

GM151 German Beginner A2 (Group E)

Julia Gehring
Email: j.gehring@berlin.bard.edu
Office: P98A U10

Spring 2026

Mo.: 15:45 - 17:15
Wed.: 15:45 - 17:15
Fr.: 15:45 - 17:15

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

Strongly Recommended:

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

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://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 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*.

To achieve these goals 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.

- **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** per 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.

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

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.
- **To pass the course, you must pass the final exam with a grade of C- or better. 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>

LEARNING AND TESTING

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).

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 your textbook and listening exercises
- study the “Wortschatz” for each “Kapitel”
- go to the Schubert-Verlag textbook homepage for free online exercises at: <http://www.schubertverlag.de/aufgaben/>

There will be **bi-weekly essay assignments** and **vocabulary tests**. For the **in-class essay assignments**, you may only consult paper dictionaries. Smartphones, tablets and laptop computers are not permitted.

For completing **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-)

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	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 currently still 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! Also please keep bathroom breaks to a minimum. Interruptions are bad for everybody's concentration and impolite.

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.

Use of AI

I agree with and will enforce the following statement from the Harvard Kennedy School on the use of AI:

“It is generally acceptable to use generative AI for finding information and for solidifying your knowledge of the course content. For instance, it is fine to use AI-powered web search and to have conversations with tools like ChatGPT to help you explore ideas, refine your thinking, identify examples, and better understand the course material. However, unless otherwise specified, it is a violation of the HKS Academic Code to incorporate into your coursework text produced predominantly by generative AI — similar to copying from a book or article. For example, it would be inappropriate to simply rewrite a draft generated by AI.”

Please note that computer-generated text and ideas (including anything from ChatGPT) are sources that require citation.

SYLLABUS

This syllabus is subject to change. You are responsible throughout the semester for knowing what you have to do for each class.

Week 1: Jan 26 - Feb 1	Kapitel 1
Week 2: Feb 2 - Feb 8	Kapitel 2
Week 3: Feb 9 - Feb 15	Kapitel 3 Mo, Kapiteltest 1
Week 4: Feb 16 - Feb 22	Kapitel 4
Week 5: Feb 23 - Mar 1	Kapitel 5 Mo, Kapiteltest 2 Friday, October 3 Federal holiday - no class!
Week 6: Mar 2 - Mar 8	Kapitel 6
Week 7: Mar 9 - Mar 15	Kapitel 7 Mo, Kapiteltest 3
Week 8: Mar 16 - Mar 22	Kapitel 8
Week 9: Mar 23 - Mar 29	Puffer Mo, Kapiteltest 4
Mar 30 - Monday, Apr 6	Spring break
Week 10: Apr 7 - Apr 12	Kapitel 9
Week 11: Apr 13 - Apr 19	Kapitel 10 Mittwoch, Kapiteltest 5

Week 12: Apr 20 - Apr 26	Kapitel 11
Week 13: Apr 27 - May 3	Kapitel 12 Mo, Kapiteltest 6 Freitag, 1. Mai: no class (public holiday)
Week 14: May 4 - May 10	Puffer
Week 15: May 11 - May 17 Tue, May 12	COMPLETION WEEK FINAL EXAM 9:00 - 11:00 written 12:00 - 17:00 orals