Course Title

German Language, Intermediate II

Course Number
GERM-UA 9004

Lecturer Contact Information
Julia Buchholz
julia.buchholz@nyu.edu
Office hours: by appointment

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

Prerequisites
You have taken GERM-UA9003001 Intermediate German I at NYU and received a passing grade; or you have taken equivalent German courses 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
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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 entirely taught 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 forth 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Active Participation</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework, Portfolio</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compositions (3x50)</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tests (3x50)</td>
<td>150</td>
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<td>Oral presentation (2 x 50)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>200</td>
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(oral exam 170 points; oral proficiency exam 30 points)

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, Workbook and 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 lecturer may use one of the following scales of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

- $B+ = 87-89$
- $C+ = 77-79$
- $D+ = 67-69$
- $F = below 65$

- $A = 94-100$
- $B = 84-86$
- $C = 74-76$
- $D = 65-66$

- $A- = 90-93$
- $B- = 80-83$
- $C- = 70-73$

Alternatively:

- $A = 4.0$
- $A- = 3.7$
- $B+ = 3.3$
- $B = 3.0$
- $B- = 2.7$
- $C+ = 2.3$
- $C = 2.0$
- $C- = 1.7$
- $D+ = 1.3$
- $D = 1.0$
- $F = 0.0$. 

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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 (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)
Electronic Resources (via NYU Classes / NYU Library)

Coursebook: Rückenwind, Band 1, Kursbuch, ISBN - 978-3-930861-75-0
Workbook: Rückenwind, Band 1, Übungsbuch, ISBN - 978-3-930861-76-7
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)**
Your instructor will provide copies and materials on NYU classes for you.

**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](http://de.pons.eu/%C3%BCbersetzung?l=dedx)

**Semesterplan**
(subject change)

**Week 1 – [29 Jan – 1 Feb]**
Introduction; expectations; first impressions of Berlin

**Content/Communication Goals**
Einführung: get to know each other; classroom policies
Talk about your first impressions of Berlin and about your expectations; read and discuss texts about life in Berlin; learn to describe and to compare what you see

**Grammar Topics**
Review of past tenses: perfect tense, imperfect tense, past perfect; declension and comparison of adjectives

Week 2 – [5 Feb – 8 Feb]
Rückenwind, Kapitel 1: Willkommen, lieber Kulturschock

Content/Communication Goals
Kapitel 1: Willkommen, lieber Kulturschock; talk about the experience of arriving in a foreign country and about the phenomenon of “Kulturschock”

Grammar Topics
Passive voice in present tense, perfect and imperfect tense

Week 3 – [12 Feb – 15 Feb]
Rückenwind, Kapitel 2: Tabus

Content/Communication Goals
Kapitel 2: Tabus: talk about taboos; reflect on why they exist, what they tell us about a culture and society and what causes them to change

Grammar Topics
Review: word order,

Week 4 – [19 Feb – 22 Feb]
Rückenwind, Kapitel 2: Tabus

Content/Communication Goals
Kapitel 2: Tabus: read and talk about political correctness and discuss what this term implies about the values and taboos of a society or country

Grammar Topics
passive substitutes with “können”

Requirements
Monday, 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
Thursday, 22 Feb: Composition 1

Week 5 – [26 Feb – 1 March]
Rückenwind, Kapitel 3: Schmeckt’s?

Content/Communication Goals
Kapitel 3: Schmeckt’s?: Talk about eating and food; learn about traditional German food and about modern biological and vegan food trends; What do the Berliners like to eat?

Grammar Topics
Infinitive clauses

Requirement:
March 1: Test 1

Week 6 – [5 March – 8 March]
Rückenwind, Kapitel 4: Gerecht?
Preparation for the lecture and discussion with the author Yoko Tawada (part 1)

Content/Communication Goals
Read texts from the Japanese author Yoko Tawada and prepare for the lecture and talk with her.
Kapitel 4: Gerecht?: Talk about justice, economic wealth, poverty and the reasons for them; discuss the social problems caused by gentrification; How fair is the society in Germany?

Grammar Topics
Present and past participles as adjectives

Week 7 – [12 March – 15 March]
Rückenwind, Kapitel 4: Gerecht?
Preparation for the lecture and discussion with the author Yoko Tawada (part 2)

Content/Communication Goals
Read texts from the Japanese Author Yoko Tawada and prepare for the lecture and talk with her.
Kapitel 4: Gerecht?: Discuss the social problems caused by gentrification; How fair is the society in Germany?

Grammar Topics
Relative clauses

Requirement:
Tuesday, 13 March, 7:30pm-9pm: German lecture with Yoko Tawada in the AC. Your participation is required, as a compensation for this, there is no German class on Friday, 11 May.

Week 8 – [19 March – 22 March]
Rückenwind Kapitel 5: Gefühle
Thomas Brussig’s novel Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee, Kapitel 1-3 (S.7-42)

Content/Communication Goals
Kapitel 5: Gefühle: Talk about feelings; describe utopias and wishes
Read and discuss chapters 1-3 of Brussig’s novel Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee
Grammar Topics
Subjunctive II (present & past)

Requirement:
Thursday, 22 March: Composition 2

Week 9 – [26 March – 29 March]
Rückenwind Kapitel 5: Gefühle
Thomas Brussig's novel Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee, Kapitel 4-6 (S.43-72)

Content/Communication Goals
Kapitel 5: Gefühle: Talk about wishes and happiness; What do the Germans dream about? What does happiness mean for them? Read and discuss chapters 4-6 of Brussig’s novel Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee

Grammar Topics
Subjunktive II (present & past)

Requirement:
March 29: Test 2

30 March – 8 April Spring Break – No Class

Week 10 – [9 April – 12 April]
Thomas Brussig’s novel Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee, Kapitel 7-11 (S.73-109)

Content/Communication Goals
Read and discuss chapters 7-11 of Brussig’s novel Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee

Grammar Topics
Review: prepositions with accusative/dative and two-way prepositions with accusative and dative; excursus: n-declination

Week 11 – [16 April – 19 April]
Thomas Brussig’s novel Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee, Kapitel 12-14 (S.110-157)

Content/Communication Goals
Read and discuss chapters 12-14 of Brussig’s novel Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee

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

Requirement:
Thursday, 19 April: Composition 3
Week 12 – [23 April – 27 April]
Rückenwind Kapitel 8: *Ich, mein Smartphone und ich selbst*

**Content/Communication Goals**
Kapitel 8: Ich, mein Smartphone und ich selbst: Discuss the use of mobile phones; reflect on the use of mobile phones and social media in different contexts, our “selfie-society” and the advantages and disadvantages of the global, 24/7 availability of people. Which cultural differences become evident in regard to media use?

**Grammar Topics**
Reported speech with subjunctive I

**Requirement**
Thursday, 26 April: Test 3

**Make-Up Day: Friday, 27 April**
**Please note:** There is no make-up class on Friday, 27 April in our German class in order to compensate the theater workshop on Monday, 19 Feb

Week 13 – [30 April – 3 May]
Rückenwind Kapitel 8: *Ich, mein Smartphone und ich selbst*

**Content/Communication Goals**
Kapitel 8: Ich, mein Smartphone und ich selbst: Reflect on our “selfie-society” and the advantages and disadvantages of the global, 24/7 availability of people. Which cultural differences become evident in regard to media use?

**Grammar Topics**
Future tense (Futur I)

1 May – Public Holiday – No Class

Week 14 – [7 May – 11 May]
Rückenwind Kapitel 9: *Kauf!*

**Content/Communication Goals**
Kapitel 9: Kauf!: Discuss consumerism and how it has changed during the past few decades in Germany
Review and reflection of the semester

**Grammar Topics**
Prepositions with genitive; semester review

10 May – Public Holiday – No Class

**Make-Up Day: Friday, 11 May**
Please note: There is no German class on Friday, 11 May in order to compensate for the German lecture with Yoko Tawada on 13 March!

Week 15 – [14 May – 17 May]
Final Examination: (please leave it open), 10:00am – 12:00pm

Oral proficiency examination on Tuesday, 15 May (takes about 15 minutes, will be scheduled between 10am and 1pm)

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

   Julia 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 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.

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
Julia Buchholz grew up near Düsseldorf and after teaching German at a Korean university in Seoul, South Korea, for three years, she came via Hamburg to Berlin in 2012. Since 2013, she has been teaching German courses at NYU. Julia holds an MA in Translation and Teaching German as Foreign Language from Bonn University. Her academic interests include intercultural communication, language learning and teaching methods. Julia lives with her family in Pankow.