

German A1

Instructor: Dr. Mareike Stoll
Course Number: GM 101, Gruppe D
Times: Monday, 10:45 - 12:15
Wednesday, 10:45 - 12:15
Friday, 10:45 - 12:15
Location: to be announced
Email: m.stoll@berlin.bard.edu
Office hours by appointment

Course Description

This course is designed to start you on the road to communicative competence 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 (“Essays”) 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’ll have to correct your essay and thereby improve your first grade by half a grade.

Example: if your first essay version received a B+ your corrected second version will receive an A-. The second grade will count toward your final 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 this beginner's class A1 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 "A1 Breakthrough or beginner" level. What this means is that once you have completed the class successfully you are able to

- understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type
- introduce yourself and others and ask and answer questions about personal details such as where you live, people you know and things you have
- interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.

Course Materials

Daniela Niebisch, Sylvette Penning-Hiemstra, et.al.: Schritte Plus Neu 1+2 (Niveau A1), Hueber Verlag
ISBN: 978-3191010812
Preis: ca. 15,90 €

Note: You will have to order and purchase the book.

Additional materials will be handed out in class.

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://ficl.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/>

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 “**Lektionen**” 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's in your Lehrbuch and/or the audio app
- study the “Lernwortschatz” for each “Lektion”

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 A1 class.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

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.

GRADING

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

Class Participation & Homework	25%	
Essays & Quizzes		25%
Chapter Tests		25%
Final Exam		25%

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Each “Lektion” will always be accompanied by additional exercises. “Lektion” 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 (Sep. 02 – Sep. 08) Lektion 1

Week 2 (Sep. 09 – Sep. 15) Lektion 2

Week 3 (Sep. 16 – Sep. 22) Lektion 3

Week 4 (Sep. 23 – Sep. 29) Lektion 4

* no class on Wednesday Sep. 25 – will be made up during completion week *

Week 5 (Sep. 30 – Oct. 06) Lektion 5

Week 6 (Oct. 07 – Oct. 13) Lektion 6

Week 7 (Oct. 14 – Oct. 20) Lektion 7

Week 8 (Oct. 21 – Oct. 27) Lektion 8

Week 9 (Oct. 28 – Nov. 3) *Fall Break*

Week 10 (Nov. 04– Nov. 10) Lektion 9

Week 11 (Nov. 11 – Nov. 17) Lektion 10

Week 12 (Nov. 18 – Nov. 24) Lektion 11

Week 13 (Nov. 25 – Dec. 01) Lektion 12

Week 14 (Dec. 02 – Dec. 08) Lektion 13

Week 15 (Dec. 09 – Dec. 13) Lektion 14 / REVIEW

Week 16 (Dec. 16 – Dec. 22) *Completion Week* (make-up class on Monday)

December 18

Final Examination (9.30 – 16 Uhr)