

GM201 German B1 (Group B)

Instructor: Ulrike Harnisch

Times: Monday, 14.00 – 15-30

Wednesday, 14.00 – 15-30

Friday, 14.00 – 15-30

Location: W15- 0- Seminar Room 10 (15)

Email: u.harnisch@berlin.bard.edu

Course Description

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 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 a 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.
- Essays that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late. Where an instructor agrees to accept a late essay, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

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.

Attendance

Since interaction is critical for language learning, **we take class attendance very seriously**. You will be allowed no more than three absences during the semester. ***Any additional absence will result in automatic failure of the course.***

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 and impolite.

Course Materials:

Begegnungen – Deutsch als Fremdsprache, Integriertes Kurs- und Arbeitsbuch, Sprachniveau B1, Vollversion, ISBN: **978-3-941323-20-9**

Autoren: Anne Buscha, Szilvia Szita

Schubert-Verlag, Leipzig, 2. Auflage 2013

Note:

Recommendation

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/>

If you are in for a challenge, you can 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

Learning and Testing

Every two to three weeks, you will take **a test of the chapter you have studied** (the exact test date will be announced by me at least two classes in advance).

The tests must be taken on the announced test days. The only acceptable means of rescheduling a test are: (a) prior arrangements with me in the case of religious holidays, pressing personal or family matters, or (b) written notification from a doctor or from the Dean of Bard College Berlin following the absence. (Tests that are missed and not excused under these terms 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’s in the back of your Lehrbuch
- study the “Wortschatz” for each chapter that you find in your Lehrbuch (“Rückblick”)

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 one's own work or Cheating, protocol requires the instructor to inform Kerry Bystrom (Associate Dean) or Catherine Toal (Dean) with the specifics of the situation. They will 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. It is part of your responsibility as a student to familiarize yourself with this aspect of College life and Code of Conduct.

Please be aware that using tools such as Google Translate may pose a violation of academic integrity even when carried out with the best intention, e.g. when its intended purpose was to correct or improve the linguistic quality of your writing rather than deceive.

Grading

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

- Class Participation 25%
- Homework, Quizzes (announced or unannounced) 25%
- Chapter Tests 25%
- Final Exam 25%

Final Exam:

The final exam consists of five sections (grammar, reading comprehension, listening comprehension, writing, oral test) that cover material from each chapter completed during the term. An “F” on the final exam results in automatic failure of the course, and you will need to retake your B1 class.

Schedule of Classes

Each “Chapter” will always be accompanied by additional exercises. “Chapter” tests will take place about every two weeks.

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

Week 1 (Sept. 03 - Sept. 09)	Chapter 1
Week 2 (Sept. 10 – Sept. 16)	Chapter 1
Week 3 (Sept. 17 – Sept. 23)	Chapter 2
Week 4 (Sept. 24 – Sept. 30)	Chapter 2
Week 5 (Oct. 01 – Oct. 07)	Chapter 3
Federal Holiday: Oct. 03	
Week 6 (Oct. 08 – Oct. 14)	Chapter 3
Week 7 (Oct. 15 – Oct. 21)	Chapter 4
Week 8 (Oct. 22 – Oct. 28)	Chapter 4
Fall Break	
Week 9 (Nov. 05 – Nov. 11)	Chapter 4
Week 10 (Nov. 12 – Nov. 18)	Chapter 5
Week 11 (Nov. 19 – Nov. 25)	Chapter 5
Week 12 (Nov. 26 – Dec. 02)	Chapter 6
Week 13 (Dec. 03 – Dec. 09)	Chapter 6
Week 14 (Dec. 10 – Dec. 16)	Review
Week 15 (Dec. 17 – Dec. 23)	Completion Week

Final Exam.: Dec. 19, 09.00 – 11.00 written examination

13.00 – 16.00 oral examination