideas gathered, organized and reported by someone else, orally and/or in writing. Since plagiarism is a matter of fact, not of the student’s intention, it is crucial that acknowledgment of the sources be accurate and complete. Even where there is no conscious intention to deceive, the failure to make appropriate acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism.

The College of Arts and Science’s Academic Handbook defines plagiarism similarly and also specifies the following:

“Presenting an oral report drawn without attribution from other sources (oral or written), writing a paragraph which, despite being in different words, expresses someone else’s idea without a reference to the source of the idea, or submitting essentially the same paper in two different courses (unless both teachers have given their permission in advance).

Receiving help on a take-home examination or quiz is also cheating – and so is giving that help – unless expressly permitted by the teacher (as in collaborative projects). While all this looks like a lot to remember, all you need to do is give credit where it is due, take credit only for original ideas, and ask your teacher or advisor when in doubt.”

“Penalties for plagiarism range from failure for a paper, failure for the course or dismissal from the university.” (Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook)

Required Text(s)


Internet Research Guidelines

To be discussed in class.

Additional Required Equipment

A good dictionary.

Session 1

Overview of course; Getting acquainted

Monday, February 11

Session 2

Introduction: Numbers, nouns, gender, colors
Wednesday, February 13

**Session 3** Fieldtrip: The New Jewish Cemetery

Friday, February 15 (make up for Monday classes)

**Session 4** Chap.1: The present tense; In the restaurant

Monday, February 18

**Session 5** Chap.1: The words *gern* and *nicht*; Telling time

Wednesday, February 20

**Session 6** Chap.1: The alphabet; Interrogative pronouns; Types of questions

Monday, February 25

**Session 7** Chap.2: The verbs *haben* and *sein*; Word order

Wednesday, February 27

**Session 8** Chap.2: Negation with *nicht* and *kein*; The nominative case; The weather

Friday, March 1

**Session 9** Chap.2: Possessive adjectives; Vocabulary quiz I (Chap.1+2)

Monday,
March 4

**Session 10**  
Chap.3: Imperatives; Plural forms; In the shop

Wednesday,  
March 6

**Session 11**  
Chap.3: The accusative case; Flavoring particles

Monday,  
March 11

**Session 12**  
Chap.3: Accusative of pronouns; The euro

Wednesday,  
March 13

**Session 13**  
Chap.3: Demonstrative pronouns; Accusative prepositions

Friday,  
March 15

**Session 14**  
Chap.4: Verbs with stem-vowel shifts; The verbs *werden, wissen, kennen*

Monday,  
March 18

**Session 15**  
Midterm test (Chap.1-3)

Wednesday,  
March 20

**Session 16**  
Chap.4: Modal auxiliaries; The educational system in Germany

Monday,  
March 25

**Session 17**  
Chap.4: The verbs *mögen* and *möchten*; Family and relatives

Wednesday,
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1 - 5</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Session 18</td>
<td>Chap. 4: Separable-prefix verbs; Professions</td>
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<td>April 10</td>
<td>Session 19</td>
<td>Chap. 5: The verbs <em>gefallen, fahren, gehen</em>; Austria</td>
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<td>April 15</td>
<td>Session 20</td>
<td>Chap. 5: Conjunctions; Clothing</td>
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<td>April 17</td>
<td>Session 21</td>
<td>Chap. 5: The dative case; Vocabulary quiz II (Chap. 3+4)</td>
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<td>April 22</td>
<td>Session 22</td>
<td>Chap. 5: The dative case; Public transportation</td>
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<td>April 24</td>
<td>Session 23</td>
<td>Chap. 5: Dative verbs; Dative prepositions; Giving directions</td>
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<td>April 29</td>
<td>Session 24</td>
<td>Chap. 6: The present perfect tense; Free time</td>
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<td>Session 25</td>
<td>Chap.6: Past participles; Computer and television</td>
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<td>Monday, May 6</td>
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<tr>
<th>Session 26</th>
<th>Chap.6: Infinitives used as nouns; Holidays and vacation</th>
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<td>Monday, May 13</td>
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<tr>
<th>Session 27</th>
<th>Adjective endings; Review</th>
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<td>Wednesday, May 15</td>
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<tr>
<th>Session 28</th>
<th>Final exam</th>
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<td>Monday, May 20</td>
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**Classroom Etiquette**

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.

**Required Co-curricular Activities**

none

**Suggested Co-curricular Activities**

Make trips to Berlin and to Vienna.