Course Title

German Language, Intermediate II

Course Number
GERM-UA 9004D01

Summer 2018

Syllabus last updated on: 25-May-2018

Instructor Contact Information
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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Details
Summer 2018
MTWR 10am – 12.30am
NYU Berlin in der Kulturbrauerei

Units earned
4

Course Description
Intermediate German II is the second part of a two-semester-long 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 taught entirely in German and emphasizes the language skills necessary to communicate effectively in a foreign language – speaking, listening, viewing, reading and writing. During the course, you will engage with a large variety of up-to-date subject matters. This course aims 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 independent study per classroom hour.

Course Objective
This course covers the fourth 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. 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:

- 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 for the most part 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 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 semester. Each test will be cumulative, though with a 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 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).

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)


One copy of each book is kept in the Reading Room of NYU Berlin's Academic Center, for you to read in the center but not to take out.
Films
- Christian Petzold: Barbara (2012)
- Yasemin Şamdereli: Almanya, Wilkommen in Deutschland (2011)

NYU Berlin Library Catalogue: http://guides.nyu.edu/global/berlin or follow the link on NYU Berlin's website (Academics/Facilities & Services).

Additional helpful Ressources
- A good German–English online dictionary: www.pons.de. Alternatively: dict.leo.org or http://www.dict.cc (all provide pronunciation and the past tense forms of verbs).
- For flash cards you could use www.anki.com
- Genusly is a useful (and fun to use) tool that marks the grammatical gender of German nouns: www.genusly.com
- A good workshop on German phonetics: simsalabim.reinke-eb.de
- The University of Iowa provides an excellent technical overview of German sounds and how they are produced anatomically: http://soundsofspeech.uiowa.edu/index.html#english
- Train your listening comprehension with the Thursday news from Deutsche Welle http://www.dw.com/de/04012018-langsam-gesprochene-nachrichten/av-42024018
- Good resources for German political, historical, and cultural topics are Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung (http://www.bpb.de), Deutschland. How Germany ticks, by the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin (https://www.deutschland.de) and Lebendiges Museum Online (https://www.dhm.de/lemo).

Semesterplan
(subject to change)

Woche 1 [29 May – 31 May]
Welcome to Berlin!

Grammar Topics
Revision of past tenses: perfect tense, imperfect tense, pluperfect; Futur I, modal verbs
**Note:** Due to a later start in the term (29 May) we will have a make-up Friday in June (1st, 22nd or 29th)

**Woche 2 [4 Jun – 7 Jun]**
Neue Blickwinkel Kapitel 7: *Mobilität und Medien: Erfindungen, Engagement, Kommunikation*

**Content / Communication Goals**
News media in Germany. *Engagement durch Medien:* discuss the Internet and democracy. *Deutschland – Land der Innovationen:* learn about inventions made in Germany.

**Grammar Topics**
Passive voice in present, imperfect and perfect tenses; passive voice with modal verbs

**Woche 3 [11 Jun – 14 Jun]**
Nazi Germany and resistance during WWII

**Content / Communication Goals**
*Die Weiße Rose:* read and discuss excerpts of a novel. *Die letzten Tage der Sophie Scholl:* watch and discuss a movie.

**Grammar Topics**
Subjunctive II in the present and past

**Requirement:**
Wednesday, 13 June: Test 1

**Woche 4 [18 Jun – 21 Jun]**
Life in the former GDR. Neue Blickwinkel: Kapitel 8 Grenzen überschreiten: Ein Blick in die Vergangenheit

**Content / Communication Goals**
Kapitel 8 *Deutschland nach dem zweiten Weltkrieg:* Germany after WWII
Kapitel 8 *Deutschland – Zwei Länder, zwei Systeme:* the division of Germany

Field trip: Exhibition *Alltag in der DDR,* Haus der Geschichte, Kulturbrauerei

**Grammar Topics**
Prepositions with accusative and dative (including two-way prepositions), Genitive and genitive prepositions; indirect speech with “dass-clauses” and subjunctive I; verbs with prepositions and da/wo-compounds;
Woche 5 [25 Jun – 28 Jun]
Neue Blickwinkel: Kapitel 10 *Die deutsche Identität: Regional, national, international.*
Neue Blickwinkel: Kapitel 9 *Deutschland: Immigration und Integration*

**Content / Communication Goals**
Kapitel 10 *Was ist Deutschland? Was ist deutsch?* Kapitel 9 *Eine kurze Geschichte der Aus- und Einwanderung in Deutschland:* learn about the history of migration to Germany; Film *Almanya – Willkommen in Deutschland* (2011)

**Grammar Topics**
Reflexive verbs; present and past participles as adjectives and adjective declension

**Requirement:**
Wednesday, 27 June: Test 2

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Woche 6 [2 Jul – 5 Jul]
Berlin: Yesterday – Today – Tomorrow

**Content / Communication Goals**
Watch *Tagesschau in 100 Sekunden*: [http://www.tagesschau.de/100sekunden/index.html](http://www.tagesschau.de/100sekunden/index.html)
Read the news from German-speaking countries on [www.spiegel.de](http://www.spiegel.de), [www.faz.net](http://www.faz.net), [www.zeit.de](http://www.zeit.de), [www.nzz.ch](http://www.nzz.ch), [www.derstandard.at](http://www.derstandard.at). Prepare interview questions and research on the topic: “Which developments can you observe at the moment in Berlin? What do you think will happen in Berlin in the next 5 to 10 years?” Discuss your findings in class.

**Grammar Topics**
Relative clauses; Review for Final Exam

**Requirement:**
Oral Presentation

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**Final Exam:** 5 July, 10am – 12.30pm

**Your Instructor**
Nikolai Preuschoff studied German Literature, Philosophy and Art History in Freiburg, Paris, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and in Berlin. He taught German Studies at the University of Michigan and, between 2012 and 2016, at the Department of German at University College Cork in Ireland. He wrote a PhD thesis on W.G. Sebald and Walter Benjamin (*"Mit Walter Benjamin. Melancholie, Geschichte und Erzählen bei W.G. Sebald"*), which was published in 2015 by Winter Verlag, Heidelberg.