

Course Title

German Language, Elementary I

Course Number

GERM-UA 9001-D04

Spring 2020**Syllabus last updated on:** 13-Jan-2020**Lecturer Contact Information**

TBA

Course Details

T 09:30am to 12:00pm

R 12:15am to 01:30pm

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

Prerequisites

none

Units earned

4

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 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; academic life; clothing; furniture; shopping; weather; food and restaurants; hobbies and sports; emotions and well-being. Throughout your engagement with the German language you will also learn about Berlin and the Federal Republic of Germany today, its 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: Daily Exercises & Portfolio	250
Chapter Tests (2 x 75) & Quizzes (4 x 25)	250
Oral presentation	100
Final Exam	200

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)

- **Course Reader**
- **Digital handout packages** for homework. Downloadable from NYU Classes
- **Grammar Reader**. Downloadable from NYU Classes. Copies in Reading Rooms.

Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)

- **Quizlet** offers **vocabulary flash cards** accompanying each unit of your course reader; 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.
- **German–English dictionary**, e.g. de.pons.com or dict.leo.org (both include pronunciation, gender and plural indication of nouns and past tense of verbs).

Internet Research Guidelines

TBD in class

Semesterplan (subject to change)

Week 1 – [3 Feb – 6 Feb]

Content & Communication Goals

Greetings; introduce oneself; understand and provide personal information; talk about wellbeing; formal and informal address; the alphabet

Grammar Topics

Interrogatives *wie, wer, was, wo, woher*; verb conjugation (singular) of *sein, heißen, haben, arbeiten, wohnen, leben, kommen, studieren, finden, gehen*; personal pronouns in nominative; prepositions *aus, in, bei*; sentence structure: statements and w-questions

Week 2 [10 Feb – 13 Feb]

Content & Communication Goals

The numbers; ordering beverages

Grammar Topics

Indefinite articles in accusative; verbs: *möchten, hätte gern*

Requirement

Grammar Quiz 1: Thursday, 13 Feb

Week 3 [17 Feb – 20 Feb]

Content & Communication Goals

Paying and tipping conventions; get to know Berlin; give further information about yourself; classroom communication; things in the classroom

Grammar Topics

3rd-person-pronouns; pronoun referencing; verb conjugation (plural); sentence structure; gender; definite articles in nominative; verbs *lesen, sprechen, hören, schreiben*

Requirement

Grammar Quiz 2: Tuesday, 18 Feb

Week 4 [24 Feb – 27 Feb]

Content & Communication Goals

Ordering fast food; talk about food preferences; buying groceries; communication at the farmers' market

Grammar Topics

Negative articles in accusative; verbs *essen, nehmen, mögen*; adverbs *gern / lieber*; verbs *einkaufen, brauchen, kosten*; plural; prepositions *zu / zum / zur*

Week 5 [2 March – 5 March]

Content & Communication Goals

Talk about your weekend

Grammar Topics

Präteritum (past tense) of *haben* and *sein*

Requirement

Test 1: Thursday, 5 Mar

Week 6 [9 March – 12 March]

Content & Communication Goals

Freetime activities in the city; at the flea market; clothing and household items; describe your apartment;

Grammar Topics

Verbs with vowel change; verb *gefallen*; subjects and objects; articles in accusative and nominative case; definite article in accusative case; existential construction *es gibt*; verb *suchen*; adjective declination in accusative

Excursion: Tuesday, 10 Mar

You will go to a local market and communicate with vendors at the market

Requirement

Grammar Quiz 3: Thursday, 12 Mar

Week 7 [16 March – 19 March]

Content & Communication Goals

Talk about family, friends and social networks; describe people and relationships

Grammar Topics

Possessive articles in nominative and accusative; adjective declination in nominative

23 March – 27 March Spring Break – No Class

Week 8 [30 March – 2 Apr]

Content & Communication Goals

Talk about travel plans; means of transport; wishes, dreams and plans for the semester

Grammar Topics

Wo vs *Wohin?*; the prepositions *nach* vs *zu*, *in* vs *bei*; dative case; preposition *mit*; the modal verbs *können*, *wollen*, *müssen*, *dürfen*; the verbal bracket; inversion; word order (Timlo)

Week 9 [6 Apr – 9 Apr]

Content & Communication Goals

Ask for/tell time; arrange meetings and make appointments; places for freetime activities; talk about daily routines

Grammar Topics

Questions with *wann*; prepositions of time: *ab*, *am*, *bis*, *für*, *nach*, *seit*, *um*, *von*, *vor*, *zwischen*; adverbs of time; preposition *in* with accusative case; separable prefix-verbs; review: sentence structure / word order with focus on inversion; the conjunctions *aber*, *denn*, *und*

Requirement

Grammar Quiz 4: Tuesday, 7 Apr

Excursion Day: Thursday, 9 Apr

Week 10 [14 Apr – 16 Apr]

Content & Communication Goals

Talk about your vacation and past events; holiday destinations

Grammar Topics

Perfect tense of regular, irregular & separable verbs; Preposition *in* with dative case

13 April Public Holiday - No Class

Week 11 [20 Apr – 23 Apr]

Content & Communication Goals

The body and health; giving advice

Grammar Topics

The modal verb *sollen*; imperative

Requirement

Test 2: Thursday, 23 Apr

Week 12 [27 Apr – 30 Apr]

Content & Communication Goals

Talk about places in the city and where things are located in your room; describe living situations; orientation in the city and in a building; give directions

Grammar Topics

Two-way prepositions; review: dative case; prepositions *in* vs. *zu*; review: two-way-preposition *in* with accusative and dative case; prepositions *seit, von, zu*; prepositions with accusative case: *für, durch, ohne, gegen, entlang*

Week 13 [4 May – 7 May]

Content & Communication Goals

Birthdates and other important dates; talk about local specialties; make comparisons

Grammar Topics

Ordinals; comparative and superlative of adjectives (*viel, gut, gern*)

Requirement

Oral presentation

Week 14 [11 May – 14 May]

Content & Communication Goals

Talk about love and emotions; review

Grammar Topics

Pronouns in accusative; review: adjective declination; subjunction *weil*

Requirement

Oral presentation

Week 15 [18 May – 19 May]

Final Examination: Monday, 18 May, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Required Co-Curricular Activities

1) Excursion to the Turkish market, Tuesday, 10 March, 10.30pm -11.45am (subject to change)

Wir gehen zusammen auf den türkischen Markt am Maybachufer und lernen viele neue Wörter. Wir kaufen auch leckere Sachen.

We will go to the Turkish market at Maybachufer to employ some of the German you learned already in real-life interactions with Berliners.

2) German Excursion Day, Thursday, 9 April

On Thursday, November 7, all German classes will be going on an excursion. We will be offering varied activities (e.g. museum visits, workshops). While the events have different durations, they all have one thing in common: German input and language immersion are guaranteed.

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 behave respectfully towards each other and kind and supportive in every way and thus create an atmosphere in which everyone is comfortable to speak the new language.

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

Miriam is originally from the Cologne area, but her keen interest in languages has brought her to Berlin, where she started comprehensive graduate studies in *Psycholinguistics* and *Teaching German as Foreign Language*. She obtained a Master's degree in *Linguistics* with a specialization in *Language and Cognition* from *Humboldt Universität zu Berlin* in 2013, but remained a graduate student at *HU*. Her research interests lie in the field of language acquisition, with past projects centering on modeling statistical learning in first and second languages, as well as grammar theory. Her current projects explore the effects of mnemonic learning techniques in the foreign language classroom.

Always interested in bringing research and practice together, Miriam joined NYU in 2011 as a German instructor. She currently teaches elementary level classes, regular and intensive tracks, and is a primary author of NYU's first in-house German text book (work in progress) and resources such as the *Grammar Reader*. Her prior engagements include *Macquarie University - Sydney*, *Universität Siegen*, *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign* and *Marmara Üniversitesi - Istanbul*. She also works as a freelance consultant and teaching trainer for government programs and other institutions. 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, 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](#).