

GM151 GERMAN BEGINNER A2

Fall Term 2023

Syllabus subject to change

- Instructor:** Aleks Kudriashova, a.kudriashova@berlin.bard.edu
- Office hours:** Wednesdays, 10:30 am (after class) or by appointment
- Classroom:** TBA
- Meeting time:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 09:00 - 10:30

COURSE MATERIALS

- * Stefanie Dengler, Tanja Mayr-Sieber et al.: *Netzwerk Neu A2.1 Kurs- und Übungsbuch*. ISBN 978-3-12-607162-8
- * Stefanie Dengler, Tanja Mayr-Sieber et al.: *Netzwerk neu A2.2. Kurs- und Übungsbuch*. ISBN 978-3-12-607163-5

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

Recommended by BCB:

- * 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

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 A1-A2/B1 user (basic/independent user in the parlance of [the Common European Framework](#)).

By “communicative,” we mean that you will learn to refine expressing 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 will show a high(er) 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, the course will give you ample opportunity to engage in communicative exchanges: in small groups or with a partner, in direct interaction with your instructor, in listening to dialogues between other speakers on audiovisual media, in expressing your ideas in writing, and in understanding and discussing short texts.

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.

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

ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION

Active and consistent classroom participation is crucial to your success at acquiring the language. 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>

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!

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.

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

***Please note:** This syllabus is subject to change. You are responsible throughout the semester for knowing what you have to do for each class. If in doubt, talk to your instructor!*

Woche 1, 4. September	Kennenlernen und Wiederholung Kapitel 1
Woche 2, 11. September	Kapitel 1 und Kapitel 2 Essay #1
Woche 3, 18. September	Kapitel 2 und Kapitel 3 Test #1
Woche 4, 25. September	Kapitel 3 und Kapitel 4 Essay #2
Woche 5, 2. Oktober 3. Oktober: Feiertag!	Kapitel 4 und Kapitel 5 Test #2
Woche 6, 9. Oktober	Kapitel 5 und Kapitel 6 Essay #3
Woche 7, 16. Oktober	Kapitel 6 und Kapitel 7 Test #3
Woche 8, 23. Oktober	SPRING BREAK / Frühlingsferien!
Woche 9, 30. Oktober	Kapitel 7 und Kapitel 8 Essay #4

Woche 10, 6. November	Kapitel 8 und Kapitel 9 Test #4
Woche 11, 13. November	Kapitel 9 und Kapitel 10 Essay #5
Woche 12, 20. November	Kapitel 10 und Kapitel 11 Test #5
Woche 13, 27. November	Kapitel 11 und Kapitel 12 Wiederholung
Woche 14, 4. Dezember	Kapitel 12 Wiederholung, Niveau A1 und A2
Woche 15, 11. Dezember	Wiederholung 'Mock' mündliche und schriftliche Prüfung
Woche 16, 18. Dezember 22. Dezember: Last Day of Classes	<i>Completion Week (kein Unterricht)</i> Schriftliche Prüfung: TBA Mündliche Prüfung: TBA