

Course Title

German Language, Intermediate II

Course Number

GERM-UA 9004 D01

Spring 2020**Syllabus last updated on:** 29-Jan-2020**Lecturer Contact Information**

TBA

Course Details

T 10am-12:30pm

R 10am-11:15pm

Location: Rooms will be posted on Albert before your first class. Please double check whether your class will take place at the Academic Center (BLAC – Schönhauser Allee 36, 10435 Berlin) or at St. Agnes (SNTA – Alexandrinenstraße 118-121, 10969 Berlin).

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. 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 topical subjects from German culture and history as well as art, films, theater, literature and music. 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 fourth 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 points
Homework	200 points
Composition (3x50)	150 points
Tests (2x75)	150 points
Oral Presentation	100 points
Final exam	200 points
(written exam 170 points; oral proficiency exam 30 points)	

Failure to submit or fulfill any required component may result in failure of the class, regardless of grades achieved in other assignments.

Required Text(s)

Electronic Resources (via NYU Classes / NYU Library)

Grammar book:

B-Grammatik by Anne Buscha and Szilvia Szita. Schubert Verlag.
ISBN 978-3-941323-10-0.

Novel:

Die Entdeckung der Currywurst by Uwe Timm. Easy Readers, 2014.
ISBN 978-3-12-675737-9.

Books can be ordered at the Buchhandlung Uslar & Rai in Schönhauser Allee 43, 10435 Berlin. Details will be discussed in class.

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 home.

Please follow this link for the [NYU Berlin Library Catalogue](#) or the link on NYU Berlin's website (Academics/Facilities & Services).

Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)

- Grammar Reader, provided by your instructor
- *Genusly* is a useful **gender marking tool**: genusly.com (marks German nouns in different colors according to their gender)

Internet Research Guidelines

You can use the following authentic resources as websites or apps on your computer, smart phone, or tablet 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:

Deutsche Welle

Young Germany

Simsalabim – Phonetik Online

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**.

We will use **Quizlet** for vocabulary learning.

Semesterplan (subject to change)

Week 1 – [3 Feb – 6 Feb]

Hallo Berlin! – Introduction; expectations; first impressions of Berlin

Content/Communication Goals

Introduction: get to know each other; classroom policies

Talk about your first impressions of Berlin and about your expectations of the course; read and discuss an article about life in Berlin; listen to a song about Berlin

Song: *Dickes B* by SEED

Reading: *Wohin bewegt sich Berlin?* (Deutsch Perfekt)

Grammar Topics

Review: Word order; perfect tense

Week 2 [10 Feb – 13 Feb]

Über Brücken

Content/Communication Goals

Learn about changes and gentrification in Berlin; read a satirical short story about a bridge located in Kreuzberg; read an article about the changes taking place in Wedding (=name of a district)

Reading: *Über Brücken* by Sarah Schmidt (in: „Bitte nicht freundlich“, 2010); *Wie ein Kiez den Wandel der Stadt erlebt* (Tagesspiegel, 02.08.17)

Grammar Topics

Review: Verbs with prepositions; da- and wo-compounds

Week 3 [17 Feb – 20 Feb]

Ich bin ein Berliner – Berlin personalities

Content/Communication Goals

Learn about the famous actress and singer Marlene Dietrich and about other famous Berliners; listen to a song by Marlene Dietrich; read short biographies; hold a brief presentation about an interesting personality; write a biographical narration

Reading (excerpts): *Berlin. Eine Stadt in Biographien* by Dorothee Fleischmann (Merian Portraits)

Grammar Topics

Review: Past tense (Präteritum); temporal connectors (*als, wenn, wann, während, seit, bevor, bis*)

Requirement

Thursday, 20 February: Composition 1

Week 4 [24 Feb – 27 Feb]

Das dritte Geschlecht – Identity & Diversity

Content/Communication Goals

Discuss different aspects of identity, gender, diversity; learn about the discussion surrounding gender-neutral language in Germany; read a short story by Yoko Tawada.

Reading: *Hauptsache gendern. Warum ist geschlechtergerechte Sprache so verhasst?* by Lara Thiede (jetzt.de 04/19); *Eine leere Flasche* (in: *Überseetzungen*, 2002) by Yoko Tawada

Grammar Topics:

Relative clauses and relative pronouns

Requirement

Thursday, 27 February: Test 1

Week 5 [2 March – 5 March]

***Theatre workshop at the Maxim Gorki Theatre
Kunst und Rebellion***

Content/Communication Goals

Talk about different forms of art; discuss the political dimensions of theater and art; explore the East Side Gallery; discuss graffiti as a form of art; write a description of a work of art

Reading: *Graffiti und der Künstlerische Widerstand* (Neue Blickwinkel Kap 4)

Viewing: *Der Berliner Streetartist Christian Awe* (DW)

We will participate in a theater workshop at the Maxim Gorki Theater. Today, the Maxim Gorki Theater is considered one of the most dynamic, multicultural, young and innovative theaters in Germany. The theater focuses on political, contemporary and experimental dramatic art, while focusing on different aspects of cultural diversity in our society.

At the beginning of the 3.5-hour-long theater workshop, our students are invited to experience the different effects of acting on a theater's stage by trying out short interactive exercises. The workshop is about feeling and experiencing how acting and its effects on the spectator work on a very basic and global level. Theater has existed ever since mankind began reflecting on itself. Theater may be defined as a global method of communication. Discovering how well this method of communication can work in a foreign language or even without words, encourages students to express themselves and to communicate in a foreign environment, as well as in a foreign language both openly and with self-confidence.

During the second half of the workshop, students will receive an introduction to the main topic, plot and characters of an actual play at the Maxim Gorki Theater. The participants are divided into small groups to prepare short improvised scenes and then learn about the characters and the plot by acting and watching the other groups act.

Requirements

Monday, March 2, 9:30am -12:45pm: Theater workshop at the Maxim Gorki Theater. **The workshop will be followed by a visit to a performance at the MGT on Friday, March 6.**

To compensate for the workshop and for our theater visit, there will be no German class on Tuesday, March 3 and on Tuesday, April 16. More details will be announced in class.

Week 6 [9 March – 13 March] Identität, Migration & Integration

Content/Communication Goals

Learn about the history of migration in Germany; discuss German refugee politics; read an interview and watch a video about the hashtag *#vonhier*; discuss racism

Reading: *Erfolgsgeschichte* (Deutsch Perfekt 04/18); *Mein Akku ist gleich leer* by Faiz and Julia Tieke (mikrotext, Berlin 2016); *Deutsche können auch türkische Namen haben* (Interview mit Ferda Ataman, Zeit online 15.03.19)

Viewing: Video *Diese Frage tut weh* (Zeit.de, March 2019)

Grammar Topics

Review: negation

Requirement

Friday, 13 March: Composition 2

Friday, 13 March: 12am–4pm: Jewish Berlin Walk & Lunch with Ares Kalandides. To compensate for the walk, there will be no German class on Tuesday, 7 April.

Week 7 [16 March – 19 March]

The Comedian Harmonists – Germany as the Nazis were rising to power

Content/Communication Goals

Watch a German movie and learn about the famous group of singers “The Comedian Harmonists” and their struggle during the time of the Nazi dictatorship; listen to (and sing) songs; describe a character; analyze and interpret different aspects of a movie; write a film review

Viewing: *Comedian Harmonists* (1997, Joseph Vilsmeier)

Grammar Topics

Review: declination of adjectives; comparative & superlative

23 March – 27 March Spring Break – No Class**Week 8 [30 March – 2 Apr]**

Kleiner Mann – was nun? – The (not only) Golden Twenties in Berlin

Content/Communication Goals

Read an excerpt of a German novel and learn about the times of the Weimar Republic in Berlin; describe history and social developments of the past

Reading (excerpt): *Kleiner Mann – was nun?* by Hans Fallada (1932)

Grammar Topics

Subjunctive II

Requirement

Thursday, 2 April: 10:00am -11:30am: Members from Korientation e.V. will visit NYU Berlin. Details will be announced in class.

Week 9 [6 Apr – 9 Apr]

Die Entdeckung der Currywurst (1) – The last days of WWII in Germany

Content/Communication Goals

Start reading the short novel *Die Entdeckung der Currywurst* by the contemporary author Uwe Timm about a German woman living in Hamburg around the end of WWII; interpret a piece of literature; reflect on changing gender roles over the course of the past 75 years in Germany and the impact of these changes on society

Reading: Easy Reader version of *Die Entdeckung der Currywurst* by Uwe Timm (1993)

Grammar Topics

Reported speech (subjunctive I = Konjunktiv I)

7 April – Compensation for the Jewish walk on March 13 – No Class**Week 10 [14 Apr – 16 Apr]**

Die Entdeckung der Currywurst (2) – Zero Hour: Germany in 1945**Content/Communication Goals**

Finish reading *Die Entdeckung der Currywurst*; learn about the so-called “zero hour”; analyze the narrative technique and interpret the meaning of metaphors in Timm’s short novel

Reading: Easy Reader version of *Die Entdeckung der Currywurst* by Uwe Timm (1993)

Grammar Topics

Participles I & II as adjectives

16 April – Compensation for the theater visit (Maxim Gorki Theater) on March 6 – No Class**13 April - Public Holiday - No Class****Week 11 [20 Apr – 23 Apr]*****Winternähe***

Read and discuss excerpts from the novel *Winternähe* by Mirna Funk; prepare the lecture and talk with the author Mirna Funk; write an interpretation of a text

Requirements

Thursday, 23 April: Composition 3

Thursday, 23 April, 7:30 –9pm: Lecture and talk with Mirna Funk in the Academic Center.

Mirna Funk is an author of contemporary German literature and was born in Berlin in 1981. She often addresses the presence of Jewish culture and is writing about cultures of remembrance and how those are being reshaped in the present.

To compensate for the lecture, there is no German class in the morning.

Week 12 [27 Apr – 30 Apr]***Die Physiker (1)*** – German inventions and innovations**Content/Communication Goals**

Learn about German inventions and technical developments made in Germany; discuss the responsibility of scientists after reading and watching scenes from Friedrich Dürrenmatt’s play *Die Physiker*; learn how to write a formal letter.

Reading: *Made in Germany; Erfinderinnen – Die gab´s!* (Neue Blickwinkel Kap.7/1); *Die Physiker* by Friedrich Dürrenmatt (Premiere 1962)

Grammar Topics

Declination of nouns: genitive

Requirement

Oral presentations

Requirement:

Tuesday, 28 April: Test 2

Week 13 [4 May – 7 May]

Die Physiker (2) – German inventions and innovations

Content/Communication Goals

Learn about German inventions and technical developments made in Germany. Discuss the responsibility of scientists after reading and watching scenes from Friedrich Dürrenmatt's play *Die Physiker*. Learn how to write a formal letter.

Reading: *Made in Germany; Erfinderinnen – Die gab´s!* (Neue Blickwinkel Kap.7/1); *Die Physiker* by Friedrich Dürrenmatt (Premiere 1962)

Grammar Topics

Prepositions with genitive (*trotz, während, statt, wegen*)

Requirement

Oral presentations

Excursion on Thursday, 7 May, 9:30-11:00am: Workshop "Meilensteine" at the *Spectrum* (Science Center of the Technikmuseum Berlin). You will learn about famous scientists, perform real experiments and present your results to your scientific colleagues. More details will be announced.

Week 14 [11 May – 14 May]

Atomkraft? Nein danke. – Environmental movement and environmental awareness in Germany

Content/Communication Goals

Learn about the history of the environmental movement and environmental awareness in Germany; describe environmental problems and reasons for climate change; discuss consumerism and how it has changed during the past few decades in Germany; learn about new trends, ideas and projects in sustainability and talk about what more can be done; read an interview with Luisa Neubauer from the *Fridays for future* protest movement

Reading: *Vom Naturbewusstsein vom Engagement; Umweltschutz in Deutschland* (Neue Blickwinkel, Kap.7/1); *Future Futter* (Zitty, 16.01.18); *Luisa Neubauer: Wir werden beim Klimaschutz betrogen* (Interview, Orange / Handelsblatt, 23.03.2019)

Grammar Topics

Passive (present & past tense)

Requirement

Oral presentations

Week 15 [18 May – 19 May]

Final Examination: Tuesday, May 19, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Oral proficiency examination: TBD

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.

Exceptions will be made for students with academic accommodations from the Moses Center.

Suggested Co-Curricular Activities

Please use the opportunity to take part in the Berlin Buddy Program and the Tutoring Program at NYU Berlin.

Your Lecturer

Denise Uhl has coordinated the German Language Program at NYU Berlin since 2010. She teaches classes for the German Language Department at NYU Berlin. Denise holds an M.A. in German Literature, Comparative Literature, Modern History and German as a Foreign Language from Freie Universität Berlin. She has been working with international students since 2006 and has worked at NYU Berlin since September 2009.

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, Moses Center accommodations, 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.

Note that some assignments in the course may be checked for plagiarism by using TurnItIn or other another software designed to detect offences against academic integrity.

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 please follow the link to [NYU Global's academic policies](#).