

NYU Prague

GERM-UA9004P02

Intermediate German II

Fall 2018

Instructor Information

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Course Information

- GERM-UA9004P02
- Intermediate German II
- Co-requisite or prerequisite: Intermediate German I at NYU; or a first semester Intermediate German course at another school/university
- Time - TBA
 - Location to be confirmed

Course Overview and Goals

Intermediate German II is intended to develop communication, writing, and argumentation skills at a higher level. Students examine and discuss texts of various genres, then write short essays related to these areas. The course includes a selected review of grammar, idioms, and phraseology of the previous three semesters. The course focuses on building writing skills while continuing to enrich conversational abilities. Other features of the course are presentations, guided writing, and reading of literary excerpts. On the basis of assorted passages and articles from various books, magazines, and newspapers students train to comprehend and to discuss present-day issues of German-speaking countries. Part of the class is also an introduction to a few representative (Jewish) German writers who had lived in Prague. However, the main goal of the course is to consolidate students' command of spoken German. (Format of the course: Lectures)

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

- make use of an eloquent vocabulary to handle complex everyday situation
- present, discuss, and analyze opinions
- relate and value events that happened or could have happened in the past
- create detailed texts and reports that are parts of modern business life
- react and interact in a clear and profound manner

Course Requirements

Class Participation, Homework

Class participation is important for this type of course; therefore, it will form a considerable part of a student's grade (20%).

Composition assignments

4 short essays, each 2 pages (20%).

Mid-term test

Grammar test (20%).

Final exam

Grammar and vocabulary test (40%).

Grading of Assignments

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

Assignments/Activities	% of Final Grade
Participation, homework	20%
Composition assignments	20%
Mid-term test	20%
Final examination	40%

Letter Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percent
A	92.5% and higher
A-	90.0 – 92.49%
B+	87.5% - 89.99%
B	82.5% - 87.49%
B-	80% - 82.49%
C+	77.5% - 79.99%
C	72.5% - 77.49%
C-	70% - 72.49%
D+	67.5% - 69.99%
D	62.5% - 67.49
D-	60% - 62.49%
F	59.99% and lower

Assessment Expectations

Grade A: Excellent work.

Grade B: Very good work.

Grade C: Satisfactory work.

Grade D: Passable work.

Grade F: Fails to meet the requirements.

Course Schedule

Topics and Assignments

Week/Date	Topic	Grammar	Assignment Due
Session 1 Monday, September 3	Overview of course		
Session 2 Wednesday, September 5	Celebrations and holidays in Germany	Prepositions of time	
Session 3 Monday, September 10	Small talk topics	Numerals and measurement	
Session 4 Wednesday, September 12	<i>Ossis</i> and <i>Wessis</i>	Weak noun declensions	Written assignment about a short movie
Session 5 Monday, September 17	World population	Simple past tense	
Session 6 Wednesday, September 19	Specialization and criticism	Simple past vs. present perfect tense	
Session 7 Monday, September 24	Three famous Germans	General subjunctive	
Session 8 Wednesday, September 26	Egon Erwin Kisch	Expressing wishes; <i>als ob, als wenn</i>	
Session 9 Monday, October 1	The average German; stereotypes	Uses of <i>es</i>	
Session 10 Wednesday, October 3	Languages in the European Union	Prepositional phrases	Written assignment <i>Ein durchschnittlicher Amerikaner</i>
Session 11 Monday, October 8	Walter Serner	<i>Da</i> -compounds, <i>wo</i> -compounds	
Session 12 Wednesday, October 10	The multicultural society	Phrases with <i>da/wo</i> -compounds	
Fall Break October 13-21	Fall Break		

Week/Date	Topic	Grammar	Assignment Due
Session 13 Monday, October 22	Writing a job application	Expressing opinions	
Session 14 Wednesday, October 24	Human-induced climate change	Equivalents for English <i>to</i>	
Session 15 Monday, October 29	Rainer Maria Rilke	Genitive prepositions	
Session 16 Wednesday, October 31	Mid-term test		
Session 17 Monday, November 5	Environmental protection in Germany	Adjective nouns	
Session 18 Wednesday, November 7	Making a phone call; business German	Neuter adjectives nouns	Written assignment <i>Umweltbewusst handeln und leben</i>
Make-up Day Friday, November 9 (9am-5pm)	Make-up day for missed classes		
Session 19 Monday, November 12	Nature, zoos, pets	Animal idioms	
Session 20 Wednesday, November 14	Franz Kafka (biography)	Conjunctions	
Session 21 Monday, November 19	<i>Erinnerungen an F.K.</i> (Rudolf Fuchs)	Passive with modal verbs	
Session 22 Wednesday, November 21	<i>Ein Besuch im Bergwerk</i> (Franz Kafka)	Substitutes for the passive voice	
Session 23 Monday, November 26	Student life in Germany	Expressing probability	
Session 24 Wednesday, November 28	Demographic trends in Germany	Types of comparisons (<i>wie, als</i>)	Written assignment about a movie
Session 25 Monday, December 3	Body language	Adjective endings	
Session 26 Wednesday, December 5	In the office	Uses of the comma; abbreviations	
Session 27	Paul Kornfeld	Phrase related to the body	

Week/Date	Topic	Grammar	Assignment Due
Monday, December 10			
Session 28 Wednesday, December 12 (last day of classes)	Phrases with numbers	Review	
Session 29 Monday, December 17	Final exam		
Session 30 Wednesday, December 19	Student consultation		

Course Materials

Required Textbooks & Materials

- Textbook: “Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik; Wiederholen und anwenden“, James Rankin/Larry D. Wells, Houghton-Mifflin, Boston – New York 2010.

Supplemental Text (not required to purchase, copies available in NYU P Library)

- Assorted articles and passages from various books. (Provided by the teacher)

Resources

- **Access your course materials:** [NYU Classes](http://nyu.edu/its/classes) (nyu.edu/its/classes)
- **Databases, journal articles, and more:** [Bobst Library](http://library.nyu.edu) (library.nyu.edu)
- **Assistance with strengthening your writing:** [NYU Writing Center](http://nyu.mywconline.com) (nyu.mywconline.com)
- **Obtain 24/7 technology assistance:** [IT Help Desk](http://nyu.edu/it/servicedesk) (nyu.edu/it/servicedesk)
- **NYU Prague library:** [Tritius Catalog](https://nyu.tritius.cz/?lang=EN) (https://nyu.tritius.cz/?lang=EN)

Course Policies

Attendance and Tardiness

Absences only for medical reasons and for religious observance will be excused. To obtain an excused absence, you are obliged to supply either a doctor’s note or corroboration of your illness by a member of the housing staff (either an RA or a Building Manager). To be excused for religious observance, you must contact the instructor and the Academic Director via e-mail one week in advance of the holiday. Your absence is excused for the holiday only and does not include days of travel associated with the holiday. Unexcused absences will be penalized with a 2% percent deduction from your final course grade for every week of classes missed.

Please note that Friday, November 9 (9am – 5pm) is reserved as a make-up day for missed classes. Do not schedule any trips for this day.

Late Submission of Work

All assigned written work is to be submitted by the proper deadline. Any late submission will be penalized by deducting 5% from the assignment grade for each day of the delay. Written assignments will not be accepted for grading if delivered more than 10 days after the original deadline.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

According to the Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook, plagiarism is defined as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as though it were one's own. More specifically plagiarism is to present as one's own a sequence of words quoted without quotation marks from another writer, a paraphrased passage from another writer's work; facts or ideas gathered, organized and reported by someone else, orally and/or in writing. Since plagiarism is a matter of fact, not of the student's intention, it is crucial that acknowledgment of the sources be accurate and complete. Even where there is no conscious intention to deceive, the failure to make appropriate acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism.

The College of Arts and Science's Academic Handbook defines plagiarism similarly and also specifies the following:

"presenting an oral report drawn without attribution from other sources (oral or written), writing a paragraph which, despite being in different words, expresses someone else's idea without a reference to the source of the idea, or submitting essentially the same paper in two different courses (unless both teachers have given their permission in advance).

Receiving help on a take-home examination or quiz is also cheating – and so is giving that help – unless expressly permitted by the teacher (as in collaborative projects). While all this looks like a lot to remember, all you need to do is give credit where it is due, take credit only for original ideas, and ask your teacher or advisor when in doubt."

"Penalties for plagiarism range from failure for a paper, failure for the course or dismissal from the university." (Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook)

Classroom Etiquette

Eating is not permitted in the classroom. No cell phones and **no use of the Internet for other than educational purposes** in the classroom. **Tardiness of more than 20 minutes without a reasonable excuse will be regarded as an absence.**

Disability Disclosure Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.