

## **GM301 German Advanced C1 / EXIL, FLUCHT, VERSTECK**

Instructor: Andreas Martin Widmann

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Course Times: Monday, 3:45 – 5:15

Wednesday, 3:45 – 5:15

Friday, 3:45 – 5:15

Consultation hours: Friday 2-3 and by appointment

### **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*.

The novella *Komödie in Moll* by Hans Keilson originally published in 1947 gives students the opportunity to read a longer literary text so as to develop interpretative abilities in German and deepened cultural knowledge of Germany’s past, specifically Weimar Republic and Nazi Germany. Since it deals with the subject of seeking refuge from persecution due to ethnic origin and faith under dire political circumstances the novella can also be read against the context of contemporary issues such as forced migration and exile.

To achieve these goals, you have as possible.

The course will give you ample opportunity to engage in communicative exchanges: 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. In order 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 fulfils the requirements of the “C1 Advanced” level. What this means is that once you have completed the class successfully you are able to:

- understand a wide range of challenging, longer texts and also grasp implicit meanings.
- express yourself spontaneously and fluently without having to search for words frequently and noticeably.
- use the language effectively and flexibly in your social and professional life or in training and studies.
- make clear, structured and detailed statements on complex topics and apply various means of text association appropriately in the process.

### Attendance

- 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 five classes and/or been late repeatedly you will be downgraded to a C)
- **Six** absences and more will result in automatic **failure** of the course
- 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](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 mobile phone before each class, and keep bathroom breaks to a minimum. Interruptions are bad for everybody’s concentration and impolite.**

### Course Materials:

Anne Buscha, Susanne Raven, Szilvia Szita: *Erkundungen – Deutsch als Fremdsprache C1. Integriertes Kurs- und Arbeitsbuch*. 2., veränderte Auflage. Leipzig: Schubert-Verlag, 2016. ISBN 978-3-941323-25-4

Hans Keilson: *Komödie in Moll*. Frankfurt/M.: Fischer Verlag, 2010. ISBN 978-3596191895

Hard copies or electronic copies of the additional material (copies of newspaper clippings etc.) will be made available prior to classes dedicated to special subjects.

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/>

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 CDs in the back of your Lehrbuch
- study the “Wortschatz” for each chapter that you find in your Lehrbuch (“Rückblick”)
- be able to summarize the plot and major topics of the recent chapters from *Komödie in Moll*

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-)

## 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 & Quizzes (announced or unannounced) | 25% |
| • Chapter Tests                               | 20% |
| • Final Exam                                  | 25% |

## 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 and the literary texts discussed in class. An "F" on the final exam results in automatic failure of the course.

## 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 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.

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## SYLLABUS

***Please note that this syllabus is subject to change; the selection of additional topics is preliminary. You are responsible throughout the semester for knowing what you have to do for each class.***

Each "Chapter" will usually be accompanied by additional exercises. "Chapter" tests will take place about every two weeks.

Week 1 (Sep. 02 – Sep. 08)	Introduction / Chapter 1 Hans Keilson: Leben und historischer Kontext
Week 2 (Sep. 09 – Sep. 15)	Chapter 1 Komödie in Moll: Kapitel I
Week 3 (Sep. 16 – Sep. 22)	Chapter 2 Komödie in Moll: Kapitel II
Week 4 (Sep. 23 – Sep. 29)	Chapter 2 Komödie in Moll: Kapitel III
Week 5 (Sep. 30 – Oct. 06)	Chapter 3 Komödie in Moll: Kapitel IV
Week 6 (Oct. 07 – Oct. 13)	Chapter 3 Komödie in Moll: Kapitel V
Week 7 (Oct. 14 – Oct. 20)	Chapter 4 Komödie in Moll: Kapitel VI
Week 8 (Oct. 21 – Oct. 27)	Chapter 4 Komödie in Moll: Kapitel VII
<b>Fall Break</b>	
Week 9 (Nov. 04 – Nov. 10)	Chapter 5 Komödie in Moll: Kapitel VIII

Week 10 (Nov. 11 – Nov. 17)	Chapter 5 Komödie in Moll: Kapitel IX Tbc: Field trip to Anne Frank Museum
Week 11 (Nov. 18 – Nov. 24)	Chapter 6 / Revision Komödie in Moll: Kapitel X Film: <i>Die Unsichtbaren – Wir wollen leben</i>
Week 12 (Nov. 25 – Dec. 01)	Chapter 6 Komödie in Moll: Kapitel XI
Week 13 (Dec. 02 – Dec. 08)	Chapter 6 Komödie in Moll: Kapitel XII
Week 14 (Dec. 09 – Dec 15)	Revision
Week 15 (Dec 16 – Dec. 22)	Completion Week
<b>Wednesday, December 18 09:00 – 16:00</b>	<b>Final exams</b>