Course Title

German Language, Elementary I

Course Number
GERM-UA9001-002

Summer 2017

Instructor Contact Information
Ondrej Kotas
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Mobile: 0176 76 55 81 82
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Details
Summer 2017
MTWR 10am – 12.30pm
NYU Berlin in der Kulturbrauerei

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 learning German. It focuses on the development of communicative competence in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The textbook “Begegnungen A1+” in conjunction with current, culture-rich supplemental materials offer 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 oneself and family, personal possessions, clothing, furniture, shopping, weather, food and leisure, 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, 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) should help you develop a level of proficiency in German that will enable you to study abroad in German-speaking countries, pursue advanced
study of German in the US, or 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.

NYU Berlin uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

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

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 for the most part conducted in German. You are expected to prepare adequately for each session, 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 use an organizer/folder/binder where you keep your materials and printouts organized in sequence. If you intend on continuing with German, please hold on to all materials.

Tests
There will be 2 tests throughout the course. Each test will be cumulative, though with a focus on the most-recently covered material. Bring your course book to class on test days so that your instructor can check that you have completed all of the assignments.
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 NYUB's Academic Office 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 Director or Assistant 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, 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) Unless an extension has been approved, work submitted late receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100 point scale for each day it is late.

(4) Without an approved extension, written work submitted more than 5 weekdays following the session date fails and is given a zero.

(5) **Please note:** end of summer 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.

**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: [http://nyu.libguides.com/content.php?pid=27555&sid=200118](http://nyu.libguides.com/content.php?pid=27555&sid=200118)).

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. All assignments in this course will be checked for plagiarism using Turnitin.

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.

**Required Text(s)**


**Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)**

Your professor will provide supplemental materials.

**Online excercises** accompanying the course book can be found at [www.aufgaben.schubert-verlag.de](http://www.aufgaben.schubert-verlag.de)

- For online German–English dictionaries use: [de.pons.com](http://de.pons.com) or [dict.leo.org](http://dict.leo.org) (both include pronunciation and the past tense forms of verbs)
- *Genusly* is a useful gender-marking tool: [genusly.com](http://genusly.com) (marks German nouns in different colors according to their gender)
- A good workshop on German phonetics: [simsalabim.reinke-eb.de](http://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](http://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 [20.6. – 22.6.]
Begegnungen A1+, Kapitel 1

Content/ Communication Goals
Students get to know each other, class room policies; Introduce yourself, family and friends; the alphabet; numbers;

Grammar Topics
Verbs in present tense (sein, haben, arbeiten, heißen, denken, glauben, kommen, lernen, lesen, schreiben, singen, spielen, sprechen, studieren, wohnen), subject pronouns (ich, du, er/sie/es ...), word order in statements and questions, definite articles (der, das, die) & possessive articles (mein/e, dein/e, sein/e ...)

Woche 2 [26.6. – 29.6.]
Begegnungen A1+, Kapitel 1 & 2

Content/ Communication Goals
Name objects; describe your class room, talk about your week, your free time and hobbies;

Grammar Topics
The noun group in Nominative case: definite and indefinite article (ein, eine); Possessive articles; subject pronouns; Verbs in the present tense (bekommen, besuchen, bezahlen, fahren, finden, fotografieren, gehen, kochen, kosten, machen, rauchen, reisen, stehen, tanzen, telefonieren, trinken, wandern); The modal verb können; Negation: nicht & kein/e; Local prepositions: aus, in, bei, nach;

Requirement
Test 1: 29.06.2017

Woche 3 [3.7. – 6.7.]
Begegnungen A1+, Kapitel 3

Content/ Communication Goals
Learn how how make a hotel reservation; Orientation in the city; Learn about the city of München; Berlin sights; Telling the time;
Grammar Topics
The noun group in Accusative case; Transitive verbs: möchten, brauchen, haben, finden, nehmen, bezahlen, geben, sehen; Local prepositions, temporal prepositions (um, am, von… bis …);

Woche 4 [10.7. – 13.7.]
Begegnungen A1+, Kapitel 4 & 5

Content/ Communication Goals
Talk about the past; Talk about food and drink; ordering & paying; express likes and dislikes; describe daily routines; learn how to make appointments

Grammar Topics
Perfect Tense (Perfekt); The noun group in Accusative case; Plural of nouns; The modal verbs mögen & müssen; preterit tense (Präteritum) of sein and haben; Separable and un-separable verbs; Ordinal numbers: the date

Make-up day & field trip: 14.07.2017
Field trip: your instructor will take you on a city walk. We will visit a local market where you will talk to local vendors and purchase different kinds of foods for a picnic at a beautiful location nearby.

Requirement
Test 2: 14.07.2017

Woche 5 [17.7. – 20.7.]
Begegnungen A1+, Kapitel 5 & 6

Content/ Communication Goals
Talk about emotions & feelings (Liebe); Talk about travel and transportation

Grammar Topics
Object pronouns in Accusative case (mich, dich, sie/ihn/es…); ADUSO – connectors; the modal verb wollen; Local prepositions: directions;

Woche 6 [24.7. – 27.7.]
Begegnungen A1+, Kapitel 6 & 7

Content/ Communication Goals
Learn to describe places; talk about your apartment; giving permission & obligation; Catch-up and review
Grammar Topics
Two-way prepositions with Dative; the modal verb *(nicht)* dürfen vs. *nicht müssen*;
Comparison of (irregular) adjectives: *gut, viel, gern*

Requirements
Oral presentation
Final Examination: July 27, 10am – 12.30pm

Your Instructor
Ondrej Kotas earned his M.A. in German Language and Literature and in a Teaching German as a foreign language at the Catholic University Eichstätt. Between 1998 and 2008, he taught German at the Goethe-Institut in Prague, Czech Republic. In 2009 he moved to Berlin where he has been teaching German at several institutions such as International Fellows Program at the Institute for Advanced Study (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin) or at IES Abroad Berlin and he has been working as a course leader in the International German courses for young adults and teens (Goethe-Institut). Since 2008 he also works for the publishing house Ernst Klett Sprachen as an author and editor and for the publishing house PONS as an online editor.