Course Title

German Language, Intensive Intermediate

Course Number
GERM-UA 9020

LECTURER CONTACT INFORMATION

Antje Rebecchi
E-Mail: antje.rebecchi@nyu.edu
Office hours: by appointment.

COURSE DETAILS

MTR 9:30am – 12:00pm
NYU Berlin in der Kulturbrauerei

PREREQUISITES

You have taken GERM-UA 9002001 Elementary German II at NYU and received a passing grade; or you have taken two semesters or the 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

6

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, you will continue to study grammar, vocabulary and other aspects of the German language. The class focuses on the language skills necessary to communicate effectively in a foreign language – speaking, reading, viewing, writing, and listening. During the course, you will engage with a large variety of topical subjects from German culture and history as well as films, theater, literature and music. 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 this course, please be prepared to complete up to two hours of homework per classroom session.
Course Objective
This course covers the second two parts 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, to pursue 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.

Assessment Components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active Participation</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compositions (3 x 50)</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests (3 x 50)</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(written exam 170 points; oral proficiency exam 30 points)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 adequately prepare for each session.

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 semester, you will receive a lot of additional handouts, texts, and exercises. Please use the binder distributed on the first day of class 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 three tests throughout the semester. Although all tests will be cumulative, they will focus on the most recently covered material. Bring your Kursbuch, Intensive Trainer, your binder and Vocabulary booklets to class on test days so that your instructor can check that you have completed all of the assignments.

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

Grade Conversion
Your lecturer may use one of the following scales of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

\[
\begin{align*}
B+ &= 87-89 \\
C+ &= 77-79 \\
D+ &= 67-69 \\
F &= \text{below } 65 \\
A &= 94-100 \\
B &= 84-86 \\
C &= 74-76 \\
D &= 65-66 \\
A- &= 90-93 \\
B- &= 80-83 \\
C- &= 70-73
\end{align*}
\]
Alternatively:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Attendance Policy**

Participation in all classes is essential for your academic success, especially in courses that meet only once per week. 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. Your professor or NYU Berlin's administration may ask you to present a doctor's note or an exceptional permission from NYU Berlin's Director or Wellness Counselor as proof. Emergencies or other exceptional circumstances must be presented to the Director. Doctor's notes need to be submitted to the Academics Office, who will inform your professors. Doctor's notes need to be from a local doctor and carry a signature and a stamp. If you want the reasons for your absence to be treated confidentially, please approach NYU Berlin's Director or Wellness Counselor.

Unexcused absences affect students' grades: In content courses each unexcused absence (equaling one week's worth of classes) leads to a deduction of 2% of the overall grade and may negatively affect your class participation grade. In German Language classes two or three (consecutive or non-consecutive) unexcused absences (equaling one week's worth of classes) lead to a 2% deduction of the overall grade. Three unexcused absences in one content course and five unexcused absences in your German language course may lead to a Fail in that course. Furthermore, your professor is entitled to deduct points for frequent late arrival or late arrival back from in-class breaks. Being more than 15 minutes late counts as an unexcused absence. Please note that for classes involving a field trip, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to arrive in time at the announced meeting point.

Exams, tests and quizzes, 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 Academics Office; until this doctor's note is produced the missed assessment is graded with an F and no make-up assessment is scheduled. 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 due to religious observance should notify their lecturer AND NYU Berlin's Academics Office in writing via e-mail one week in advance. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Academics Office will 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 lecturer or to the Academics Office, 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 (excluding weekends and public or religious holidays), unless an extension has been approved (with a doctor's note or by approval of NYU Berlin's administration), 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 days (excluding weekends and public or religious holidays) following the submission date receives an F.

(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 ([https://www.nyu.edu/students/communities-and-groups/students-with-disabilities.html](https://www.nyu.edu/students/communities-and-groups/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)).

NYU Berlin takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. Your lecturer 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](http://www.nyu.edu/global/academic-policies)
Required Text(s)

Books can be bought at Dussmann in Friedrichstraße 90, where the books are pre-ordered for students. Additionally, 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.

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

Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)
- Grammar Reader, provided by your instructor
- [https://quizlet.com](https://quizlet.com)
- For interactive exercises accompanying your course materials please sign up for [scook.de/eb](http://scook.de/eb)
- **Genusly** is a useful **gender marking tool**: [genusly.com](http://genusly.com) (marks German nouns in different colors according to their gender)
- **University of Iowa** provides an excellent technical overview over the **sounds of German** and where and how they are produced anatomically at [uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics](http://uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics)

Internet Research Guidelines
On your computer, smart phone, or tablet you can use the following authentic resources as websites or apps in order to stay up-to-date:
- Spiegel online (German news magazine)
- Stern (German news magazine)
- Die Zeit (German weekly newspaper)
- Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung/FAZ (daily newspaper)
- Süddeutsche Zeitung (daily newspaper)
- Deutsche Welle (German newscast)
- ARD (German TV station with an extensive media library)
- ZDF (German TV station with an extensive media library)

German News, Online courses, Audiobooks, Podcasts:
[http://www.dw.de/](http://www.dw.de/)
[http://www.young-germany.de](http://www.young-germany.de)
[http://simsalabim.reinke-eb.de/index.html](http://simsalabim.reinke-eb.de/index.html) (free course on German phonetics & pronunciation)

These are all free and a great way to practice your German (reading, audio files, videos) wherever you are.
Additional Required Equipment
You will be asked to use a dictionary. You can rely on the online mono- and bilingual dictionaries from Pons: http://de.pons.eu/%C3%BCbersetzung?l=dedx

Semesterplan
(subject change)

Week 1 – [29 Jan – 1 Feb]
Welcome – Arriving in Berlin

Content/Communication Goals
Get to know each other; talk about Berlin (first impressions, orientation, expectations)
Text: “Wir sind ein Berliner”
Song: “Dickes B”

Grammar Topics
Review perfect tense (Perfekt); word order in main and subordinate clauses

Week 2 – [5 Feb – 8 Feb]
Getting to know Berlin

Content/Communication Goals
Learn about Berlin today; read an article about gentrification; listen to the song “Schwarz zu blau”

Grammar Topics
Past tense (Präteritum); wenn, als, wann; past perfect (Plusquamperfekt); nachdem, bevor, seit/seitdem

Week 3 – [12 Feb – 15 Feb]
Studio Express B1, Kapitel 25 – Zeitpunkte

Content/Communication Goals
Learn and talk about important events in German history; learn about the Berlin Wall; listen and discuss the song “Wir sind wir”

Grammar Topics
Past tense (Präteritum); subordinate clauses with während; passive

Week 4 – [19 Feb – 22 Feb]
Theatre workshop; movie Barbara; Studio Express B1, Kapitel 26 – Alltag

Content/Communication Goals
Watch and discuss the movie Barbara.
Talk about everyday life and routines in Berlin.

Grammar Topics
Passive; subjunctive (Konjunktiv II) of modal verbs; review: imperative
Requirement
Mon, 19 Feb 9:30am-12:45pm: Theater workshop at the Maxim Gorki Theater! The workshop will be followed by a visit to a performance (not mandatory) at the MGT, on Wednesday, 28 Feb at 7:30-9pm: “Get deutsch or die tryin” http://www.gorki.de/en/get-deutsch-or-die-tryin
Tue, 20 Feb: Composition 1 (final version)

Week 5 – [26 Feb – 1 March]
*Studio Express B, Kapitel 27 – Männer – Frauen – Paare*

**Content/Communication Goals**
Talk about genders and stereotypes; watch video clips about dating and relationships in Germany

**Grammar Topics**
Infinitive clauses; reflexive verbs; verbs with prepositions

**Requirement**
Thurs, 1 March: Test 1

Week 6 – [5 March – 8 March]
*Preparation for the lecture and discussion with the author Yoko Tawada*

**Content/Communication Goals**
Read and discuss texts from Yoko Towada

**Grammar Topics**
Negation; relative clauses

Week 7 – [12 March – 15 March]
*Studio Express B1, Kapitel 28 – Arbeit im Wandel; regions in Germany; traditional music*

**Content/Communication Goals**
Talk about the history of a German region (Ruhrgebiet); learn about other German regions and their cultures; watch some parts of the film *Sound of Heimat* and get to know traditional music in different regions of Germany

**Grammar Topics**
Review declination of adjectives; comparative & superlative

**Requirement**
Lecture Yoko Tawada: 13 Mar, 7:30 – 9pm: Lecture with Yoko Tawada. Your participation is required. To compensate for this, there is no German class on Thursday, March 29

Week 8 – [19 March – 22 March]
*Studio Express B1, Kapitel 29 – Schule und lernen*
Content/Communication Goals
Learn about the German education system; discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a competitive education system and reflect on the connection between money and education

Grammar Topics
Subjunctive II (present & past)

Requirement
Tue, March 20: Composition 2

Week 9 – [26 March – 29 March]
Studio Express B1, Kapitel 30 – Klima und Umwelt

Content/Communication Goals
Talk about environmental problems, climate change and the future

Grammar Topics
Future tense (Futur I); wegen und trotz + genitive

Requirement
Tue, March 27: Test 2

No German class on Thursday, March 29 as compensation for the lecture!

30 March – 8 April – Spring Break – No Class

Week 10 – [9 April – 12 April]
Studio Express B1, Kapitel 31 – Das ist mir aber peinlich!; Thomas Brussig’s novel Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee, chapters 1-3

Content/Communication Goals
Talk about “good” manners and intercultural conflicts; reflect on common stereotypes about Germans.
Read and discuss Thomas Brussig’s novel Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee, chapters 1-3 (p.7-42)

Grammar Topics
Present and past participles as adjectives

Week 11 – [16 April – 19 April]
Studio Express B1, Kapitel 32 – Generationen; movie Almanya – Willkommen in Deutschland; Thomas Brussig’s novel Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee, chapters 4-6
Content/Communication Goals
Talk about different ages and the relationships among different generations; listen to contemporary witnesses; watch and discuss the movie *Almanya – Willkommen in Deutschland*
Read and discuss Thomas Brussig’s novel *Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee*, chapters 4-6 (p.43-72)

Grammar Topics
Subjunctive I (reported speech)

Week 12 – [23 April – 27 April]
*Studio Express B1, Kapitel 33 – Migration; Thomas Brussig’s novel Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee, chapters 7-11*

Content/Communication Goals
Learn about the history of migration in Germany; watch the movie *Solino*; read portraits of migrants in Germany (“Wir neuen Deutschen”)
Read and discuss Thomas Brussig’s novel *Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee*, chapters 7-11 (p.73-109)

Grammar Topics
N-declination; passive substitutes

Requirements
Make-Up Day: Friday, 27 April; Composition 3 (final version)

Week 13 – [30 April – 3 May]
*Finish reading Thomas Brussig’s novel Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee, chapters 12-14; movie Sonnenallee*

Content/Communication Goals
Read and discuss Thomas Brussig’s novel *Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee*, chapters 12-14 (p.110-157); compare the book with the movie (*Sonnenallee*)

1 May – Public Holiday – No Class
Requirement
Thurs, 3 May: Test 3

Week 14 – [7 May – 11 May]
*Studio Express B1, Kapitel 34 – Europa*

Content/Communication Goals
Talk about politics and Europe; reflect on cultural identities and nationalism

Grammar Topics
Review: Verbs with prepositions; da- and wo-compounds

10 May – Public Holiday – No Class
Requirement:
Make-Up Day: Friday, 11 May, 10am-12pm: Excursion to the DDR-Museum. The DDR Museum’s interactive exhibition focusses on everyday life in the former GDR. It questions how the lives and experiences of East Germans differed from those of West Germans and how the state influenced people’s lives.

Week 15 – [14 May – 17 May]
Final Examination: Monday, 14 May, 10:00-12:00pm
Oral proficiency examination on Tuesday, 15 May (takes about 15 minutes, will be scheduled between 10am and 12pm).

Classroom Etiquette
Be kind to one another, have fun and speak in German. Be punctual and please use your cell phones only as a dictionary.

Required Co-Curricular Activities
1) Theater workshop at Maxim Gorki Theater, Monday, 19 Feb, 2016, 09:30am-12:45pm
   Antje will accompany you to the Maxim Gorki Theater workshop. You will reflect on the process of acting on the stage and play short sequences of the play “Get deutsch or die tryin” written by Necati Öziri and produced by Sebastian Nübling. You will have the opportunity to watch the play on Wednesday, 28 Feb, from 7:30-9:00pm.

2) German lecture with Yoko Tawada on Tuesday, 13 March, 7:30pm-9:00pm
   Yoko Tawada, a popular author of contemporary German literature, will read and discuss selected texts from her books. Tawada writes in both Japanese and German, making her an exophonic writer.

3) Excursion: Visit to the DDR Museum on Friday, 11 May (make-up day), 10am-12pm
   The interactive exhibition at the DDR Museum focuses on everyday life in the former GDR. It questions, for instance, how life in East Germany differed from experiences of West Germans and how the state influenced people’s lives. Other questions revolve around where citizens felt the hand of the dictatorship and what, if anything, was good about the GDR. What is the truth behind popular prejudices and stories about life in East Germany? All of these questions are addressed in a light-hearted and often ironic fashion.

Suggested Co-Curricular Activities
Please use the opportunity to take part in the Berlin Buddies Program and the Tutoring Program at NYU Berlin.

Your Lecturer
Antje Rebecchi has been teaching German courses at NYU since 2006. She holds an MA in German Literature and Theatre Studies from the Free University of Berlin and an additional degree in German as a Foreign Language. Antje comes from Hamburg and came to Berlin in 1989. In 1993, she founded an independent theater group and created theater projects before she started working as a language teacher with international students in 2000. Antje lives with her family in Kreuzberg.