Instructor Details

Josef Ager
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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

Elementary German II at NYU; or transfer credit for two semesters or equivalent of introductory German at another university.

Class Description

Intermediate German I is intended to develop communication, writing, and argumentation skills beyond the basic level. Students learn more advanced features of the language and read longer and more-complex texts. Grammar of the basic level is reviewed and practiced as appropriate. The course focuses on building reading and writing skills while continuing to improve conversational abilities. Students will grow more confident and more proficient while discussing and presenting various general topics of modern life. On the basis of assorted passages and articles from various books, magazines, and newspapers, students train to comprehend and to speak about present-day problems and issues of German-speaking countries. Film clips, literary excerpts, and fieldtrips enhance the cultural dimension of this course.

Desired Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to
- make use of an enriched vocabulary to satisfy needs of complex everyday situation
- discuss and analyze some general topics
- relate events that happened or could have happened in the past
- create texts and reports that are parts of modern business life
- react and interact in a sophisticated way

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

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

Monday, February 11
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Wednesday, February 13</td>
<td>Review: The present perfect tense; The human body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Friday, February 15</td>
<td>Fieldtrip</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(make up for Monday classes)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Monday, February 18</td>
<td>The passive voice; <em>als/wenn/wann</em>; Hobbies</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Wednesday, February 20</td>
<td>The passive with modal verbs; Ecology; Idioms with <em>machen</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Monday, February 25</td>
<td>Acc./Dat./Gen. Prepositions (Review); Giving directions; Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Wednesday, February 27</td>
<td>Two-way prepositions; Food, nutrition, obesity</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Friday, March 1</td>
<td>Reflexive verbs (Acc. + Dat.); History and problems of the European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Infinitives with/without <em>zu</em>; The German way of life</td>
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Monday, March 4

**Session 10**  Der-words, ein-words; Being a student in Germany

Wednesday, March 6

**Session 11**  The verbs scheinen/brauchen; Smoking law status in some European countries

Monday, March 11

**Session 12**  Prepositions as verbal compliments; The Turkish minority in Germany

Wednesday, March 13

**Session 13**  Da-compounds, wo-compounds; Work-life balance and profession

Friday, March 15

**Session 14**  The preposition bei; Characteristics; Wanting x to do y

Monday, March 18

**Session 15**  Midterm test

Wednesday, March 20

**Session 16**  The conditional subjunctive (present tense); Writing a CV

Monday, March 25

**Session 17**  The conditional subjunctive (past tense); German politics since 1949

Wednesday,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td></td>
<td>April 1 - 5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Adjectives with prepositional compliments; Berlin and Berlins</td>
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<td><strong>19</strong></td>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>Relative pronouns; Franz Kafka and Prague</td>
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<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>The past perfect tense; The verb lassen; Clichés, stereotypes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>The verb schaffen; Priorities and happiness</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>Weak noun declensions; Talking about the weather, small talk topics</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>23</strong></td>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Coordinating conjunctions, two part conjunctions; Living in the country</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>Subordinating conjunctions; ob vs. wenn; Living in the city</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>25</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Noun genders; Adverbs of time; Internet and addiction</td>
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Monday, May 6

**Session 26**  
The special subjunctive; Metric units; Pros and cons of the metric system

Monday, May 13

**Session 27**  
Flavoring particles; Environmental protection and pollution; Review

Wednesday, May 15

**Session 28**  
Final exam

Monday, May 20

### 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.