**Course Title**

**German Language, Intermediate I**

**Course Number**  
GERM-UA9003D01

**Summer 2019**

**Instructor Contact Information**  
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**Course Details**  
Summer 2018  
MTWRF 10am – 12.30am  
NYU Berlin in der Kulturbrauerei  
Room: BLAC 204

**Units earned**  
4

**Prerequisites**  
You have taken GERM-UA9002001 Elementary German II at NYU and received a passing grade; or you have taken two semesters or equivalent of introductory German 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.

**Course Description**  
Intermediate German I is the first part of a two-semester 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 primarily taught in German and emphasizes the language skills necessary to communicate effectively in a foreign language – speaking, reading, viewing, writing, and listening. During the course you will engage in a great variety of up-to date subject matter on city life in Berlin, visual arts, literature, film, politics and history. This course intends 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 self-study per classroom hour.
Course Objective
This course covers the third 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 the advanced study of German in the US, or to use German for travel, leisure, and work.

Grading
Grading for this course is based on a point-accumulation system. Every component of the course has a specific value on a scale of 1000 points. You accumulate credit through participation, tests, written assignments, and oral performances as follows:

Assessment Components
- Active participation in class: 200 points
- Homework & Compositions: 250 points
- Tests (2 x 100): 200 points
- Oral Presentation: 100 points
- Final Examination: 250 points

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

NYU Berlin uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

- A+ = 94-100
- A  = 90-93
- B+ = 87-89
- B   = 84-86
- C+ = 77-79
- C   = 74-76
- D+ = 67-69
- D   = 65-66
- F = below 65

Participation & Language Use
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 for the most part conducted in German. You are expected to prepare adequately for each session (reading background information in the Glossary about cultural topics, pronunciation and grammar), so that you can actively participate in class.

Homework
Homework will be assigned daily and is absolutely crucial to the progress you make in class. In order to participate in class, you need to complete homework assignments.
During the summer, you will receive a lot of additional handouts, texts, and exercises. Please purchase an organizer/folder/binder where you keep your materials and printouts organized in sequence. If you intend on continuing with German, please hold on to all materials.
Tests
There will be 2 tests throughout the semester. Each test will be cumulative, though with a focus on the most-recently covered material.

Attendance Policy
Participation in all classes is essential for your academic success. 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. If you want the reasons for your absence to be treated confidentially and not shared with your professor, please approach the summer program director Tom Ertman (te11@nyu.edu).

Unexcused absences affect students' grades: Missing one week's worth of classes (consecutive or non-consecutive) without an excuse leads to a deduction of 2% of the overall grade and may negatively affect your class participation grade. Three unexcused absences in one course may lead to a Fail in that course. Furthermore, your Professor is also entitled to deduct points for frequent late arrival to class or late arrival back from in-class breaks. Being more than 15 minutes late for class counts as an unexcused absence. Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at the announced meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Exams, tests, 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 Program Director Tom Ertman; until this doctor's note is produced the missed assessment is graded with an F. 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 because of any religious observance should notify their instructor AND NYUB's Academic Office in writing via e-mail one week in advance before being absent for this purpose. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Director or Assistant Director will re-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 instructor, 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) Unless an extension has been approved, work submitted late receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100 point scale for each day it is late.

(4) Without an approved extension, written work submitted more than 5 weekdays following the session date fails and is given a zero.

(5) Please note: end of summer 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.

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: http://nyu.libguides.com/content.php?pid=27555&sid=200118).

NYUB takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the instructor. Your instructor may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form. All assignments in this course will be checked for plagiarism using TurnItIn.

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.

Required Text(s)
Your professor will provide materials based on:

Please purchase:

Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)
Your professor will provide supplemental materials.
**Additional Required Equipment**
- For online German–English dictionaries use: [de.pons.com](http://de.pons.com) or [dict.leo.org](http://dict.leo.org) (both include pronunciation and the past tense forms of verbs)
- For flash cards use anki.com (How to best make use of this tool will be discussed in class if desired)
- *Genusly* is a useful gender-marking tool: [genusly.com](http://genusly.com) (marks German nouns in different colors according to their gender)
- A good workshop on German phonetics: [simsalabim.reinke-eb.de](http://simsalabim.reinke-eb.de)
- *University of Iowa* provides an excellent technical overview of German sounds and where and how they are produced anatomically at [uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics](http://uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics)
  - See *Deutsche Welle* ([dw.de](http://dw.de)) for lots of interesting articles as well as free
  - German online courses for independent study

**Semesterplan**
(subject to change)

**Woche 1 [3.6. – 6.6.]**

*Supplemental material*

**Content/ Communication Goals**
Welcome to Berlin!
- Course introduction and classroom policies
- Get oriented in the city, learn about the different neighborhoods and sights
- Get to know each other, talk about free time activities, interests, likes and dislikes

**Grammar Topics**
- Modal, separable, and reflexive verbs
- Negation
- Verbs with prepositions
- Da- and wo-compounds
- Declension of nouns: *N-Deklination*

**No class on Friday, 7.6. (CAS in Weimar and Leipzig)**

**Woche 2 [11.6. – 14.6.]**

*Neue Blickwinkel 1: Junges Leben: Schule, Bildung, Beruf*

**Content/ Communication Goals**
- Learn about the educational system in Germany
  - Talk about childhood memories, your first day of school, and important life events
- Learn about the lives of famous Germans
Grammar Topics
- Past tenses: perfect and imperfect tense, Plusquamperfekt (pluperfect)
- Word order in main and subordinate clauses
- Temporal clauses with als, wenn, wann, bevor, nachdem

No class on Monday, 10.6. (federal holiday: Pfingsten)

Woche 3 [17.6. – 20.6.]
Neue Blickwinkel 4: Ästhetischer Aktivismus: Die Kunst und das politische Engagement

Content/ Communication Goals
- Learn about German history between the wars
- Talk about art, graffiti, and revolution
- Describe things

Grammar Topics
- Adjective endings
- Comparative and superlative
- Infinitive with zu
- Final clauses with damit and um...zu

Requirement: Test 1: 17.6.
No class on Friday, 21.6. (CAS in Prague)

Woche 4 [24.6. – 28.6.]
Neue Blickwinkel 8: Grenzen überschreiten: Ein Blick in die Vergangenheit

Content/ Communication Goals
- Learn about German history after WW2, the separation and the two political systems, and the reunification in 1989/1990.
- Life in the Former GDR: Read excerpts from the novel Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee by Thomas Brussig and watch the Film Sonnenallee

Grammar Topics
- Subjunctive II for present (conditional)
- Sentence structure with coordinating and subordinating conjunctions
- Relative clauses with nominative and accusative and relative pronouns
- Present and past participles as adjectives
- Future tense

Monday, 24.6.: Excursion to see the East Side Gallery (Subject to change)
Anne will accompany you to see the East Side Gallery in Friedrichshain – the largest part of the original Berlin Wall that is still intact. You will take a walk along the gallery, describe and discuss the artworks, and their political messages.
Woche 5 [1.7. – 5.7.]

Neue Blickwinkel 9: Deutschland, Immigration und Integration

Content/ Communication Goals
- Learn about migration and cultural diversity in Germany today
- Read Von der Muttersprache zur Sprachmutter, a text by contemporary German-Japanese author Yoko Tawada
- Talk about your time in Berlin and your experience with the German language

Grammar Topics
- Prepositions with accusative, dative, two-way-prepositions

Monday, 1.7.: Test 2 and Excursion to the Exhibition Alltag in der DDR (Subject to change)
After taking Test 2 in your usual classroom, Anne will accompany you to the Exhibition Alltag in der DDR (everyday life in the GDR), which is located inside Kulturbrauerei, just a few minute walk from NYU Berlin’s classrooms. There, you will be able to see and touch some of the GDR paraphernalia, which you have learned about in Sonnenallee.

Requirement: Test 2: 1.7.
Requirements: Oral presentation
Final Examination: 5.7.

Your Instructor
Anne Röhrborn teaches German language classes at NYU. She is also a PhD Candidate in Germanic Languages and Literatures at Harvard University, where she has taught German language classes at different levels. Anne is a native Berliner. She was born in West Berlin and currently lives in Schöneberg. She holds an M.A. in German Literature and Ancient History from the Technical University of Berlin, but has also lived and studied abroad in Madrid and Minnesota before moving to Boston to pursue her PhD. Her scholarly interests lie with contemporary German literature and film since 1989, intercultural literature, and language philosophy.