

GM101 GERMAN BEGINNER A1

Fall Term 2022

Syllabus subject to change

Instructor: Aleks Kudriashova, a.kudriashova@berlin.bard.edu

Office hours: Mondays, 12:15 pm or by appointment

Classroom: Kuckhoffstraße 24, Seminar Room 12

Meeting time:

Group B Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 09:00 - 10:30

Group C Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10:45-12:15

COURSE MATERIALS

Course books to be purchased before or during the first week of class:

- Stefanie Dengler, Tanja Mayr-Sieber et al.: *Netzwerk neu A1.1. Kurs- und Arbeitsbuch*. Stuttgart: Klett Sprachen, 2019. ISBN 978-3-12-607154-3
- Stefanie Dengler, Tanja Mayr-Sieber et al.: *Netzwerk neu A1.2. Kurs- und Arbeitsbuch*. Stuttgart: Klett Sprachen, 2019. ISBN 978-3-12-607155-0

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

Recommended:

- English Grammar for Students of German. Eds. Cecile Zorach, Charlotte Melin. Olivia Hill Press, 2001. ISBN: 0-934034-31-1
- Essential Grammar of German with Exercises. Ed. Monika Reimann. Max Huber Verlag, 2012. ISBN-10: 3192015756

Other 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 bring your **communicative competence** in German to the level of a basic user. As a basic user you will be able to understand and use very basic expressions to satisfy concrete needs, introduce yourself and ask others questions about personal details and interact simply.

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 speakers on audiovisual media, in expressing your ideas in writing, and in understanding and discussing short texts.

Note: Classroom interaction will be **in German**, because input and use are the chief engines of foreign language acquisition.

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 and PARTICIPATION

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.

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.

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 the Head of Student Life. 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>

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS and TESTING

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.

Daily exercises

Make sure to always bring a hard copy of your written **homework** to class OR to upload your assignments online to Google Drive in a timely fashion (more detailed instructions will be provided in class).

Essays

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**. The grade you receive for your second version can be maximally half a point above the one of your first version (i.e. if the grade for their first version is a B, the second version can maximally receive a B+). The grade you receive is based on the essay's content, grammar, and structure/vocabulary. 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-)

Chapter tests

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%"

Final exam

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.

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	20%
Chapter Tests	25%
Final Exam	25%

PRONOUNS

In German, persons as well as nouns are assigned a gender (often randomly): male, female, neuter. These gender assignments are part of the normative usage and of the authentic language material, cultural sources and literary texts used in our classes. We are asking everyone to be aware of implications resulting from these rigid grammatical rules and conventions, and to respect the wishes of their fellow students and instructors. Please inform your instructor if you wish to be addressed with a preferred pronoun. Unfortunately, German has presently only limited options for doing so. We will try to find solutions that everyone is comfortable with.

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 their 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 or Deepl 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.

COURSE SYLLABUS

Week 1: Aug 29 – Sept 2	Introduction to German: <i>Hallo! Wie geht's?</i> Kapitel (Chapter) 1: Guten Tag!
Week 2: Sept 5 – Sept 9	Kapitel 2: Freunde, Kolleg*innen und ich Test #1
Week 3: Sept 12 – Sept 16	Kapitel 3: In Hamburg
Week 4: Sept 19 – Sept 23	Kapitel 4: Guten Appetit! Test #2
Week 5: Sept 26 – Sept 30	Kapitel 5: Alltag und Familie
Week 6: Oct 3 (Federal Holiday) – Oct 7	Kapitel 6: Zeit mit Freunden Test #3
Week 7: Oct 10 – Oct 14	Kapitel 7: Arbeitsalltag
Week 8: Oct 17 – Oct 21	Kapitel 8: Fit und gesund Test #4
FALL BREAK (October 24 – 28)	Herbstferien! :)
Week 9: Oct 31 – Nov 4	Kapitel 9: Meine Wohnung
Week 10: Nov 7 – Nov 11	Kapitel 10: Studium und Beruf Test #5
Week 11: Nov 14 – Nov 18	Kapitel 11: Die Jacke gefällt mir!
Week 12: Nov 21 – Nov 25	Kapitel 12: Ab in den Urlaub!
Week 13: Nov 28 – Dec 2	Wiederholung: Review and preparation for the final
Week 14: Dec 5 – Dec 9	Wiederholung: Review and preparation for the final

Week 15: Dec 12 – Dec 16	<i>Completion Week</i>
Tuesday, Dec 13	09:00 – 11:00 Final Written Exam (All groups) 13:00 – 16:00 Final Oral Exam