Course Title

German Language, Elementary I

Course Number
GERM-UA 9001

Lecturer Contact Information
Jessica Menz
jessica.menz@nyu.edu

Course Details
MTR 11am – 12:15pm
NYU Berlin in der Kulturbrauerei

Prerequisites
None

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 express”, 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 oneself 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, and arts. 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 two parts 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.

Assessment Components
Active Participation 200
Homework: Workbook/Handouts, Portfolio, Vocab checks 250
Chapter Tests (3 x 70) & Grammar Quizzes (2 x 20) 250
Oral presentation 100
Final Exam 200

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 a 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 three tests throughout the semester. Although all tests will be cumulative, they will focus on the most recently covered material. Bring your Kursbuch, relevant handouts and Intensive Trainer 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:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Equivalent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 65</td>
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Alternatively:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Equivalent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.3</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>F</td>
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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 (equalling 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 (equalling 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

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) 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).

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

Required Text(s)
- *Studio 21 A1 Vokabeltaschenbuch*, Cornelsen Verlag, Berlin 2013. Alternatively, you may use the vocabulary flashcards accompanying each unit in the course book. You will have to sign up for a free account in order to access the sets https://quizlet.com/join/P7Jyvp4Bg

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 or follow the link on NYU Berlin's website (Academics/Facilities & Services).

**Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)**
- *Grammar Reader*, required, provided by your instructor for download on NYU Classes
- *Deutsch 1*, required, provided by your instructor for download on NYU Classes
- https://quizlet.com/join/P7Jyvp4Bg offers vocabulary flash cards accompanying each unit in the course book; You will have to sign up for a free account in order to access the sets
- For interactive exercises accompanying your course materials check https://www.cornelsen.de/sites/studio_express/studio_express_A1/wrapper/index.htm?part=3
- Very helpful for pronunciation practice: *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
- See *Deutsche Welle* (dw.de) for lots of interesting articles as well as free German online courses for independent study

**Internet Research Guidelines**
To be discussed in class.

**Additional Required Equipment**
German–English dictionary, e.g. de.pons.com or dict.leo.org (both include pronunciation, gender and plural indication of nouns and past tense of verbs)
Semesterplan
(subject change)

Week 1 – [29 Jan – 1 Feb]
*Studio express A1, Introduction Start auf Deutsch*

**Content/Communication Goals**
Students get to know each other; greetings; introduce yourself and friends; formal and informal address; the alphabet; understand cognates in German texts; classroom communication; learn how to give further information about yourself (college majors, languages)

**Grammar Topics**
The prepositions *in* and *aus*; W-questions *wie*, *wo*, *woher*; verbs *sein*, *kommen*, *leben*, *wohnen*, *studieren*, *sprechen*, *arbeiten*, *haben*

Week 2 – [5 Feb – 8 Feb]

**Suppl. Material:** Deutsch 1, Modul A

**Content/Communication Goals**
Talk about the weekend; the numbers 1-1000; ordering beverages at a café

**Grammar Topics**
Word order in statements and questions; personal pronouns; conjugation of verbs in the present tense; present tense with future reference; indefinite article in accusative; verb forms *möchten*, *hätte gern*

Week 3 – [12 Feb – 15 Feb]

**Suppl. Material:** Deutsch 1, Modul B

**Content/Communication Goals**
Speak about food (dis)likes and preferences; learn about German meals and typical dishes; compare different diets and eating habits

**Grammar Topics**
Negative article *kein*, negation with *nicht*; comparison of adjectives

**Requirement**
Grammar quiz 1, Tuesday, 13 Feb

Week 4 – [19 Feb – 22 Feb]

*Studio express A1, Chapter 2 & 3*

**Content/Communication Goals**
Learn about sights and districts in Berlin; learn about D-A-CH – the German speaking countries; talk about cities, countries, landscapes and sights in Germany and Europe; talk about places you’ve visited in the past

**Grammar Topics**
Definite and indefinite article in nominative; definite article in accusative; existential construction *Es gibt*... / *In Berlin gibt es*...; past tense of *haben* and *sein*
Requirement
Test 1, Thursday, 22 Feb

Double session on Monday, 19 February, from 11am – 13.30pm
No class on Tuesday, 20 February 2018, as compensation for double session

Week 5 – [26 Feb – 1 March]
Suppl. Material: Deutsch 1, Modul C & D
Content/ Communication Goals
Ordering food and beverages at an Imbiss; ordering at traditional German restaurants
Groceries, measurements, packaging; communicating with vendors at the market

Grammar Topics
Singular and plural forms of nouns

Week 6 – [5 March – 8 March]
Studio express A1, Chapter 4, suppl. material
Content/Communication Goals
Talk about your family and friends; describe an apartment and a house; talk about furniture;
express likes and dislikes; cultural concept: Gemütlichkeit;

Grammar Topics
Declination of adjectives

Excursion 1: Kunstquartier Bethanien and Markthalle IX: Tuesday, 6 March, 11.45am-1pm (subject to change)

Week 7 – [12 March – 15 March]
Studio express A1, Chapter 7
Content/Communication Goals
Express possibilities, abilities, desires and obligations; talk about professions, career aspirations and internships

Grammar Topics
Modal auxiliary verbs können, wollen, müssen in present and past tense; verbs with two objects; articles in dative

Week 8 – [19 March – 22 March]
Studio 21 A1, Chapter 5
Content/Communication Goals
Ask for/tell time; talk about your daily routines with friends; talk about your free time activities and hobbies with others; arrange meetings with friends; make appointments; excuse delays

Grammar Topics
Word formation (feminine endings); questions with wann; prepositions of time (am, um, von…bis; zwischen); separable prefix verbs; negation with nicht; position of the verb in a sentence; inversion; past tense of haben;
Requirement
Test 2, Thursday, 22 March

Week 9 – [26 March – 29 March]
Studio express A1, Chapter 6, suppl. material
Content/Communication Goals
Places in the city; learn about the city of Leipzig; talk about music; say where one lives and works; orientation in the building; talking about dates and holidays; understand a fairy tale; talk about the exchange of things and ideas

Grammar Topics
Two-way prepositions; prepositions mit, zu, nach, bei with dative; ordinal numbers in nominative and dative

30 March – 8 April Spring Break - No Class

Week 10 – [9 April – 12 April]
Studio express A1, Chapter 8
Content/Communication Goals
Orientation in the city; ask for and give directions; places and activities in Berlin

Grammar Topics
Prepositions with accusative durch, über; prepositions with dative zu, an…vorbei

Week 11 – [16 April – 19 April]
Studio express A1, Chapter 9
Content/Communication Goals
Talk about travels and vacation; describe an accident

Grammar Topics
Perfect tense

Requirement
Test 3, Thursday, 19 April

Week 12 – [23 April – 27 April]
Studio express A1, Chapter 9, suppl. material
Content/Communication Goals
Talk about travels and vacation; describe an accident

Grammar Topics
Perfect tense

Requirement
Grammar quiz 2, Friday, 27 April

Excursion 2: Beatboxing Workshop, Monday, 23 April, 11.30am-12.30pm (subject to change)

Make-Up Day: Friday, 27 April

Week 13 – [30 April – 3 May]
Studio 21 A1, Chapter 12
Content/Communication Goals
Talk about the body and health; give health tips; express polite requests, recommendations and desires;

Grammar Topics
The modal verbs dürfen and sollen; (imperative)

Requirement
Oral presentation: Tuesday, 2 May or Thursday, 4 May

1 May Public Holiday - No Class

Week 14 – [7 May – 11 May]
Studio express A1, Chapter 12
Content/Communication Goals
Express emotions; write a love letter; talking about Germany/Berlin, German cities, your study abroad experience

Grammar Topics
Personal pronouns in accusative; conjunctions weil, denn, aber; declination of adjectives in accusative

General review and exam preparation

Requirement
Oral presentation: Monday, 7 May

10 May Public Holiday - No Class

Make-Up Day: Friday, 11 May

Week 15 – [14 May – 17 May]
Final Examination: Tuesday, 15 May, 10:00am – 12:00pm
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) Excursion 1: Markthalle IX: Tuesday, 6 March, 11.45am-1pm (subject to change)

Jessica will take you on a short walk in Kreuzberg. After passing by Kunstquartier Bethanien we will get to Markthalle IX, an indoor market. There you will practice communication with local vendors, ask for prices and the origin of produce and buy small amounts of fruits and vegetables. The excursion will end with a little class picnic.

2) Excursion Beatbox-Workshop with Mando in Schöneberg, Monday, 23 April, 11.30am-12.30pm (subject to change)

We will meet the Beatboxer Mando at the theater “Weiße Rose” in Schöneberg. Mando is a member of the beatbox crew 4xsample and has won the German, European and even the vice-world beatbox championships several times. He will teach us beatbox basics by using German sentences that are rich in consonants. This is an excellent pronunciation training for German consonants and fun at the same time. Furthermore, the workshop is an excellent opportunity to practice your German language skills in an authentic setting as Mando is ready to engage in an interview and answer all your questions. http://www.4xsample.de/.

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
Jessica Menz grew up in the vicinity of Freiburg, in southern Germany. She studied English and Intercultural German Studies in Bayreuth, a city 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 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. From 2011-2015, she was 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. As project manager she is responsible for developing NYU Berlin’s own German textbook for beginners. In her free time, she loves to sing, both solo and in a band, and to explore Berlin and its surrounding by bike.