

GM201 German Intermediate B1 (Group A)

Spring 2019

Dr. Christoph Schaub

Jan 28 – May 15 2019

M, W, F: 9:00-10:30

Office hours: by appointment (P98A U005)

Email: c.schaub@berlin.bard.edu

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.

Strongly Recommended:

English Grammar for Students of German. Eds. Cecile Zorach, Charlotte Melin. Olivia Hill Press, 2001. ISBN: 0-934034-31-1

or:

Essential Grammar of German with Exercises. Ed. Monika Reimann. Max Huber Verlag, 2012. ISBN-10: 3192015756

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 3 cm** on each side.
- 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 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 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/>

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:

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|---------------------|-----|
| Class Participation | 20% |
| Oral Proficiency | 10% |
| Homework, 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. Homework will be announced in class and/or posted on google classroom.

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| Week 1 – Jan 28 -Feb 1 | Kapitel 1 | |
| Week 2 – Feb 4 – Feb 8 | Kapitel 2 | |
| Week 3 – Feb 11 – Feb 15 | Kapitel 2 | Test 1 Essay 1 |
| Week 4 – Feb 18 – Feb 22 | Kapitel 3 | Essay 1 corr. Test 2 |
| Week 5 – Feb 25 – Mar 1 | Kapitel 3 | Essay 2 |
| Week 6 – Mar 4 – Mar 8 | Kapitel 4 | Essay 2 corr. Test 3 |
| Week 7 – Mar 11 – Mar 15 | Kapitel 4 | Essay 3 |
| Week 8 – Mar 18 – Mar 22 | Kapitel 5 | Essay 3 corr. Test 4 |
| Week 9 – Mar 25 – Mar 29 | Kapitel 5 | Essay 4 |
| Week 10 – Apr 1 – Apr 5 | Kapitel 6 | Essay 4 corr. Test 5 |
| Week 11 – Apr 8 – Apr 12 | Kapitel 6 | Essay 5 |
| Apr 15 – Apr 22 | SPRING BREAK | |
| Week 12 – Apr 24 – Apr 26 no class Monday, spring break | Kapitel 6 | Essay 5 corr. Test 6 |
| Week 13 – Apr 29 – May 3 (May 1, federal holiday) | Kapitel 7 | |
| Week 14 – May 6 – May 10 | Kapitel 7 | Test 7 |
| Week 15 – May 13 – May 17 | Completion Week | |
| May 15, 9 am – 4 pm | Final Exam | |