

GM101 Beginning German (A1)

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Fall Semester 2018
Seminar Room 2 (P98)
Mon, Wed & Fri 10:45-12:15

All office meetings are by email appointment.

Required Textbooks:

Schritte Plus A1.1 NEU (München: Hueber Verlag, 2015), ISBN: 978-3193010810

Schritte Plus A1.2 NEU (München: Hueber Verlag, 2016), ISBN: 978-3196010817

The closest independent bookstore that stocks these textbooks is
Buchhandlung Chaiselongue, Dietzgenstraße 68, 13156 Berlin.
Phone: 030 476 111 31, E-mail: info@chaiselongue-buch.de.

Note: Buy this latest edition, *Schritte Plus A1 NEU*; do not purchase a previous edition (check ISBN). You have to purchase both volume *A1.1* (chapters 1-7) and volume *A1.2* (chapters 8-14).

Recommended:

Zorach & Melin, *English Grammar for Students of German*, ISBN: 0934034389.

Oxford Duden *German Dictionary*, current edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

Additional texts may be made available via “Google Drive.” Please print them out, and get a binder. I shall distribute additional material in the form of photocopies, but will *not* provide multiple copies of the same text.

Course Description

This course is designed to start you on the road to communicative competence in German. By “communicative,” we mean that you will learn to express your *own ideas* orally and in writing, and to develop strategies for understanding spoken and written discourse—as opposed to merely memorizing vocabulary lists and grammar rules. By “competence,” we mean that your acquisition of the language must show a high level of grammatical, lexical, and cultural *accuracy*. Our goal is not simply a list of rules and words, but real communication between speakers.

To achieve these goals, you have to engage in as many communicative exchanges as possible. The course will give you ample opportunity to do so: in small groups or with a partner, in direct interaction with me, in listening to dialogue between other native speakers, in expressing your ideas in writing, and in understanding and discussing short texts.

This approach to second language acquisition entails that:

- All classroom **interaction** will be in German, since input and use are the chief engines of second language acquisition.
- Consistent and active classroom **participation** is crucial to your success at acquiring the language. A language cannot be “crammed”; consolidating the requisite cognitive processes requires constant use and practice.
- **Grammar explanations in the classroom will be kept to a minimum.** You are expected to read, learn, and review the grammar from the book on your own, so classroom time can be devoted to using the structures and vocabulary creatively.
- Outside the classroom, you are expected—and will need— to spend between one and a half and **two hours** each day, six days a week, learning and practicing your grammar and vocabulary. All language learners should expect to complete several written exercises from the book on each new grammatical topic.

Attendance

Since interaction is critical for language learning, we take class attendance very seriously. Attendance at ALL classes is expected.

- More than three absences (that is absences from three sessions) in a semester will significantly affect the grade for the course. Specifically, each additional absence will lower your final grade by half a point (i.e. if your final grade is a B, and you have missed five classes or been late repeatedly you will be downgraded to a C.)
- Significant or repeated lateness also counts as absence.
- If you are texting, emailing, surfing the web – you are considered absent.
- Six absences or more will result in **automatic failure of the course.**

Please consult the Student Handbook for regulations governing longer periods of illness or leaves of absence. If you have any medical issues or other concerns that could impact your compliance with these regulations, you need to inform your instructor during the first week of the semester.

For information on disability accommodation, you should consult with the Registrar, Scott Jung s.jung@berlin.bard.edu. The process for applying for disability accommodation is explained in the Student Handbook with links to the forms here:

<http://www.berlin.bard.edu/for-students/student-handbook/policies-and-regulations/#c4206>

Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section III, Academic Misconduct.

Assessment

Your Grade will be based on class attendance, quality of participation, daily written homework assignments, tests, and a final examination:

- Class Participation, Homework, Quizzes 50%
- Chapter Tests 35%
- Final Exam 15%

Language tests are by their nature cumulative. While focusing on the new material, each chapter test assumes continued mastery of the previous chapters. Tests must be taken on the announced test days. Tests that are missed will not be rescheduled and will receive a score of “0%.”

Finally, please be punctual and considerate. Switch off your mobile phone before each class, and keep bathroom breaks to a minimum. Interruptions are bad for everybody’s concentration.

Schedule

Overleaf is an overview of the semester. In each week, the principal material will be from the book chapter mentioned, but there will regularly also be additional material, sometimes from later chapters. Chapter tests will occur about every two weeks and will be announced at least two classes in advance. All vocabulary and other material that appears on the whiteboard or on other material is “fair game” for the tests. Please take copious notes.

Final Examination will take place on December 19, 2018. Students are required to be on campus during completion week.

This schedule is subject to change. You are responsible throughout the semester for knowing what you have to do for each class.

Semester Overview

Week 1 (Sep. 03 – Sep. 09)	Chapter 1 (Book 1: Schritte A1.1)
Week 2 (Sep. 10 – Sep. 16)	Chapter 2
Week 3 (Sep. 17 – Sep. 23)	Chapter 3
Week 4 (Sep. 24 – Sep. 30)	Chapter 4
Week 5 (Oct. 01 – Oct. 07)	Chapter 5
Wed, Oct. 3, 2018	Federal Holiday
Week 6 (Oct. 08 – Oct. 14)	Chapter 6
Week 7 (Oct. 15 – Oct. 21)	Chapter 7
Week 8 (Oct. 22 – Oct. 28)	Chapter 8 (Book 2: Schritte A1.2)
Fall Break (Oct. 29 – Nov. 04)	NO CLASS
Week 09 (Nov. 05 – Nov. 11)	Chapter 9
Week 10 (Nov. 12 – Nov. 18)	Chapter 10
Week 11 (Nov. 19 – Nov. 25)	Chapter 11
Week 12 (Nov. 26 – Dec. 02)	Chapter 12
Week 13 (Dec. 03 – Dec. 09)	Chapter 13, 14
Week 14 (Dec. 10 – Dec. 16)	Review
Week 15 (Dec. 17 – Dec. 21)	Completion Week NO CLASS
Dec 19, 2018	Final Examination