**Class code**  
GERM-UA 9004

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

**Class Details**  
Intermediate German I  
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Equivalent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>65-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 65</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Session 1
Overview of course; Prepositions of time

Monday, February 11

Session 2
Numerals and measurement; Small talk
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 3</th>
<th>Fieldtrip</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 4</td>
<td>Simple past tense; World population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 5</td>
<td>Simple past vs. present perfect tense; Specialization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 6</td>
<td>General subjunctive; Václav Havel</td>
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<td>Session 7</td>
<td>Expressing wishes; <em>als ob, als wenn</em>; Egon Erwin Kisch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 8</td>
<td>Uses of <em>es</em>; The average German</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 9</td>
<td>Prepositional phrases; Languages in the European Union</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Monday, February 18

Session 5

Wednesday, February 20

Session 6

Monday, February 25

Session 7

Wednesday, February 27

Session 8

Friday, March 1

Session 9
March 4

Session 10  Wo-compounds; Walter Serner

Wednesday, March 6

Session 11  Prepositional da-compounds; The multicultural society

Monday, March 11

Session 12  Expressing opinions; Writing a job application

Wednesday, March 13

Session 13  Equivalents for English to; The varieties of cultures

Friday, March 15

Session 14  Genitive prepositions; Rainer Maria Rilke

Monday, March 18

Session 15  Midterm test

Wednesday, March 20

Session 16  Adjective nouns; Environmental protection in Germany

Monday, March 25

Session 17  Neuter adjective nouns; Making a phone call

Wednesday,
March 27

**Spring Break**
April 1 - 5

**Session 18**
Animal idioms; Nature, zoos, pets
Monday, April 8

**Session 19**
Conjunctions; Franz Kafka (biography)
Wednesday, April 10

**Session 20**
Passive with modal verbs; *Erinnerungen an F.K.* (Rudolf Fuchs)
Monday, April 15

**Session 21**
Substitutes for the passive voice; *Ein Besuch im Bergwerk* (Franz Kafka)
Wednesday, April 17

**Session 22**
Expressing probability; Student life in Germany
Monday, April 22

**Session 23**
Types of comparisons (*wie, als*); Demographic trends in Germany
Wednesday, April 24

**Session 24**
Adjectives with endings; Body language
Monday, April 29
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Monday, May 6</td>
<td>Abbreviations; Use of the coma; In the office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Monday, May 13</td>
<td>Use of modal verbs; Paul Kornfeld</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Wednesday, May 15</td>
<td>Phrases with numbers; Gender differences; Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Monday, May 20</td>
<td>Final exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 Germany. Read short stories by Kafka.