

German 101: Elementary German I Course Outline: Spring Semester 2015

<i>Section</i>	<i>Instructor</i>	<i>Contact Information</i>	<i>Office Hours</i>
German 101-01 MTWTh 8:30-9:30	Claire Scott	claire.scott@duke.edu	TTh 10:00-11:00 & by appointment
German 101-02 MTWTh 11:45-12:45	Susanne Freytag	susanne.freytag@duke.edu	TW 2:30-3:30 & by appointment
German 101-03 MTWTh 1:25-2:25	Susanne Freytag	susanne.freytag@duke.edu	TW 2:30-3:30 & by appointment

Welcome to the Department of Germanic Languages and Literature at Duke! Congratulations – you have chosen to learn a new language, and therefore to embark on a journey into a new world. This world does not consist of words and structures alone – it also opens up vistas into different ways of life. It is our endeavor to make this linguistic and cultural experience as fascinating and enjoyable as possible for you.



Course Goals:

German 101 is an introductory course for students who have not previously studied German. The course aims to teach students to communicate in German and at the same time develop a structural awareness of the German language. Since the goals of communicative and grammatical competence are ultimately inseparable, the students are guided towards using German as accurately as possible.

By the end of the course, you should be able to understand and respond appropriately to simple questions and statements in German. You should also be able to read and converse about a variety of German texts, as well as speak and write in German about yourself, your family, and your life at the university.

During this semester, you will also learn more about the Federal Republic of Germany today, its climate, landscape, foods, education system, work realities, ways of traveling, and city life. You will find out about the common origin of German and English, and the distribution of the German language.

This course places a large emphasis on students gradually becoming autonomous learners. Regular discussion and practice of grammatical structures will help you monitor your own spoken and written output, as well as develop useful language learning strategies.

Requirements:

Learning a foreign language requires regular practice, not only individually, but also with others in class, as well as a willingness to experiment with new patterns of sounds, words, and structures, much of which can only be done in the classroom. Therefore, a daily review of course materials and preparation for class, as well as regular attendance, are vital parts of your commitment to this course. German language classes at Duke stress active use of the spoken language. Come to class prepared to speak! You will often be working in groups of two or more on a common task. This group work provides everyone with more speaking time in class and gives you the chance to use German actively in conversational situations. At first, it may feel artificial to be speaking with classmates in a language that's foreign to all of you, but think about it as a joint venture into a new world. The more you get into it, the easier and more enjoyable it will become.

Required Texts:

- Terrell, Genzmer, Nikolai, and Tschirner. *Kontakte: A Communicative Approach*. 7th edition. New York: McGraw Hill, 2013 – Textbook and ONLINE Workbook (*Arbeitsbuch*). The online workbook, which is available at Connect Plus, includes the eBook. You may opt to use only the eBook; however, you will be required to bring printouts of pages we will be using to class. Laptops or tablets will only be used in class for group work which requires internet access.

Library Guide: <http://guides.library.duke.edu/german>

Assignments:

Homework assignments will be put on Sakai. The homework assignments will be listed under "Schedule" under **the date they are due**. In the interest of continuous learning, you are required to complete your homework assignments when they are due. **No homework will be accepted after the due date noted on the schedule or stated in class.**

As a general policy, no late assignments will be accepted and no make-up tests will be given. The exceptions are for off-campus university representation, recognized religious holidays, and notification of the instructor by your academic dean. If you will miss class in observance of a religious holiday, you are expected to notify your instructor at least a week prior to the date in question by submitted a [Religious Observance Notification Form](#). It is at the discretion of the instructor as to how you will complete the missed assignment. If you are unable to complete academic work (tests, exams, papers, or scheduled graded assignments) as a result of short-term illness, you may appeal to your instructor using the Short Term Illness Notification Form <http://www.aas.duke.edu/trinity/t-reqs/illness/>. If you must miss class when an assignment is due but have no compelling excuse for your absence, send the work to class with a classmate or turn the work in to your instructor in advance and it will not be counted as late.

Portfolios:

During the semester, students will begin building a portfolio of their work in German. Three items are required for the first semester: a postcard, a dialogue and a portrait of a famous person or city from a German-speaking country. More detailed information about each assignment will be given well prior to the due dates. You are encouraged to review portfolio items with your instructor during office hours. In order to leave room for your instructor's comments and corrections, please type double-spaced. The use of computer translators such as Babelfish or Google Translate is prohibited. If it is determined that portfolios have been written using online translators, the assignment will receive an F.

Workbook Assignments:

The course book, *Kontakte*, is accompanied by an *Arbeitsbuch* (workbook), available online at *Connect Plus*. You are expected to finish the exercises for each chapter by the due date stated in the syllabus.

Cultural Activities:

Part of your attendance grade is the participation in **three** cultural activities related to German class, such as film screenings, lectures or other cultural events. Your attendance must be documented by writing your instructor an email with the subject line "Kulturpunkt" and a brief response (in English or German) to the event. Any events you attend beyond the three required ones will count towards extra credit. If you have completed less than three culture activities by the end of the semester, they will count as absences.

You will have many opportunities to use your German in real communicative situations outside of class. The Language Program organizes multiple events, and the German Club and German Honors Society (Delta Phi Alpha) organize social events, lectures, and film evenings, etc. in which you should participate as much as possible. You may also wish to connect to German students on campus, or in Germany

through email contacts. Participating in any of these activities will improve your German. If you know of any events in the area, e.g. an exhibition, film screening, German fest, please let your instructor know about it and he/she will announce it on Sakai.

Audio Components:

The audio components of *Kontakte* are an integral part of the course and you are expected to use them to improve your aural and verbal skills. The audio exercises of the online workbook (*Arbeitsbuch*) will help you improve your pronunciation of certain sounds. We also recommend a German speaking practice website: <http://www.iub.edu/~sprechen/german.html>. The exercises on this website focus on specific sounds and are aimed at improving both your listening comprehension as well as pronunciation of these sounds as distinct from American English. This website, although recommended, is not mandatory. Bear in mind, however, that your pronunciation will be continually evaluated during this course, so any and all practice may help you in this respect. You are also encouraged to make use of other conversation opportunities to increase your fluency in speaking.

Chapter Tests:

There will be five written chapter tests, one at the end of chapters A & B, the others at the end of chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4. A comprehensive final exam is given at the end of the semester, which includes a written as well as an oral examination.

Attendance:

Regular attendance is vitally important to your success in learning a new language. You may miss class three times (excused or unexcused) throughout the semester. With the fourth absence, and every following third (i.e. the 7th, 10th, etc.) absence, your final grade will be reduced by one-third increments (e.g. A>A->B+, etc.) Being on time to class is important to the learning process and our class dynamic so every three days you are tardy will be counted as one absence. It is your responsibility to make up the work for classes you miss and to be prepared for the next class.

Participation:

Participation is graded according to the following guidelines:

- *A: You participate actively in free conversation without waiting to be called on. You have prepared grammar drills well at home and almost always answer correctly.*
- *B: You wait to be called on in free conversation, but then respond. You have prepared grammar drills at home and usually answer correctly.*
- *C: You wait to be called on in free conversation and sometimes are unable to respond. You have not prepared well and only sometimes answer correctly.*

Grading:

The course grade recorded at the end of the semester will be based on the following:

- *Participation and Homework Assignments 20%*
- *Portfolios 20%*
- *Online Arbeitsbuch 10%*
- *Chapter Tests (5) 30%*
- *Final exam 20%*

NOTE: All scores on tests and homework count towards your final grade; no scores will be dropped. No make-up tests or exams will be given for unexcused absences.

For extra practice and fun:

You will also have some assignments that are marked as optional. Most of these are Internet sites of interest, and fun online activities for practicing your language skills. The computers in the language labs also contain a number of interactive German programs.

The German Club and German Honors Society sponsor a weekly “Kaffeestunde” for students to practice their German in an informal setting, as well as a film series. Watching German films (most have English subtitles) is a good way to practice your listening comprehension, and learn more about cultural differences and similarities. Lilly Library, as well as the East and West Campus language labs, have a host of German films which you can watch any time.

Honor Code:

As a student of German, you are expected to strictly adhere to the [Duke Undergraduate Honor Code](#). According to the Duke standards of academic integrity, you are expected to refrain from cheating (includes plagiarism), refrain from lying, respect shared intellectual property and resources, and promote the importance of the honor code in all your interactions.

In general, you may use any study aid or outside help on *ungraded* exercises, as long as they help you learn. However, you may neither give nor receive aid (from tutors, classmates, family, professors, friends and acquaintances, or online translators) in the completion of exams, essays, or any other *graded* work prepared outside of class that is not specified as a collaborative activity with classmates. Violation of this policy will result in a failing grade for the assignment, and maybe even for the class.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is **not acceptable**. You will receive an F for any assignment that is deemed to be plagiarism, and maybe even for the class. Additionally, the case will be reported to the your academic dean. For details please consult the following sites: <http://library.duke.edu/research/citing/plagiarism.html> and <http://trinity.duke.edu/academic-requirements?p=academic-integrity>

Study Tips:

Learning a foreign language is a matter of **frequent and regular exposure and practice**. The more you are exposed to the language, and the more you use it, the better you will be at acquiring it.

This course is set up to give you as much exposure to and practice with using the language as is possible in an undergraduate program. **You are expected to spend a minimum of one hour every day outside of class preparing and practicing.** (Sometimes you will need more, sometimes less.) This will be easier if you plan this time into your daily schedule, rather than leaving it to the last minute.

Since much of the material is taken directly from authentic German-language sources that you would encounter if you were living in a German speaking country, you are likely to encounter vocabulary not “covered” by the chapter. **Do not be frustrated by this.** You will not be held responsible for this vocabulary, nor will it be essential for you in order to complete whatever task has been assigned to you. Learning another language requires a lot of guesswork (often you will be able to guess meaning from context), and an ability to deal with uncertainty.

Please feel free to ask your instructor for extra help or for materials for extra practice. It is absolutely essential that you let your instructor know if you are having problems or feel overwhelmed (or underwhelmed, i.e. bored). We are aware that students have different learning needs and different learning styles. Learning a second language requires a certain amount of memorization and repetition.

Remember, the more you engage with the language, the more you will be able to pick up. If you like reading, listening to music, watching videos, or browsing the Internet in your spare time, try to do it in German. (Surf through the “German Links” on the German Department Website:

<http://www.german.duke.edu>) Your instructors can point you to the right sources for your level. Anything extra you do is likely to improve your German, not to mention your grade.

Useful Internet Addresses:

www.dict.cc (online dictionary)

<http://www.nthuleen.com/teach/grammar.html> (grammar explanations and worksheets with solutions)

www.dw-world.de (German news, radio, and TV online)

www.tagesschau.de (German news with TV clips)

www.campus-germany.de (If you plan to study in Germany)

www.spiegel.de (leading political magazine, with a link to the “Gutenberg-Projekt”, the largest online collection of German literature)

www.faz.de, www.zeit.de, www.sueddeutsche.de (Leading German newspapers)

Disabilities:

If you have, or suspect you may have, any learning disabilities, please do not hesitate to speak with your instructor about it so that we may better work with your learning styles. Federal law requires that your privacy in this matter be protected so do not worry about being singled out in front of others in the class. Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations to fully participate in course activities or meet course requirements must qualify for those services. Feel free to talk to your instructor about this matter; he/she will be happy to refer you to the Office of Disabilities or the Clinical Director of the Academic Resource Center, or you may contact them yourself.

Department-sponsored Tutoring:

The German Department offers supplemental tutoring for students who would like additional help. Our tutors for the Fall 2014 semester are Steffen Kaupp (Tu. 2:15-2:45 PM and by appointment / steffen.kaupp@duke.edu) and Sandra Niethardt (Mo. 3-4 PM and by appointment / sandra.niethardt@duke.edu).

If you have questions or concerns at any point during the semester, please contact your instructor. Should you feel there are issues you wish to discuss with someone else, please contact the Language Program Director Dr. Corinna Kahnke (corinna.kahnke@duke.edu). Plan on attending office hours at least once during the semester, even if it is just for an informal visit.

We hope that your study of German will be stimulating, productive and enjoyable and wish you a successful semester. We are looking forward to working with you.

Wochenplan (Weekly Schedule):

Woche	Montag	Dienstag	Mittwoch	Donnerstag
07.-08. Januar			Syllabus Einführung A	Einführung A
12.-15. Januar	Einführung A	Einführung A	Einführung A	Einführung B
19.-22. Januar	Martin Luther King Day - frei	Einführung B Arbeitsbuch A	Einführung B	Einführung B
26.-29. Januar	Wiederholung AB Arbeitsbuch B	TEST A&B	Kapitel 1	Kapitel 1
02.-05. Februar	Kapitel 1 PORTFOLIO 1	Kapitel 1	Kapitel 1	Kapitel 1
09.-12. Februar	Kapitel 1	Wiederholung Arbeitsbuch K1	TEST K 1	Kapitel 2
16.-19. Februar	Kapitel 2	Kapitel 2	Kapitel 2	Kapitel 2 PORTFOLIO 2
23.-26. Februar	Kapitel 2	Wiederholung Arbeitsbuch K2	TEST K 2	Kapitel 3
02.-06. März	Kapitel 3	Kapitel 3	Kapitel 3	Kapitel 3
09.-12. März	**Frühlingsferien**			
16.-19. März	Kapitel 3	Kapitel 3	Wiederholung Arbeitsbuch K3	TEST K 3
23.-27. März	Kapitel 4	Kapitel 4	Kapitel 4	Kapitel 4
30. März-02. April	Kapitel 4 PORTFOLIO 3	Kapitel 4	Kapitel 4	Wiederholung Arbeitsbuch K4
06.-09. April	TEST K 4	Kapitel 5	Kapitel 5	Kapitel 5
13.-16. April	Kapitel 5	Kapitel 5	Kapitel 5	Kapitel 5
20.-22. April	Wiederholung Arbeitsbuch K5	Mündliche Prüfung (Oral Exam)	Wiederholung (LDOC)	
27. April - 02. Mai Examenswoche				

Einführung=introduction; **Wiederholung**=review; **Arbeitsbuch**=workbook

Final Exam Schedule:

Section 01 (Scott): Wednesday, April 29, 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Section 02 (Freytag-11:45 class): Tuesday, April 28, 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Section 03 (Freytag-1:25 class): Saturday, May 02, 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

The Instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus during the semester.

Acceptance of Syllabus

Please sign and return this page in the first week of class.

I have received a copy of the syllabus for German 101, and have read and understood it. All of the course provisions and requirements as described in the syllabus are clear to me.

In particular, I have understood and agree to:

- the course content and goals
- the Honor Code provisions, including consequences for violations
- the late assignment and short-term illness notification policies
- the class schedule and the provisions for evaluation and assessment, including the class participation grade

(Print Name)

(Sign Name)