Course Title

German Language, Intermediate 1

Course Number
GERM-UA 9003

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Lecturer Contact Information
Susan Engel
se72@nyu.edu

Office hours: by appointment

Course Details
MTR 11am – 12.15pm
NYU Berlin in der Kulturbrauerei

Prerequisites
You have taken GERM-UA9002001 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
4

Course Description
Intermediate German I is the first part of a two-semester-long intermediate sequence. You will continue to study grammar, vocabulary and other aspects of language. The class is taught almost entirely in German and emphasizes the language skills necessary to communicate effectively in a foreign language – speaking, reading, viewing, writing, and listening. During this course, you will engage with a large variety of topical subjects from German culture, lifestyle and history.

This course intends to create a balance between working with intellectually stimulating subjects and practicing the skills needed to communicate in a foreign language. Learning 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 spend up to one and a half to two hours of independent study per classroom hour.
Course Objective
This course covers the third 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 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, Portfolio 200
Compositions (3 x 50) 150
Tests (3 x 50) 150
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 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 Übungsbuch and your Intensivtrainer 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:

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\begin{align*}
B+ &= 87-89 \\
C+ &= 77-79 \\
D+ &= 67-69 \\
F &= \text{below 65}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
A &= 94-100 \\
B &= 84-86 \\
C &= 74-76 \\
D &= 65-66
\end{align*}
\]

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\begin{align*}
A- &= 90-93 \\
B- &= 80-83 \\
C- &= 70-73
\end{align*}
\]
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

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.

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
- For [interactive exercises accompanying your course materials](http://guides.nyu.edu/global/berlin) please sign up for skook.de/eb
- *Genusly* is a useful [gender marking tool: genusly.com](http://guides.nyu.edu/global/berlin) (marks German nouns in different colors according to their gender)
- For [cultural studies on Germany: young-germany.de](http://guides.nyu.edu/global/berlin)
- *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)](http://guides.nyu.edu/global/berlin) 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](http://guides.nyu.edu/global/berlin) or [dict.leo.org](http://guides.nyu.edu/global/berlin) (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 B1, Kapitel 25 Berlin – Zeitpunkte*

**Content/Communication Goals**

*Einführung*: Students get to know each other; class room policies

Learn about Berlin today and important events in German history

Texte: *Berlin – Szenen einer Stadt*  
*Phasen des Berlin-Booms*

**Grammar Topics**

Revision of past tenses: perfect tense and *Präteritum*; word order in main- and subordinate clauses

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**Week 2 – [5 Feb – 8 Feb]**
*Studio Express B1, Kapitel 25*
Talk about your everyday life in Berlin and important events in German history

**Grammar Topics**
Temporal clauses & temporal prepositions; the conjunctions *wenn, als, wann, während*; nominalization with *zum*

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**Week 3 – [12 Feb – 15 Feb]**

**Studio Express B1, Kapitel 26 – Alltag**

Talk about your daily routine in Berlin; making plans in German; give advice and commands; learn to give reasons with *deswegen, deshalb, darum*

Text: *Alltag in der DDR* (aus: Weiter geht’s!)

**Grammar Topics**
Subjunctive 2 for advice & polite requests; imperative; wo-compounds & (reflexive) verbs with prepositions

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**Week 4 – [19 Feb – 22 Feb]**

**Supplemental material**

**Content/Communication Goals**
Read & discuss texts from Yoko Tawada, a contemporary German-Japanese author

**Grammar Topic**
*Wo-* & *da-* compounds & (reflexive) verbs with prepositions

**Requirement**
Test 1 – 20 Feb

*Note: There is no class on 19 Feb to compensate for the theater workshop on 23 April.*

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**Week 5 – [26 Feb – 1 March]**

**Studio Express B1, Kapitel 27 – Männer, Frauen, Paare**

**Content/Communication Goals**
Talk about relationships, family and friends; read and discuss texts from Yoko Tawada

Text: Erich Kästner: *Sachliche Romanze* (Gedicht)

**Grammar topics**
Infinitive with *zu*; adjectives with *un-* & *-los*; relative clauses

*Note: Feb 27 class starts at 9:30am!*

**Requirement**
Composition 1 (final version)
Week 6 – [5 March – 8 March]

*Studio Express B1, Kapitel 28 – Arbeit im Wandel*

**Content/Communication Goals**
Learn about a region in Germany ("das Ruhrgebiet"); describe a region; watch the movie *Das Wunder von Bern*

**Grammar topics**
Relative Clauses; declension of adjectives

Week 7 – [12 March – 15 March]

*Supplemental material*

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

**Excursion #1:** 13 Mar, 7:30 – 9pm: Lecture with Yoko Tawada. Your participation is required. To compensate for this, there is no German class on Tuesday, Feb 20.

Week 8 – [19 March – 22 March]

*Studio Express B1, Kapitel 29 – Schule und lernen*

**Content/Communication Goals**
Learn about the school system in Germany; talk about your school time

Text: Peter Weiss: *Nicht versetzt*

**Grammar topics**
Declension of adjectives; subjunctive 2 (Gegenwart/present tense)

**Requirement**
Composition 2 (final version)

Week 9 – [26 March – 29 March]

*Studio Express B1, Kapitel 29 – Schule und lernen*

**Content/Communication Goals**
Talk about wishes, hypothetical situations & future perspectives

Text: Clemens Niedenthal: *Was essen wir morgen?* (Zitty 03/2018, 42.Jg.)

**Grammar topics**
Subjunctive 2 (Gegenwart/present tense); the verbs *wissen & kennen*; Futur I

**Requirements**
Test 2 – 27 Mar

30 March – 8 April Spring Break – No Class
Week 10 – [9 April – 12 April]
**Studio Express B1, Kapitel 30 – Klima und Umwelt**
**Content/Communication Goals**
Read and talk about environmental problems and the climate

Text: *Profit statt Gesundheit? Gentechnisch veränderte Lebensmittel*

**Grammar topics**
*Wegen* + Genitive; expressing reasons and consequences with *wegen, weil & deshalb*; Futur 1: *werden + Infinitive*

Week 11 – [16 April – 19 April]
**Studio Express B1, Kapitel 31 – Das ist mir aber peinlich!**
**Content/Communication Goals**
Read and talk about “good” manners and intercultural conflicts

**Grammar topics**
Past perfect tense: *das Plusquamperfekt*; nouns with n-declination

Week 12 – [23 April – 27 April]
**Studio Express B1, Kapitel 32 – Generationen**
**Content/Communication Goals**
Talk about different stages of one’s life; talk about a book

**Grammar topics**
Review: comparative & superlative of adjectives

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

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

**Requirement**
Composition 3 (final version)

Week 13 – [30 April – 3 May]
**Studio Express B1, Kapitel 33 – Migration**
**Content/Communication Goals**
Learn about migration and reasons for migration; watch the movie *Solino*

**Grammar topics**
Passive in present and past tense

**Requirements**
Test 3 – 3 May

1 May – Public Holiday – No Class
Week 14 – [7 May – 11 May]
*Studio Express B1, Kapitel 33 – Migration*

**Content/Communication Goals**
Learn about migration and reasons for migration; watch the movie *Solino*

**Grammar topics**
Passive in present and past tense

**Requirement**
Oral presentation

10 May – Public Holiday – No Class

Make-Up Day: Friday, 11 May

Week 15 – [14 May – 17 May]
Final Examination: 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. No eating in class, please!

**Required Co-Curricular Activities**

1) **Excursion #1:** 13 Mar – German book lecture and discussion with Yoko Tawada
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.

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 of a play. You will have the opportunity to watch the play (tba).

**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.