

GM151 GERMAN BEGINNER (GROUP A)

Ariane Faber
Location: P98 SR 2
Office hours: by appointment
a.faber@berlin.bard.edu

Fall Term 2019
Monday: 09:00 - 10:30
Wednesday: 09:00 - 10:30
Friday: 09:00 - 10:30

COURSE MATERIALS

Anne Buscha, Szilvia Szita: Begegnungen A2+, Integriertes Kurs- und Arbeitsbuch, Schubert-Verlag, ISBN 978-3-929526-89-9

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 following resources:

- The **Bard Center for Foreign Languages and Culture** provides various language learning materials on the website at <http://flcl.bard.edu/resources/german/>
- Check out the “**Resources**” section at the Bard College Berlin German Studies Program website; it provides an overview of useful links and online resources on German language, literature and media at <https://berlin.bard.edu/academics/german-program/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

This course is designed to develop your communicative competence in German. By “communicative,” we mean that you will learn to refine expressing your own ideas orally and in writing, and to develop advanced 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 dialogues between other native speakers on audiovisual media, in expressing your ideas in writing, and in understanding and discussing short texts.

- **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 12 hours** per week, which corresponds to **two hours each day**, doing your homework, and learning and practicing your grammar and vocabulary.
- Make sure to always bring a **hardcopy** of your written **homework** to class. Assignments need to be **double-spaced** and have **margins of about 3 cm** on each side for comments and corrections.

Upon completing this course successfully, you will have reached the A2 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 Brian Gallagher, Head of Student Life: b.gallagher@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

About 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 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/>

Out of your bi-weekly **essay assignments**, you will complete **two** in class. For writing your **in-class essay assignments**, you may only consult paper dictionaries. Smartphones, tablets and laptop computers are not permitted.

For completing your **take-home essay 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. You can receive a maximum of 12 points for your essay (4 points for each category).

Example:

Inhalt: 4

Aufbau/Wortschatz: 3.5

Grammatik: 2

Gesamt: 9.5 Punkte (B-)

GRADING

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

Class Participation & Homework	20%
Oral Proficiency	10%
Essays & Quizzes	20%
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! Also please keep bathroom breaks to a minimum. Interruptions are bad for everybody’s concentration and impolite.

SYLLABUS

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

Week 1 (Sep. 02 – Sep. 06) Chapter 1

Week 2 (Sep. 09 – Sep. 13) Chapter 1

Week 3 (Sep. 16 – Sep. 20) Chapter 1

Week 4 (Sep. 23 – Sep. 27) Chapter 2

Week 5 (Sep. 30 – Oct. 04) Chapter 2

Week 6 (Oct. 07– Oct. 11) Chapter 3

Week 7 (Oct. 14 – Oct. 18) Chapter 3

Week 8 (Oct. 21 – Oct. 25) Chapter 4

Oct. 28 – Nov. 01 Fall Break

Week 9 (Nov. 04 – Nov. 08) Chapter 4

Week 10 (Nov. 11 – Nov. 15) Chapter 5

Week 11 (Nov. 18 – Nov. 22) Chapter 5

Week 12 (Nov. 25 – Nov. 29) Chapter 6

Week 13 (Dec. 02 – Dec. 06) Chapter 6

Week 14 (Dec. 09 – Dec. 13) Review

Week 15 (Dec. 16 – Dec. 20) Completion Week

Dec. 18 (9:30 a.m – 4:00 p.m. Final Examination