Course Title

German Language, Elementary II

Course Number
GERM-UA 9002

Lecturer Contact Information
Susan Engel
se72@nyu.edu
Office hours: by appointment

Course Details
MTR 9:30 – 10:45 am
NYU Berlin in der Kulturbrauerei

Prerequisites
You have taken GERM-UA9001001 Elementary German I at NYU and received a passing grade; or you have taken a first-semester introductory German course 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 Program Coordinator.

Units earned
4

Course Description
This course continues your introduction to the language and everyday culture of German-speaking countries. You will expand your understanding of important vocabulary and customs regarding the following topics: food; school and childhood; German media; jobs and the workplace; travel; sports; music and art; emotions and clichés; contemporary German society and culture.

Since the goals of communicative and grammatical competence are ultimately inseparable, students are guided towards using German as accurately as possible.

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 second part of a four-part German course. Together, these courses (Elementary I and II and 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**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Active Participation</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework: Workbook, Compositions, Portfolio</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Tests (3 x 70) &amp; Grammar Quizzes (40)</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral presentation</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>200</td>
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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 *Workbook* and your binder 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 instructor may use one of the following scales of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Numerical</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>87-89</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 65</td>
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</table>

Alternatively:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Numerical</th>
</tr>
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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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<tr>
<td>B</td>
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<td>C</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)

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.

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

- Online exercises
  [http://xportal.klett-langenscheidt.de/netzwerka2/](http://xportal.klett-langenscheidt.de/netzwerka2/)

- German News, Online Courses, Audiobooks, Podcasts:
  [http://www.dw.de/](http://www.dw.de/)
  [http://www.young-germany.de](http://www.young-germany.de)

**Additional Required Equipment**
A German-English dictionary

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

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

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**Semesterplan**
(subject change)

**Week 1 – [29 Jan– 1 Feb]**
**Content & Communication Goals**
*Netzwerk A2, Chapter 1 – Rund ums Essen / supplemental material*
Greetings and personal information; classroom policies; talk about food; talk about likes and dislikes; ordering and tipping in a coffee shop in Berlin

**Grammar Topics**
*doch*; dative case; possessive articles in dative case
Review: Conjugation in present tense; w-questions; yes/no-questions; word order; possessive articles; case; perfect tense
Week 2 – [5 Feb – 8 Feb]
Netzwerk A2, Chapters 1 & 2
Content & Communication Goals
Learn how to describe the position of objects; describe your daily routine in Berlin

Grammar Topics
Reflexive verbs; two-way prepositions with dative and accusative; verbs with two-way prepositions; subordinate clauses; the conjunctions dass, weil and obwohl
Review: Modal verbs in the present tense; Präteritum of sein & haben

Week 3 – [12 Feb – 15 Feb]
Netzwerk A2, Chapter 2 – Nach der Schulzeit
Content & Communication Goals
Talk about school

Grammar Topics
Modal verbs in the past tense (Präteritum); reflexive verbs

Requirement
12 Feb – Quiz #1

Week 4 – [19 Feb – 22 Feb]
Netzwerk A2, Chapter 3 – Medien im Alltag
Content & Communication Goals
Talk about German media; learn how to express your opinion; talk about preferences
Supplemental text: Der relaxte Outdoorsingle

Grammar Topics
Comparative and superlative forms of adjectives; comparison of adjectives with als and wie

Requirement
20 Feb – Test #1

Note: There is no class on 19 Feb. It is your compensation day for the theater workshop on 23 April.

Week 5 – [26 Feb – 1 March]
Netzwerk A2, Chapter 3 & 4
Content & Communication Goals
Learn how to express your opinion; talk about preferences; Talk about and comment on a film

Grammar Topics
Comparative and superlative forms of adjectives; subordinate clauses; the conjunction dass

Excursion #1: Visit to Märkisches Museum – 27 Feb
Note: Today’s class starts at 11:30am. We will meet at the museum’s entrance at 11:20am.
Week 6 – [5 March – 8 March]
*Netzwerk A2, Chapters 4 – Große und kleine Gefühle*

**Content & Communication Goals**
Talk about emotions; learn how to congratulate someone in German; read about festivals in Germany; talk about your experiences in a foreign country

**Grammar Topics**
Sentences with *wenn…, dann…*; declension of adjectives

Week 7 – [12 March – 15 March]
*Netzwerk A2, Chapter 5 (7)*

**Content & Communication Goals**
Talk about professions

**Grammar Topics**
The verb *werden*; prepositions with dative & accusative

Week 8 – [19 March – 22 March]
*Netzwerk A2, Chapter 6 – Ganz schön mobil*

**Content & Communication Goals**
Talk about travelling; ask for information and directions;

**Grammar Topics**
Clauses with indirect questions; locative prepositions; the coordinating conjunctions *deshalb* and *trotzdem*

Requirement
22 March – Test #2

Week 9 – [26 March – 29 March]
*Netzwerk A2, Chapter 7*

**Content & Communication Goals**
Talk about studying; listen to a radio feature; learn how to give advice and make suggestions

**Grammar topics**
Subjunctive II: *sollte (Ratschläge)* & *könnte (Vorschläge)*; temporal prepositions

30 March – 8 April – Spring Break – No Class

Week 10 – [9 April – 12 April]
*Netzwerk A2, Chapter 7 & 11*

**Content & Communication Goals**
Express wishes; give bits of advice and make suggestions

**Grammar topics**
Subjunctive II: *sollte, könnte, hätte, wäre, würde* + *Infinitiv*

**Week 11 – [16 April – 19 April]**
*Netzwerk A2, Chapter 8 – Sportlich, sportlich!*
**Content & Communication goals**
Talk about sports and free-time activities

**Grammar topics**
Verbs with two objects (*leihen, geben …*); object pronouns; possessive articles; word order; verbs with dative objects

**Requirement**
17 April – Quiz #2

**Week 12 – [23 April – 27 April]**
*Netzwerk A2, Chapter 9*
**Content & Communication Goals**
Read and talk about experiences in a foreign country

**Grammar Topics**
Subordinate clauses with *als & wenn*; the past tense: *Präteritum* (*n-verbs* and *t-verbs*)

**Requirement**
26 April – Test #3

**Make-Up Day: Friday, 27 April**

**Excursion #2: 23 Apr – Theater workshop.**

**Week 13 – [30 April – 3 May]**
*Netzwerk A2, Chapters 10 & 11*
**Content & Communication Goals**
Talk about entertainment, culture, and music

**Grammar Topics**
*Was für ein/e* vs. *welche/r/s*; verbs with prepositions; *Präpositionaladverbien* (*worauf, darauf*, etc.)

**Requirement**
Oral presentation

1 May – Public Holiday – No Class
Week 14 – [7 May – 11 May]
*Netzwerk A2, Chapters 11*

**Content & Communication Goals**
Talk about your study abroad experience

Catch up and review

**Requirement**
Oral presentation

**10 May – Public Holiday – No Class**

Make-Up Day: Friday, 11 May

Week 15 – [14 May – 17 May]

Final Examination: 14 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: 27 Feb** – We will visit the *Märkisches Museum* on the bank of the Spree River. The museum presents a host of artefacts related to the culture and history of the city. We will go on a guided tour to learn more about the different districts of Berlin and to experience how Berlin has changed over the course of several centuries. *(Address: Am Köllnischen Park 5, 10179 Berlin)*

2) **Excursion #2: 23 April** – Susan will accompany you to the *Maxim Gorki* theater workshop. You will reflect on the process of acting on the stage and learn and play short sequences.

**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**
Professor Engel teaches classes for the German Language Program at NYU Berlin. She holds an M.A. and a Diploma (M.A. equivalent) in Ethnology and in German as a Foreign Language – both attained from the University of Marburg. Susan's deep interest in different teaching styles around the world has brought her to Tongji University in Shanghai as well as to Darkhan, Mongolia. Susan lives in the district of *Weissensee*. In her free time, she enjoys exploring the woods and lakes of Brandenburg by bike and boat. Her passions for early natural history, craftsmanship and music lead her to remote and abandoned places in and around Berlin, Brandenburg and Mecklenburg and allow her to relate the past to the present.