

GM201 German B1 (Group A)

Instructor: Tabea Weitz

Course Times: Mon, Wed, Fri: 9:00-10:30

Office hours: by appointment (P98A U005)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

This course is designed to develop your communicative competence in German. By “communicative,” we mean 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*.

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 the group or with a partner, in direct interaction with me, in listening to dialogue between other native speakers on audiovisual media, in expressing your ideas in writing, and in understanding and discussing short texts.

The learning goals are in accordance with the **Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment** (abbreviated as CEFR). CEFR is a guideline used to describe achievements of learners of foreign languages across Europe. It describes what a learner is supposed to be able to do in reading, listening, speaking and writing at each level. Our class fulfills the requirements of the “B1 Threshold or Intermediate” level. What this means is that once you have completed the class successfully you are able to:

- understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc.
- deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken;
- produce simple connected texts on topics that are familiar or of personal interest;
- describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes & ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

COURSE MATERIALS

Begegnungen – Deutsch als Fremdsprache, Integriertes Kurs- und Arbeitsbuch, Sprachniveau B1, Vollversion. Autoren: Anne Buscha, Szilvia Szita. Schubert-Verlag, Leipzig, **2. veränderte Auflage** 24,50 Euro, ISBN: 978-3-941323-20-9.

fakultativ: Glossar Englisch-Französisch-Spanisch, ISBN 978-3-929526-94-3, 9,90 Euro

Bookstore near campus: **Buchhandlung Chaiselongue**, Dietzgenstr. 68, 13156 Berlin. Phone: 030 476 111 31, Email: info@chaiselongue-buch.de

I strongly encourage you to make use of the language learning materials on the **Bard Center for Foreign Languages and Culture** website at <http://flcl.bard.edu/resources/german/>

You should also tune in on **Deutsche Welle** radio or TV at <http://www.dw-world.de/> and **Info Radio** at http://www.inforadio.de/livestream/inforadio_hoeren.html

- The classroom interaction will be in German, because input and use are the chief engines of foreign language acquisition.
- **Active and consistent classroom participation** is crucial to your success at acquiring the language. A language cannot be “crammed” in. So as to get the most out of this class, you need to constantly use and practice the language.
- **Outside the classroom**, you are expected—and will need to—spend at least 15 hours a week, which corresponds to three hours each day, doing your homework, and learning and practicing your grammar and vocabulary.
- Assignments need to be **double-spaced** and have **margins of about 1 cm** on each side.
- Upon completing this course successfully, you will have reached the B1 language proficiency level, corresponding to the levels of the **Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)** that range from A1 for beginners to C2 for language skills at the highest level.

ATTENDANCE

Since interaction is critical for language learning, we take class attendance very seriously. Please note the following regulations:

- You will be allowed no more than **three** absences during the semester. Repeated lateness also counts as an absence.

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 four classes or been late repeatedly you will be downgraded to a B-).

- **Six** absences and more will result in **automatic failure** of the course.
- In order to pass the course, you have to **pass the final exam**.
- 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 Scott Jung, Enrollment and Program Manager, 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>

LEARNING AND TESTING

Every two weeks, you will take a **test of the “Kapitel” you have studied** (the exact test date will be announced by me at least two classes in advance) and write an **essay assignment**.

The tests must be taken on the announced test days. Tests that are missed will not be rescheduled, and will receive a score of “0%”

In preparation for all tests and quizzes, you are expected to

- make frequent use of the CD in the back of your textbook
- study the “Wortschatz” for each “Kapitel”
- go to the Schubert-Verlag textbook homepage for free online exercises at:
<http://www.schubertverlag.de/aufgaben/>

For completing your **take-home assignments**, you may only consult dictionaries. The use of translation applications or the like is not permitted.

For **all essay assignments** to be complete, **you must hand in two versions**. You will receive a grade for the corrected second version of your essay, based on its content, grammar, and structure.

GRADING

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

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|-----------------------|-----|
| • Class Participation | 25% |
| • Homework, Quizzes | 25% |
| • Chapter Tests | 25% |
| • Final Exam | 25% |

Please be punctual and considerate. Switch off your cell phones before each class (including the vibration setting). If you are texting, emailing, surfing the web – you are considered absent!

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

- According to the Student Code of Conduct (located in the Student Handbook), Bard College Berlin adheres to a strict set of guidelines in regards to Academic Integrity.
- If a student is suspected of Plagiarism, Collusion, Resubmission of ones own work or Cheating, instructors will contact Kerry Bystrom (Associate Dean) k.bystrom@berlin.bard.edu and Catherine Toal (Dean) c.toal@berlin.bard.edu with the specifics of the situation. They will take things from there and communicate with the student about the alleged violation and follow up with a disciplinary process, which is run through the Academic Integrity Board.
- Specifics of the policy itself can be found in the student handbook.
- Students are not allowed to use Google Translate (or other such tools) to write their papers.

SYLLABUS

This syllabus is subject to change. You are responsible throughout the semester for knowing what you have to do for each class. Homework will be announced in class and/or posted on google classroom.

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| Week 1 – Sep 3 -Sep 7 | Kapitel 1 | |
| Week 2 – Sep 10 – Sep 14 | Kapitel 2 | |
| Week 3 – Sep 17 – Sep 21 | Kapitel 2 | Test 1 Essay 1 |
| Week 4 – Oct 1 – Oct 5 | Kapitel 3 | Essay 1 corr. Test 2 |
| Week 5 – Oct 8 – Oct 12 | Kapitel 3 | Essay 2 |
| Week 6 – Oct 15 – Oct 19 | Kapitel 4 | Essay 2 corr. Test 3 |
| Week 7 – Oct 22 – Oct 26 | Kapitel 4 | Essay 3 Essay 3 corr. |
| Oct 29 – Nov 2 | Fall Break | |
| Week 8 – Nov 5 - 9 | Kapitel 6 | Test 4 |
| Week 9 – Nov 12 - 16 | Kapitel 6 | |
| Week 10 – Nov 19 - 23 | Kapitel 6 | Test 5 |
| Week 11 – Nov 26 - 30 | Kapitel 7 | |
| Week 12 – Dec 3 - 7 | Kapitel 7 | Test 6 |
| Week 13 – Dec 17 - 21 | Completion Week Review | |
| 19 Dec 9 am – 4 pm | Final Exam | |