

**Course Title**

# German Language, Intensive Elementary

**Course Number**

GERM-UA 9010D01

## SAMPLE SYLLABUS

**Lecturer Contact Information**

TBA

**Course Details**

MTR 9:30am to 12:090pm

**Location**

Rooms will be posted in Albert before your first class. Please double check whether your class takes place at the Academic Center (BLAC) or at St. Agnes (SNTA).

**Prerequisites**

none

**Units earned**

6

**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 21", 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, Compositions, Portfolio	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.

### Required Text(s)

- Digital handout packages for each week via NYU Classes
- **Grammar Reader**, required, provided by your instructor for download on NYU Classes

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

- Zorach, Cecile, et al: **English Grammar for Students of German. The Study Guide For Those Learning German.** The Olivia and Hill Press, 2014. Copies for use within the Academic Center are available in the reading room or from your instructor.
- **Quizlet** offers **vocabulary flash cards** accompanying each unit; You will have to sign up for a free account in order to access the sets. Class join link will be provided by your instructor.
- 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.
- See [Deutsche Welle](#) 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://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)

**Semesterplan**  
(subject to change)**Week 1 – [3 Sept – 6 Sept]****Content/Communication Goals**

Meeting and greeting; introducing yourself and others; excusing yourself; spelling your name; giving/asking for phone numbers; asking/answering questions about yourself; ordering and paying for beverages at a café; giving tips

**Grammar Topics**

Personal pronouns (nominative: *ich, du, er, sie...*); present tense conjugation of regular verbs (*heißen, kommen, wohnen/leben, trinken*); irregular verbs (*sprechen, nehmen*); the auxiliary *sein*; the prepositions *in* and *aus* + dative articles; w-question words (*woher, was, wo, wie...*); the infinite pronoun *man*; local adverbs *hier, da*; indefinite articles (accusative: *einen, ein, eine...*)

**Other**

Get acquainted with your instructor and fellow class mates, the syllabus as well as the teaching materials and classroom policies; recognize English–German cognates; learn about greeting and addressing conventions (formal vs. informal); learn the numbers (1–1000) and the alphabet; learn about the make-up of German phone numbers; pronunciation practice: German vowels & diphthongs 1.0; manage miscommunication 1.0; familiarize yourself with an online dictionary; vocabulary: beverages; countries, regions and languages

**Week 2 – [10 Sept – 13 Sept]****Content/Communication Goals**

Talking about places (continents, countries, cities) you have been to/sights you have seen; asking about locations of cities/sights; asking/answering questions about yourself, your age, your major, languages you speak; speaking about food preferences, ordering and paying for coffee to go and food and beverages at an *Imbiss*; giving tips; communicating in the classroom (asking for information/clarifications/spellings of words; understanding instructions)

**Grammar Topics**

Present tense conjugation of regular verbs (*studieren, lernen, liegen, stehen*); present and preterite (past) tense conjugation of *sein*, present tense conjugation of *haben*; irregular verbs (*e*→*i*: *sprechen, nehmen, essen*); use of verbs with the adverb *gern*; the definite articles (nominative: *der, das, die, die*); positive and negative indefinite articles (accusative: *(k)einen, (k)ein, (k)eine, Ø/keine*); the prepositions *in* and *aus* + the dative articles; the indefinite pronoun *man*; the modal verb *mögen* and the forms “*möchten*” and “*hätten gern*”

**Other**

Geographic orientation in Berlin, Germany and Europe; learn names of countries, regions and languages; learn about the German-speaking countries (D-A-CH); pronunciation

practice: light vs. dark [ch]: *ich* vs. *ach*; word and sentence stress; introduction to gender learning strategies; Flash Card Boot Camp 1.0; vocabulary: Berlin's sights, countries, regions and languages, food items and German dishes

### **Week 3 – [17 Sept – 20 Sept]**

Communicating in the classroom (asking for information/clarifications/spellings of words, asking for names of objects, naming objects in the classroom); talking about food; expressing likes and dislikes regarding food; planning and going on a grocery shopping trip with friends; talking about hobbies and free time activities

#### **Grammar topics**

Definite articles (nominative); indefinite and negative articles (nominative and accusative); possessive article (accusative); plural forms of nouns; present tense conjugation of the auxiliary *haben* and regular verbs (*finden, brauchen, kaufen, kochen, suchen*); the modal verb *mögen* and the forms “*möchten*” and “*hätten gern*”; sentence structure of yes/no questions; existential construction *Es gibt... / In Berlin gibt es...*; the adverb *gern*

#### **Other**

Learn to work with dictionaries (reg. gender, plural of Ns); learn about word formation (NN compounds; female suffix -in); acquire strategies for learning gender; pronunciation practice: umlauts *ä, ö, ü*; vocabulary: food items, classroom vocab

### **Week 4 – [24 Sept – 27 Sept]**

#### **Content/Communication Goals**

Talking about German cities (Hamburg); shopping for produce/groceries at the market/store (asking about the location of groceries in a store, inquiring about prices, paying for your purchase); planning a cook-off with friends; expressing likes and dislikes regarding food; talking about your family and friends; describing pictures of friends and family

#### **Grammar topics**

Indefinite and negative articles (nominative and accusative); possessive articles (nom.); plural forms of Ns; present tense conjugation of regular verbs (*suchen, brauchen, kaufen, finden, machen*); the irregular verb *essen*; the modal verb *mögen*; sentence structure of yes/no questions; possessive articles in nominative (*mein, dein, sein, ihr,...*); existential construction *Es gibt ... in Berlin/Hamburg / In Berlin/Hamburg gibt es...*

#### **Other**

Learn about pricing and tipping conventions, haggling; packaging units in Germany; basic directional adverbs *rechts/links, da/dort*; politeness; managing miscommunication 2.0; pronunciation practice: words ending in -e and -en/-el/er

#### **Requirement**

Test 1: Thursday, 27 Sept

### **Week 5 – [1 Oct – 4 Oct]**

#### **Content/Communication Goals**

Talking about German cities (Leipzig/Weimar); telling/giving/asking for time; talking about your daily routines with friends; talking about your hobbies with others; arranging meetings with friends; making appointments; excusing delays; explaining how you get to work/school (using public transportation); describing a/your room/apartment/house

**Grammar topics**

Present tense conjugation of regular (*spielen, frühstücken, baden, arbeiten*) and irregular verbs (*schlafen, lessen, sehen*); separable prefix verbs and the “verbal bracket” (*auf|stehen, fern|sehen, aus|gehen*); w-questions with *wann*; sentence structure: inversion (of subject); preposition *in* + dative case; the prepositions *mit* + dative; temporal prepositions (*am, um, von... bis, zwischen... und...*); past tense (preterite) of *haben*;

**Other**

Color adjectives; tell time; learn names of weekdays/times of days; pronunciation practice: /sp/ and /st/ at onsets and word-medial

**Week 6 – [8 Oct – 11 Oct]**

Talking about German cities (Leipzig/Weimar); Talking about hobbies and living situations in Berlin/at home; arranging meetings with friends; making appointments; excusing delays; understanding emails, newspaper articles dealing with domestic topics; describing your room/workspace; asking for/giving directions inside places (at the AC, at Humboldt University, at the library)

**Grammar topics**

Definite articles (accusative); predicative adjectives; declination of pronominal adjectives (nominative and accusative); local prepositions (*in, an, auf... zwischen*) + dative articles & position verbs (*liegen, stehen, hängen*); negation with *nicht*; the prepositions *mit*; sentence structure: revision of inversion

**Other**

Jot down/understand German addresses; learn how to post domestic and international mail; learn ordinal numbers; pronunciation practice: [z]

**Excursion:** We will go to a local market and communicate with vendors at the market

**Requirement**

Quiz 1

**Week 7 – [15 Oct – 18 Oct]****Content/Communication Goals**

Making small talk about the weather; asking for/giving directions inside of places (at the AC, at Humboldt University, at the library) and outside to places in the city; talking about activities in the city; making plans to go see things with your friends as well as plans for the weekend; talking about travel plans

**Grammar topics**

Modal verbs (*können, müssen, wollen, dürfen*) and the “verbal bracket”; revision of local prepositions (*in, an, auf... zwischen*) and position verbs (*liegen, stehen, hängen*); preposition *in* + dative vs. accusative case; stationary preposition *bei* + names and directional preposition *zu/nach* (+ dative); conjugation of the verbs *arbeiten, gehen, ab|biegen*

**Other**

Manage miscommunication 2.0; pronunciation practice: *r* and *l* sounds

**Requirement**

Test 2: Thursday, 18 Oct

**22 Oct – 28 Oct Fall Break – No Class****Week 8 – [29 Oct – 1 Nov]****Content/Communication Goals**

Asking for/giving directions to places in a city (e.g. Köln/Bonn); talking about activities; making plans to go see things in the city as well as plans for the weekend with your friends; talking about travel plans; telling people about your vacation; making small talk about the weather; flirting at *Berghain*; complex sentence structure: sub-clauses with conjunction *denn*

**Grammar topics**

Perfect tense with *haben* and *sein* of regular and irregular verbs; conjugation of *gehen*, *ab/biegen*; stationary prepositions *in/bei* and directional prepositions *zu/nach* + dative (+ *in* + accusative); the local prepositions *durch*, *über* (+ accusative), *an... vorbei/entlang* (+ dative); temporal adverbs (*zuerst*, *dann*, *danach*)

**Other**

Write and send postcards in German; pronunciation practice: [ng] vs. [nk]

**Week 9 – [5 Nov – 8 Nov]**

Talking about holiday traditions; talking about past and future vacations; shopping revisited: asking for specific groceries at the store, asking for prices, specific quantities; buying bread at the bakery; talking about food in Berlin; comparing eating habits cross-culturally; placing more complex orders at a restaurant

**Grammar topics**

Perfect tense with *haben* and *sein* of regular and irregular verbs; interrogative *welche/r/n/s*; comparative forms of adjectives (irregulars *viel*, *gut*, *gern*); comparison with *als* & (*genau*) *so... wie*; interrogative *welche/r/n/s*; subjunctive II of *können* und *haben/sein* (*könnte*, *hätte*, *würde*) in polite requests

**Requirement**

Excursion Day: 8 Nov

**Week 10 – [12 Nov – 15 Nov]****Content/Communication Goals**

Talking about your travels; talking about health and the body; describing pain to a doctor; giving advice/health tips; making appointments; talking about love; expressing emotions; giving opinions and reasons

**Grammar topics**

Revision of perfect tense; the modal verbs *dürfen* und *sollen*; subjunctive II of *können* und *haben/sein* (*könnte*, *hätte*, *würde*) in polite requests; subjunctive mood of *sollen* (*sollten*); imperative; declination of pronominal adjectives (accusative); complex sentence structure: sub-clauses with the conjunctions *weil* & *dass*

**Other**

Learn about German bread and its tradition; pronunciation practice: intonation of imperatives

**Requirement**

Quiz 2

**Week 11 – [19 Nov – 22 Nov]****Content/Communication Goals**

Talking about love; expressing emotions; giving opinions and reasons; shopping for clothes; asking about different sizes, colors; comparing clothes/styles; talking about purchases you've made; expressing conditions; talking about German cities (Leipzig/Weimar)

**Grammar topics**

Personal pronouns (accusative: *mich, dich, ihn...*); dative verbs (*stehen, passen, gefallen, gehören*) and pronouns (*mir, dir, ...*); declination of pronominal adjectives (accusative and dative); adjective comparison revisited; the separable verb *aus/sehen*; complex sentence structure: sub-clauses with the conjunction *dass*; conditional sentences with the conjunction *wenn*

**Other**

Learn about Leipzig and Weimar; how to write a love letter in German; pronunciation practice: the [R] sound, long vs. short [ɛ]

**Requirement**

Test 3: Thursday, 22 Nov

**Week 12 – [26 Nov – 29 Nov]****Content/Communication Goals**

Arranging meetings with friends; expressing assumptions/opinions; talking about interests; expressing positive/negative surprise; speaking about your childhood; talking about everyday activities and what you do in your free time/to relax

**Grammar topics**

Preterite (past tense) of regular verbs (*wohnen, sagen, arbeiten*), irregular (*gehen*) and modal verbs (*musste, konnte, durfte,...*); use of preterite vs. perfect tense; the temporal adverbs *damals, früher*; reflexive verbs (*sich schminken, sich entspannen...*); verbs with fixed prepositions (*warten auf,...*); wo-/da compounds (*worauf, darauf*)

**Other**

Read a German fairy tale; pronunciation practice: s-sounds [z], [tz] & [s]

**Week 13 – [3 Dec – 6 Dec]****Content/Communication Goals**

Learning about the German school and college system; talking about your education, about everyday activities and what you do in your free time; speaking about birthdays and festivities; expressing regards and wishes appropriately; giving and receiving presents

### **Grammar topics**

Verbs with fixed prepositions (*warten auf,...*); wo-/da compounds (*worauf, darauf,...*); ditransitive verbs with two objects (dative and accusative; *geben, schenken, zeigen*); possessive articles (dative)

### **Requirement**

Oral presentation

### **Week 14 – [10 Dec – 13 Dec]**

#### **Content/Communication Goals**

Review: family and relatives; talk about souvenirs from Berlin; giving and receiving gifts; talk about your study abroad experience and plans for the future; talk about dreams and wishes

### **Grammar Topics**

Subjunctive II in conditional sentences with *wenn*; excursus: genitive case; two-way prepositions; Final review: Separable prefix verbs and the “verbal bracket”; reflexive verbs; modal verbs (present and past); verbs with fixed prepositions; ditransitive verbs with two objects (accusative and dative); subjunctive II (conditional sentences); prepositions (temporal, local and directional), sentence structure: main- and sub-clause word order with *wenn, weil, dass, denn, oder, aber*

### **Week 15 – [17 Dec – 20 Dec]**

Final Examination: Monday, Dec 17, 10:00am to 12:00pm

### **Classroom Etiquette**

My students are highly motivated and as eager to learn the language, as they are to discover the culture of their new environment. They are respectful, kind and supportive in every way and thus create an atmosphere in which everyone thrives and is comfortable to communicate in German.

### **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 Fuehrer is originally from the Cologne area, where she studied *Language and Communication Sciences* at the *University of Siegen*. Her keen interest in language has brought her to Berlin, where she completed comprehensive graduate studies in *Psycholinguistics* and *Teaching German as a Foreign Language*. She obtained a Masters degree in *Linguistics* with a specialization in *Language and Cognition* from *Humboldt University zu Berlin (HU)*.

Her research interests lie in language acquisition processes, especially statistical inductive learning in first and second language acquisition as well as grammar theory. Miriam has worked/taught at/for the University of Siegen, Macquarie University in Sydney, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Marmara University in Istanbul. She became a member of the NYU team in early 2013. She also works as a freelance consultant and teacher trainer for the government. She lives in Berlin-Neukölln.

## Academic Policies

### Grade Conversion

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

A = 94-100 or 4.0  
A- = 90-93 or 3.7  
B+ = 87-89 or 3.3  
B = 84-86 or 3.0  
B- = 80-83 or 2.7  
C+ = 77-79 or 2.3  
C = 74-76 or 2.0  
C- = 70-73 or 1.7  
D+ = 67-69 or 1.3  
D = 65-66 or 1.0  
F = below 65 or 0

### 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. Being more than 15 minutes late counts as an unexcused absence. Furthermore, your professor is entitled to deduct points for frequent late arrival or late arrival back from in-class breaks. 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.

Regardless of whether an absence is excused or not, it is the student's responsibility to catch up with the work that was missed.

### **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 [University Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays](#)

### **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](#) 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).

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](#).