Course Title

German Language, Intermediate I

Course Number
GERM-UA 9003001

Summer 2016

Syllabus last updated on: 06-June-2016

Instructor Contact Information
Jessica Menz
jessica.menz@nyu.edu
Mobile: 0163 9079255
Office Hours: by appointment

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

Prerequisites
You have taken GERM-UA9002001 Elementary German II at NYU and received a passing grade; or you have taken two semesters or equivalent of introductory German at another university and have been awarded transfer credit for the course; or you have been referred to this course after a placement test or interview with the Language Coordinator.

Units earned
4

Course Description
Intermediate German I is the first part of a two-semester intermediate sequence. You will continue to study grammar, vocabulary and other aspects of language. You will also learn about the cultural and historical context of the German language. The class is primarily taught in German and emphasizes the language skills necessary to communicate effectively in a foreign language – speaking, reading, viewing, writing, and listening. During the course you will engage in a great variety of up-to date subject matter on city life in Berlin, family life, food, visual arts, music, literature, politics and history. This course intends to create a balance between working with intellectually
stimulating subjects and practicing the skills needed to communicate in a foreign language. To learn another language requires a great deal of commitment, diligence, discipline, and effort on the part of the student. In order to succeed in our classroom, please be prepared to spend up to one and a half to two hours of self-study per classroom hour.

Course Objective
This course covers the third 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 the advanced study of German in the US, or to use German for travel, leisure, and work.

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 must 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 and 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](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](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](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)**
Your professor will provide materials based on:
  ISBN 978-1-938-026-00-3
  ISBN 978-3-192015755

**Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)**
Your professor will provide supplemental materials.

**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)

**Semesterplan**
*(subject to change)*

**Woche 1 [7 Jul – 8 Jul]**

*Supplementary Material: Welcome to Berlin!*

**Content / Communication Goals**
- Course Introduction and classroom policies
- Learn about the different districts in Berlin, sights and the most interesting places of the city
- Understand an article from a travel magazine
Grammar Topics
- Präteritum (imperfect tense)

Requirement
Make-Up Day: Friday, 8 July

Woche 2 [11 Jul – 14 Jul]
Neue Blickwinkel: Kapitel 1, Schule und Bildungswege

Content / Communication Goals
- Learn about the educational system in Germany
- Compare forms of higher education and student life

Grammar Topics
- Perfect tense; Plusquamperfekt (pluperfect); review: separable and inseparable verbs
- Infinitives with zu
- Final clauses with damit and um...zu

Requirement
14 July: Test 1

Woche 3 [18 Jul – 21 Jul]
Neue Blickwinkel: Kapitel 2, Familie und Freunde: Lebensformen

Content / Communication Goals
- Family constellations
- Lifestyles: Traditions and alternatives

Grammar Topics
- Reflexive Verbs
- Verbs with Prepositions
- Da-/Wo-compounds

Woche 4 [25 Jul – 28 Jul]
Neue Blickwinkel: Kapitel 5, Von Emotionen und Politik: Musik

Content / Communication Goals
- Musical diversity in the German-speaking countries
- Express wishes and hopes

Grammar Topics
- Subjunctive in the present tense (Konjunktiv II)
- Comparisons with als ob and als wenn
Requirement
28 July: Test 2

Woche 5 [1 Aug – 5 Aug]
Neue Blickwinkel: Kapitel 3, Man ist, was man isst

Content / Communication Goals
- Eating habits
- Regional specialties
- New German cuisine – internationalization and sustainability

Grammar Topics
- Declension of adjectives
- Relative clauses in Nominative

Requirement
Make-Up Day: Friday, 5 August, Excursion: Jessica will accompany you to two of Berlin’s most vibrant markets in Kreuzberg, the farmer’s market on Maybach Ufer and the deli market in Markthalle IX. These markets reflect very much the diversity of the district of Kreuzberg and represent its local communities. Students will learn about food culture in Germany and current trends. By communicating with vendors students will apply what they have learned in class. This excursion will also provide an opportunity to explore urban street art in neighborhood, a topic to be discussed in depth in the following week.

Woche 6 [8 Aug – 11 Aug]
Neue Blickwinkel: Kapitel 4, Kunst und politisches Engagement

Content / Communication Goals
- Art and society
- Graffiti: Art as activism

Grammar Topics
- Comparisons
- Participles as adjectives

Requirement
Oral Presentation

Woche 7 [15 Aug]
Final Examination: 10am – 12:30pm
Your Instructor
Jessica Menz grew up in the vicinity of Freiburg, in southern Germany. She studied English and Intercultural German Studies in Bayreuth, renown for the annual Richard Wagner opera festival, and graduated from Humboldt University, Berlin, after completing a master’s program in Teaching German as a Foreign Language in 2010. Over the past ten years, she has spent several semesters abroad and worked for the Universidad de Valladolid, Spain; the Pedagogical University Alexander Herzen in St. Petersburg, Russia; the Goethe Institut, Glasgow, Scotland; and the Freie Universität, Berlin. She is also affiliated with the distance-learning department of the Goethe Institut headquarters in Munich, Germany. Jessica’s special interests and research projects include computer assisted language learning, intercultural communication and phonetics.