Bard College Berlin
A LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY

GM201 German Intermediate B1 (Group A)

Instructor: Ariane Friedländer
Email: a.friedlaender@berlin.bard.edu
Course Times:
Monday, 9 – 10:30 am
Wednesday, 9 – 10:30 am
Friday, 9 – 10:30 am

COURSE MATERIALS

Stefanie Dengler, Tanja Mayr-Sieber, Paul Rusch, Helen Schmitz: ***Netzwerk neu B1.1***. *Deutsch als Fremdsprache. Kurs- und Übungsbuch mit Audios und Videos.* ISBN 978-3126071703

Stefanie Dengler, Tanja Mayr-Sieber, Paul Rusch, Helen Schmitz: ***Netzwerk neu B1.2***. *Deutsch als Fremdsprache. Kurs- und Übungsbuch mit Audios und Videos.* ISBN 978-3126071710

Arrangements regarding digital copies for use in online classes will be announced by the instructors.

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://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

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.

- **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.

Upon completing this course successfully, you will have reached the B1 language proficiency level, corresponding to the levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages 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 and more 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 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

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.

The full Bard College Berlin attendance policy can be found in the Student Handbook, Section 2.8.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FALL 2021: Some students may need to begin the semester remotely due to travel restrictions caused by the pandemic. In addition, all students and instructors must refrain from in-person attendance if they are feeling ill. Instructors should make efforts to offer alternatives to in-person attendance where needed, including remote participation or asynchronous options.

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.

Continuous Assessment

Every two to three weeks you will take **a test of the chapter(s) 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 your coursebook and additional online exercises
- study the "Wortschatz" for each chapter that you find in your coursebook

In addition to the chapter tests there are **bi-weekly essay assignments.** Out of these 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 take-home 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 (announced or unannounced) 20%
- Quizzes 25%
- 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.

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.

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.

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: Aug 31 – Sept 4	Reisen, Präferenzen, Planen G: Infinitiv mit zu, Nebensätze mit weil & obwohl
Week 2: Sept 7 – Sept 11	Konsum und Service, Konsequenzen G: Genitiv-Präpositionen wegen, trotz, Nebensätze mit sodass und Hauptsätze mit darum, deshalb, deswegen
Week 3: Sept 14 – Sept 18	über Vergangenes berichten, Veränderungen aufzeigen G: Präteritum, temporale Präpositionen
Week 4: Sept 21 – Sept 25	Arbeit, sich bewerben, Vorstellungsgespräch G: Konjunktiv II, irreale Bedingungssätze, Verben mit Präpositionen, Präpositionen + Kasus

Week 5: Sept 28 – Oct 2	Umwelt, Ideen und Ziele, Tipps geben G: Komparativ und Superlativ, Nebensätze mit damit und um...zu
Week 6: Oct 5 – Oct 9	Pläne und Vorsätze, Zukunftsvorstellungen G: Futur, Relativsätze, n-Deklination
Week 7: Oct. 12 - Oct. 16	Freundschaft, Beziehungen, Konflikte G: Plusquamperfekt, Nebensätze mit bis und bevor
Oct 19 – Oct 23	***Fall Break***
Week 8: Oct 26 – Oct 30	Körper und Geist, Gesundheit G: nicht/kein/nur + brauchen + zu + Infinitiv, zweiteilige Konnektoren
Week 9: Nov 2 - Nov 6	Kunst, beschreiben von Kunstwerken G: Wiederholung Adjektivdeklination mit bestimmten und unbestimmten Artikeln / Vgl. zu 0-Artikel
Week 10: Nov 9 – Nov 13	Bedeutung von Kunst G: Position von "nicht" im Satz, kein Artikel vor Adjektiv
Week 10: Nov 16 – Nov 20	soziales Miteinander, Engagement, Projekte G: Passiv
Week 11: Nov 20 – Nov 24	Städte, was ist lebenswert? G: Pronomen, Adjektive als Nomen, Relativsätze
Week 12: Nov 23 – Nov 27	Geld, Globalisierung, Bankgeschäfte G: je …, desto-Sätze, Partizip I und II als Adjektive
Week 13: Nov 30 – Dec 4	Wiederholung prüfungsrelevanter Themen
Week 14: Dec 7 – Dec 11	*Completion Week*
Tuesday, Dec 15	**09:00 – 12:00 Final Written Exam (all groups)** **13:00 – 16:00 Final Oral Exam**