

# GM151 German Beginner A2 (Group D)

Spring Term 2020

Instructor: Christiane Bethke  
Course Number: GM 151, Group D  
Times: Monday, 15:45 - 17:15  
Wednesday, 15:45 - 17:15  
Friday, 15:45 - 17:15  
Location: Platanenstr. 98 Room 2  
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## COURSE MATERIALS

**Spektrum Deutsch A2+:** Integriertes Kurs- und Arbeitsbuch für Deutsch als Fremdsprache. Eds Anna Buscha, Szilvia Szita. Leipzig: Schubert 2017  
ISBN: 978-3941323315

Bookstore near campus: **Buchhandlung Chaiselongue**, Dietzgenstr. 68, 13156 Berlin.  
Phone: 030 476 111 31, E-Mail [info@chaiselongue-buch.de](mailto:info@chaiselongue-buch.de)

Note: **You will have to order and purchase the book.** Please make sure you have a copy at the start of the semester!

### 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

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 advance your communicative competence to reach an intermediate level of proficiency 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 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. You will have to compose two versions of each of the longer written assignments. Based on your instructor's feedback on version one, you will have to correct your essay and then receive a grade.
- **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 of A2 are in accordance with the **Common European Framework of Reference for Languages**: Learning, Teaching and Assessment (abbreviated as CEFR). The 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 A2 level. What this means is that once you have completed the class successfully you are able to

- understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment)
- communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters
- describe in simple terms aspects of your background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need

## **ATTENDANCE**

Because Bard College Berlin has an intensive, student-centered and seminar-based educational model, **attendance at all sessions of courses is mandatory.**

- However, you may encounter circumstances that prevent you from attending classes for which you may be excused, meaning that the absences will not impact your grade. These circumstances include illness, religious observance, military obligation, attendance at a conference, a Bard Network event, a civic engagement initiative, a research trip or another compelling circumstance outside of your control (i.e. court appearance, visa appointment, death of a family member). Optional non-academic travel, hosting visiting family and friends, or work schedules are **not grounds** for excused absences. You will be allowed to **self-report your absences four times**, meaning that a notification informing your instructor about the reason for your absence before or within 24 hours of the class is sufficient. If you miss class more than four times, you will need to provide your instructor with appropriate documentation in order to be excused (i.e. a doctor's note).
- All **unexcused absences** will lower your final grade by one step (i.e. if your final grade is a B, you will be downgraded to a B-). **Seven unexcused**

**absences will result in automatic failure of the course.**

- If you are facing the unusual situation of long-term, serious medical or personal emergencies (generally lasting more than two weeks), you can request a Leave of Absence, to be approved by the Deans, the Head of Student Life or the Director of Academic Services.
- In order to pass the course, you will have to **pass the final exam**. Final exams always take place during completion week and cannot be rescheduled. Please note the date of the final exam and schedule your travels accordingly.
- If you have any **general 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](mailto: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>

**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! Please keep bathroom breaks to a minimum: interruptions are bad for everybody's concentration and impolite.**

## **LEARNING AND TESTING**

About **every two 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) 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%"

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:

|            |                 |
|------------|-----------------|
| Content:   | 4               |
| Structure: | 3.5             |
| Grammar:   | 2               |
| Overall:   | 9.5 Points (B-) |

- make frequent use of the audios and additional material of the book
- study the “Lernwortschatz” for each “Chapter” that you find in the back of the book

**Final Exam:** The final exam consists of four sections (grammar, reading comprehension, writing, listening test, 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 A2 class.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

In the written work you do for this course, you are expected to adhere to the rules of academic honesty stated under the paragraph on **plagiarism** in the Student Handbook: The most serious violation of academic integrity is the attempt to pass off the work of others as one’s own. Plagiarism means presenting the exact words of others as one’s own, or seeking to disguise borrowings from other sources through paraphrase and/or through the failure to use appropriate means of attribution and citation.

Plagiarism also includes the re-use of one’s own work for another assignment, whether in the same course or in a different course. If a student is in any uncertainty about what constitutes plagiarism, he or she should consult academic advisors or course instructors.

<http://www.berlin.bard.edu/for-students/student-handbook/academics/#c2599>

## GRADING

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

- Class Participation 20%
- Oral Proficiency 10%
- Homework, Quizzes 20%
- Chapter Tests 25%
- Final Exam 25%

## SYLLABUS

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 - Jan 27 – Jan 31  | Chapter 1       |
| Week 2 - Feb 3 – Feb 7    | Chapter 2       |
| Week 3 - Feb 10 – Feb 14  | Chapter 3       |
| Week 4 - Feb 17 – Feb 21  | Chapter 4       |
| Week 5 - Feb 24 – Feb 28  | Chapter 5       |
| Week 6 - Mar 2 – Mar 6    | Chapter 6       |
| Week 7 - Mar 9 – Mar 13   | Chapter 7       |
| Week 8 - Mar 16 – Mar 20  | Chapter 8       |
| Week 9 - Mar 23 – Mar 27  | Chapter 9       |
| Week 10 - Mar 30 – Apr 3  | Chapter 10      |
| Apr 6 – Apr 13            | Spring Break    |
| Week 11 - Apr 20 – Apr 24 | Chapter 11      |
| Week 12 - Apr 27 – Apr 30 | Chapter 12      |
| May 1                     | Federal Holiday |
| Week 13 - May 4 – May 8   | Review          |

Week 14 - May 11 – May 15

Completion Week

Final Exam: Wednesday May 13

09:30 – 12:00 Final Written Exam

13:00 – 16:00 Final Oral Exam