Course Title

German Language, Elementary I

Course Number
GERM-UA 9001001

Summer 2016

Syllabus last updated on: 06-June-2016

Instructor Contact Information
Miriam Fuehrer
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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Details
Summer 2016
MTWR 10am – 12:30pm
Fri., July 8th, 10am – 12:30pm
Fri., August 5th, 10am – 12:30pm
NYU Berlin in der Kulturbrauerei
Room: Prenzlauer Berg

Units earned
4

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 yourself and family; personal possessions; clothing; furniture; shopping; weather; food and restaurants; hotels; entertainment; hobbies and sports; and 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**
- Active participation in class: 200 points
- Homework: Workbook & Portfolio: 250 points
- Chapter Tests (2 x 100): 200 points
- Oral Presentation: 100 points
- Final Examination: 250 points

Failure to submit or fulfill any required component may result in failure of the class, regardless of grades achieved in other assignments.

**Grade Conversion**
NYU Berlin uses the following scale 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**

**Participation & Language Use**
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 prepare adequately for each session (reading background information in the Glossary about cultural topics, pronunciation and grammar), so that you can actively participate in class.
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 summer, you will receive a lot of additional handouts, texts, and exercises. Please purchase an organizer/folder/binder for keeping your materials and printouts organized in sequence. If you intend on continuing with German, please hold on to all materials.

Tests
There will be two tests throughout the semester. Although all tests will be cumulative, they will focus on the most recently covered material.

Attendance Policy
Participation in all classes is essential for your academic success. 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 the summer program director Tom Ertman (te11@nyu.edu).

Unexcused absences affect students' grades: Missing one week's worth of classes (consecutive or non-consecutive) without an excuse 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. Furthermore, your Professor 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 and submit it to the Program Director Tom Ertman; 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 the Program Director Professor Tom Ertman 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 Program 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. See also http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-calendar-policy-on-religious-holidays.html

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 Program Director, 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) Work submitted late receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100 point scale for each day it is late, unless an extension has been approved (with a doctor's note or by approval of the Program Director), in which case the 2 points per day deductions start counting from the day the extended deadline has passed.

(4) Without an approved extension, written work submitted more than 5 weekdays following the submission 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 *Uslar and Rai* bookshop in Schönhauser Allee 43, 10435 Berlin near NYUB, where the books are pre-ordered for students.

### Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)
- Grammar Reader (provided by your instructor; required)

You will also need a conventional German-English dictionary (required)

Your professor will provide supplemental materials.

### Online Resources and Exercises
- See *Cornelsen.de* (cornelsen.de/studio_21/1.c.3237787.de) for additional online exercises accompanying your course book
- For online German–English dictionaries use: *de.pons.com* or *dict.leo.org* (both include pronunciation and the past tense forms of verbs)
- For flash cards use *ankisrs.com* (How to best make use of this tool will be discussed in class)
- *Genusly* is a useful gender-marking tool: *genusly.com* (marks German nouns in different colors according to their gender)
- For cultural studies on Germany: *young-germany.de*
- A good workshop on German phonetics: *simsalabim.reinke-eb.de*
- *University of Iowa* provides an excellent technical overview of German sounds and where and how they are produced anatomically at *uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics*
- See *Deutsche Welle* (*dw.de*) for lots of interesting articles as well as free German online courses for independent study
Additional Required Equipment
– For online German–English dictionaries use: de.pons.com or dict.leo.org (both include pronunciation and the past tense forms of verbs)
– Genusly is a useful gender-marking tool: genusly.com (marks German nouns in different colors according to their gender)
– University of Iowa provides an excellent technical overview of German sounds and where and how they are produced anatomically at uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics
– See Deutsche Welle (dw.de) for lots of interesting articles as well as free
– German online courses for independent study

Semesterplan
(subject to change)

Woche 1 [7 Jul – 8 Jul]
Studio 21 A1, Chapter 1 & 3

Content/Communication Goals
Meeting and greeting; introducing yourself and others; excusing yourself, asking/answering questions about origins and home countries; spelling your name; asking/answering questions about yourself, languages you speak; giving/asking for phone numbers; asking about locations of cities/sights in Europe/Germany and Berlin; ordering beverages at a café

Grammar Topics
Personal pronouns (nominative); present tense conjugation of regular verbs (heißen, kommen, wohnen/leben, trinken, studieren, lernen, liegen, stehen); auxiliary sein; prepositions in and aus + dative articles; w-question words (wo, was, woher, wer, welche, wie); indefinite articles in accusative (einen, ein, eine…); word order in basic sentences and w-questions; prepositions in and aus + dative definite articles (dem, der, den); the infinite pronoun man; the local adverbs hier, da; irregular verbs (sprechen); auxiliary sein; definite articles (nominative); forms möchten and hätten + gem

Other
Get acquainted with your instructor and fellow classmates, the syllabus as well as teaching materials and classroom policies; recognize English–German cognates; learn about greeting and addressing conventions (formal vs. informal); learn the alphabet; learn names of countries, regions; learn the numbers (1–1000); learn about the make-up of German phone numbers; geographic orientation in Berlin, Germany and Europe; learn names of regions, states and languages; managing miscommunication 1.0; pronunciation practice: soft vs. hard [ch] sounds, German vowels and diphthongs and the consonant ß; vocabulary: countries, beverages, countries, regions and languages, cardinal directions

Optional Office Hour
**Woche 2 [11 Jul – 14 Jul]**

**Studio 21 A1, Chapter 2, 3 & Suppl. Material**

**Content/Communication Goals**
Asking/answering questions about your major, age; talking about places (continents, countries, cities) you have been to/sights you have seen; speaking about food (dis)likes; ordering food and beverages at an *Imbiss*; ordering at traditional German restaurants; communicating in the classroom (asking for information/clarifications/spellings of words, asking for names of objects, naming objects in the classroom); talking about food and planning a grocery shopping trip with a friend; expressing likes and dislikes regarding food; talking about hobbies and other things you like to do in your free time

**Grammar Topics**
Definite articles (nominative); word order in basic sentences, w-questions and yes/no-questions; present and preterite (past) tense conjugation of auxiliary *sein*; present tense conjugation of auxiliary *haben*; indefinite articles in accusative (*einen, ein, eine*...); irregular verbs (*sprechen, nehmen, essen, geben, helfen* (*e*→*i*)); the modal verb *mögen* and the form *möchten*; indefinite and negative articles (nominative and accusative); plural forms of nouns (Ns); conjugation of regular verbs (*brauchen, kaufen, machen*); existential construction *Es gibt… / In Berlin gibt es…*

**Other**
Geographic orientation in Berlin, Germany and Europe; learn about the German-speaking countries (D-A-CH); learn about traditional German food; pronunciation practice: pronounce names of traditional German dishes; learn about the German city of Hamburg; learn to work with dictionaries (gender, plural of Ns); acquire strategies for gender learning; Flash Cards-Boot Camp 1.0; pronunciation practice: umlauts *ä, ö, ü*; vocabulary: things in the classroom; food, staples; Berlin’s sights, food

**Requirement**
Test 1 – 14 July

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**Woche 3 [18 Jul – 21 Jul]**

**Studio 21 A1, Chapter 10, 5 + Suppl. Material (Family)**

**Content/Communication Goals**
Shopping for produce/groceries at the market/store (asking about the location of groceries at a store, inquiring about prices, paying for your purchase); expressing likes and dislikes regarding food; talking about your family and friends; describing pictures of friends and family; telling/giving/asking for time; talking about your daily routines with friends; talking about your hobbies with others; arranging meetings with friends; making appointments; excusing delays

**Grammar Topics**
Indefinite and negative articles (nominative and accusative); plural forms of Ns; present tense conjugation of auxiliary *haben*; regular verbs (*suchen, finden, arbeiten, baden, frühstücken*); irregular verb (*essen, sehen, lesen, schlafen, fahren*); sentence structure of yes/no questions; possessive articles in nominative case (*mein, dein, sein*)
separable prefix verbs and the “verbal bracket” (aufstehen, frühstück, ausgehen); w-questions with wann; temporal prepositions (am, um, von… bis, zwischen… und…); sentence structure: inversion (of subject); past tense of haben (review of sein); negation with nicht

Other
Learn about pricing and tipping conventions, haggling; packaging units in Germany; basic directional adverbs rechts/links, da/dort; politeness; manage miscommunication; pronunciation practice: words ending in -e and -en/-el/er; learn names of weekdays/times of days

Woche 4 [25 Jul – 28 Jul]
Studio 21 A1, Chapters 5 + 6 + Suppl. Material (Freizeit + In der Stadt)

Content/Communication Goals
Talking about your free time and hobbies; talking about your daily routines with friends; talking about your hobbies with others; arranging meetings with friends; making appointments; excusing delays; finding/asking your way around places in the city; asking for/giving directions inside of places (at the AC, at Humboldt University, at the library); finding your way around places in the city; describing your room/apartment at the dorm; explaining how you get to work/university (using public transportation); answering Wo-questions

Grammar Topics
Present tense conjugation of regular (arbeiten, baden, frühstücken, hören, spielen, tanzen) and irregular verbs (schlafen, lesen, fahren); review of haben und sein; preterite (past) tense of haben (review of sein); negation with nicht; the adverb gern; w-questions with wo and wohin; preposition in + dative vs. accusative; sentence structure: inversion (of subject); complex sentence structure: sub-clauses with the conjunction denn; review of separable prefix verbs; local prepositions (in, an, auf… zwischen) and position verbs (liegen, stehen, hängen); preposition mit + dative; stationary prepositions in bei + dative; modal verb können; possessive articles (accusative)

Other
Jot down/understand German addresses; learn how to post domestic and international mail; color adjectives; learn ordinal numbers; pronunciation practice: [f] vs. [v] and [ei] vs. [ie]

Requirement
Test 2 – 28 July
Woche 5 [1 Aug – 5 Aug]
**Studio 21 A1, Chapters 8 + 9 & Suppl. Material**

**Content/Communication Goals**
Talking about holidays in Germany; expressing abilities and possibilities (*können*), desires (*wollen*) and obligations (*müssen*); making small talk about the weather; asking for/giving directions to places in the city; talking about activities in the city; making plans to go see things in the city/Europe; asking for/giving directions; talking about travel plans; telling people about your vacation

**Grammar Topics**
Modal verbs (*können, müssen, wollen*) and the “verbal bracket”; possessive articles (accusative); conjugation of the verbs *gehen, ab|biegen*; directional prepositions *zu|hach* + dative (and *in* + accusative); review: present tense with future reference; for directions: temporal adverbs (*zuerst, dann, danach*); perfect tense with *haben* and *sein* of regular and irregular verbs; stationary prepositions *in|bei* + dative; local prepositions *durch, über* (+ accusative), *an… vorbei|entlang* (+ dative)

**Other**
Review ordinal numbers; learn holiday customs in Germany; manage miscommunication 2.0; write and send postcards in German; pronunciation practice: *[ng]* vs. *[nk]* and *[r]* and *[l]* sounds

**Requirement**
Excursion

Woche 6 [8 Aug – 11 Aug]
**Studio 21 A1, Chapter 9 + 10 + (12)**

**Content/Communication Goals**
Talking about your travels and holiday traditions; grocery shopping revisited: buying bread at the bakery; talking about food in Berlin; comparing eating habits cross-culturally; placing more complex orders at a restaurant; talking about your travels; talking about health and the body; describing pain to a doctor; giving advice/health tips; making appointments; expressing rules; talking about love; expressing emotions

**Grammar Topics**
Prefect tense with *haben* and *sein* of regular and irregular verbs; interrogative *welche/r/n/s*; comparative forms of adjectives (irregulars *viel, gut, gern*); comparison with *als* and *(genau) so… wie*; the modal verbs *dürfen* und *sollen*; declination of prenominal adjectives (accusative); personal pronouns (accusative)

**Other**
Learn about German bread and its tradition; pronunciation practice: the umlauts [ä/ö/ü] revisited; long and short vowels; intonation of imperatives
Woche 7 [15 Aug]

Final Examination: 10am – 12:30pm

Required Co-Curricular Activities
Exkursion „Auf dem Markt“: Wir gehen zusammen auf den türkischen Markt am Maybachufer und lernen viele neue Wörter und kaufen leckere Sachen ein. (Together, we'll go to the Turkish Market on Maybachufer to learn lots of new words and purchase a few delicious delights.)

Your Instructor
Professor Fuehrer is originally from the Cologne area, where she studied Language and Communication Sciences at the University of Siegen. Her keen interest in language has brought her to Berlin, where she obtained a Masters degree in Linguistics with a specialization in Language and Cognition at Humboldt University (HU). Her research interests lie in language acquisition processes, especially inductive learning in first and second language acquisition as well as grammar theory. Interested in bringing research and practice together, professor Fuehrer took up additional graduate studies in Teaching German as a Foreign Language and is now about to collect her second M.A. degree from Humboldt. Miriam has worked for the University of Siegen, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Marmara University in Istanbul, Turkey. Back in Berlin, she became a member of the NYU team in early 2013. She also works as a freelance translator and a tutor for immigrants when she finds the time. She lives in Berlin-Neukölln.