

GM151 GERMAN BEGINNER A2

Group B: M/W/F 15:45–17:15
Group C: M/W/F 17:30–19:00

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Fall Term 2024
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Office hours by appointment

COURSE MATERIALS

Required:

Aspekte neu C1: Mittelstufe Deutsch Lehr- und Arbeitsbuch, parts 1 and 2, Ute Koithan et al., eds., Klett, 2017, ISBN 978-3126050371 and 978-3126050388

These can be purchased or ordered near campus at Buchhandlung Chaiselongue, Dietzgenstr. 68, 13156 Berlin, Tel. 030/47611131, info@chaiselongue-buch.de

Strongly Recommended:

English Grammar for Students of German, Cecile Zorach and Charlotte Melin, eds., Olivia Hill Press, 2001, ISBN: 0-934034-31-1

Essential Grammar of German with Exercises, Monika Reimann, ed., Hueber Verlag, 2012, ISBN 3192015756

You are furthermore strongly encouraged to make use of the Bard Center for Foreign Languages and Culture's language-learning materials (available at <http://flcl.bard.edu/resources/german/>), as well as the "Resources" section of the Bard College Berlin German Studies Program website, which provides an overview of useful links and online resources on German language, literature and media: <https://berlin.bard.edu/academics/german-program/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

This course is designed to bring your communicative competence in German to an intermediate level. By “communicative,” we mean that you will refine your ability to express your own ideas orally and in writing, and will 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 will develop a high level of grammatical, lexical, and cultural accuracy. The goal is not simply mastering lists of rules and words, but real communication between speakers.

To achieve these goals, you have to engage in as much communicative exchange as possible. The course will give you ample opportunity to do this – in small groups or with a partner, in direct interaction with your instructor, by listening to dialogues between native speakers on audiovisual media, by expressing your ideas in writing, and in discussion of short texts.

Toward this end, classroom communication will be fully in German. To become able to truly communicate in a new language, it is necessary to practice truly communicating in that language. This will be a cornerstone of this course.

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 and genuinely use and practice the language. Outside the classroom, expect to spend at least twelve hours per week, or about two hours each day, on homework and grammar and vocabulary practice.

Upon completing this course successfully, you will have reached the A2 language proficiency level. The levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) range from A1 (beginner level) to C2 (highest level of language skills).

ATTENDANCE

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

However, if you encounter circumstances that legitimately excuse missing class, the absence will not impact your grade. Such circumstances include illness, religious observance, military obligation, attendance at a conference, a Bard Network event, a civic engagement initiative, a research trip, or other compelling circumstances 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 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>

ASSIGNMENTS AND TESTING

Homework assignments for each class session are preparatory: you are expected to read the grammar summaries at home and complete the assigned exercises to the best of your ability. We will then go over them and practice the grammar together in class. For daily assignments, effort and preparedness are what is important; mistakes are a normal part of learning, and you will not be graded down for them. However, if you come to class without having prepared the homework, you *will* be lost in class, and the lack of preparation *will* affect your homework grade.

About every two weeks, you will take a test on each chapter studied, and also complete an essay assignment. The exact test date will be announced at least two classes in advance. 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

- practice regularly and frequently using the textbook and listening exercises
- practice with the online exercises at <http://www.schubertverlag.de/aufgaben/>
- study the assigned vocabulary for each textbook chapter

Out of your bi-weekly essay assignments, you will complete *two* in class. For writing your in-class essay assignments, you may *only* consult print dictionaries. Smartphones, tablets, laptop computers, or any other electronic devices are not permitted. Likewise, for completing your take-home essay assignments, you may *only* consult conventional dictionaries. The use of any digital translation tools is *not* permitted. Please see the section on Academic Integrity, below.

For all essay assignments to be considered 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 your first version is a B, the second version can maximally receive a B+. The grade you receive for each essay is based on the quality of its content, structure, grammar, and word choice. 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–)

GRADING

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

Class Participation & Homework Preparation	20%
Oral Proficiency	10%
Essays & Quizzes	20%
Chapter Tests	25%
Final Exam	25%

PRONOUNS

In German, persons as well as nouns are assigned a grammatical 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 usage at present offers less flexibility for expressing gender than English does. We will try, though, to find solutions that everyone is comfortable with.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Cell phones must be silenced and kept out of sight during class. Laptops or tablets are to be used in class only where necessary in order to access required course materials.

Please be punctual to class, and considerate to others in class. Please also keep bathroom breaks to a minimum, as such interruptions affect everybody's concentration.

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 digital tools such as Google Translate or ChatGPT may constitute a violation of academic integrity even if carried out with the best intention, e.g., even if the motivation was to correct or improve the linguistic quality of your writing rather than to deceive. As a rule, you should not consider submitting any written work that you would not equally well have been able to complete in the classroom, unplugged, with only a print dictionary in hand. The intelligence you use in this course should be yours – not artificial.

SYLLABUS

Assignments in the right-hand column are the homework to be done in preparation for that day. You are responsible throughout the semester for knowing what you have to do for each class.

The syllabus is subject to change.

WOCHE	TAG	GRAMMATIK	HAUSAUFGABE
Woche 1 2. Sept – 6. Sept	Mo. Mi. Fr.	Kap. 1: Lesen Sie S. 15 <i>Einführende Sitzung</i> Genitiv: Name + s Wiederholung: Perfekt	– Kap. 1; 1a, b, c; 2; 3b, c Kap. 1: 4a, b, c, d
Woche 2 9. Sept – 13. Sept	Mo. Mi. Fr.	Kap. 2: Lesen Sie S. 25 Nebensatz mit <i>weil</i> Modalverben im Präteritum Wiederholung: Artikel	Kap. 1: 7b, c, e, g Kap. 2: 3d, e, f; 4b, c Kap. 2: 7d, e, f
Woche 3 16. Sept – 20. Sept	Mo. Mi. Fr.	Kap. 3: Lesen Sie S. 35 Possessivartikel im Dativ Adjektive: Komparativ und Superlativ Vergleiche mit <i>als</i> und <i>wie</i>	Kap. 2: 10; 11a, b, d Kap. 3: 1a, b; 4a; 6b Kap. 3: 5a, b, c, d; 7a
Woche 4 23. Sept – 27. Sept	Mo. Mi. Fr.	Kap. 4: Lesen Sie S. 51 Nebensatz mit <i>dass</i> Nebensatz mit <i>wenn</i> Reflexive Verben	Kap. 3: 9a, b, c; 10a, b Kap. 4: 3a, b, c, d, e Kap. 4: 6a, b, c
Woche 5 30. Sept – 4. Okt	Mo. Mi. Fr.	Kap. 5: Lesen Sie S. 61 Adjektive nach dem bestimmten Artikel Präpositionen: <i>ohne</i> + Akkusativ und <i>mit</i> + Dativ Thema: Stadt	Kap. 5: 2c; 4a, b, d, e Kap. 5: 5b, c, d Kap. 5: 1a
Woche 6 7. Okt – 11. Okt	Mo. Mi. Fr.	Kap. 6: Lesen Sie S. 71 Konjunktiv II: <i>könnte</i> Adjektive nach dem unbestimmten Artikel Thema: Reisen	Kap. 5: 6a, b, c; 7a Kap. 6: 5a, b, c, d, e Kap. 6: 3a, b; 4a
Woche 7			

14. Okt – 18. Okt	Mo. Mi. Fr.	<i>Präsentationen: Stadterkundung</i> Das Verb <i>werden</i> <i>Grammatik: Wiederholung</i>	– Kap. 6: 7b; 8b, c, d; 9b –
21. – 27. Okt		FALL BREAK	
Woche 8 28. Okt – 1. Nov	Mo. Mi. Fr.	Kap. 7: Lesen Sie S. 15 Indirekte Fragesätze: <i>w</i> -Fragen und <i>ja/nein</i> Fragen mit <i>ob</i> Ortsangaben: Präpositionen Textlektüre	Kap. 7: 4a, b; 5a; 7 Kap. 7: 8a, b, d TBA
Woche 9 4. Nov – 8. Nov	Mo. Mi. Fr.	Kap. 8: Lesen Sie S. 25 Ortsangaben: Präpositionen Konjunktiv II: <i>sollte</i> (Ratschläge) Interrogativartikel: Was für ein(e)?	Kap. 8: 3a, b; 4a Kap. 8: 4b, c; 5 Kap. 8: 7a, b
Woche 10 11. Nov – 15. Nov	Mo. Mi. Fr.	Kap. 9: Lesen Sie S. 35 Sätze verbinden: <i>deshalb, trotzdem</i> Verben mit Dativ und Akkusativ Textlektüre	Kap. 9: 5a, b, c, d Kap. 9: 10a, b, c; 11b TBA
Woche 11 18. Nov – 22. Nov	Mo. Mi. Fr.	Kap. 10: Lesen Sie S. 51 Wechselpräpositionen und Positions- und Richtungsverben Nebensatz mit <i>als</i> und <i>wenn</i> Textlektüre	Kap. 10: 5a, b, c, d Kap. 10: 7a, b, c, d TBA
Woche 12 25. Nov – 29. Nov	Mo. Mi. Fr.	Kap. 11: Lesen Sie S. 61 Konjunktiv II Verben mit Präpositionen Textlektüre	Kap. 11: 3; 4a, b, c, d Kap. 11: 5a, b; 7a, b TBA
Woche 13 2. Dez – 6. Dez	Mo. Mi. Fr.	Kap. 12: Lesen Sie S. 71 <i>W</i> -Fragen mit Präpositionen Indefinitpronomen Textlektüre	Kap. 11: 9a, b, d Kap. 12: 4a, c TBA
Woche 14 9. Dez – 13. Dez	Mo. Mi.	Relativsätze im Nominativ und Akkusativ	Kap. 12: 7b, c, d; 8a, b –

	Fr.	Kulturprojekte: Vorträge <i>Grammatik: Wiederholung</i>	–
Woche 15 17. Dez	Di.	Completion Week 9:00–11:00 Final Written Exam (all groups) 13:00–16:00 Final Oral Exam	