

**AH-GERM102 Elementary Level:
German Language and Culture
Fall 2019**



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Classroom no: E.7
Class times: Wednesday 8:45-13:00
Instructor: Silke Vogelsang, MA
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Office no. & location: E1.01
Office hours: Wedn. 14:00 h – 15:00 h

I. Track information

- a) Prerequisites for this course: language knowledge at A2 level
- b) This course serves as prerequisite for: AH-GERM203 Academic German
- c) Other courses which are relevant to this course – e.g. as part of a minor: AH-GERM203 Elementary German Language and Culture, AH-GERM302 Academic German Language and Culture

For further information about the track, please see the track document available on the UCR intranet.

II. Course description

This course helps you develop skills and strategies to handle oral and written communication tasks in various fields of interest. The course deals with increasingly complicated issues covering a number of topics, for instance history, politics, art, literature, communication and science and will allow you to express how you position yourself in these contexts, using the German language. You will be introduced to German culture through a variety of lenses, such as German cinematography and will be challenged to also think about intercultural themes while becoming a confident speaker of German.

The aim of this course is participation in the cultural and academic life in the German language. Grammatically, this course concentrates on advanced structures like the use of indirect speech. This will enable students to take an active part in all sorts of discussions, debates and writings about any subject of cultural and academic interest as well as analyze the language used in texts, lectures and discussions to portray specific stylistic, social and cultural aspects. The students' language skills ought to reach a B1 CEF level, sufficient for participation in all kinds of everyday and academic discussions.

III. Study Load

This course earns students four credits (equivalent to 7.5 ECTS). The class meets once a week for three to four hours, with additional assignments to be worked on an additional hour in case of three hour class. Preparation time for each class is approximately 10 hours per week.

IV. Course materials

- a) Required books and literature: Textbook and additional materials
Sicher! B1+ . Deutsch als Fremdsprache. Kursbuch. München: Hueber Verlag (2012).
ISBN 978-3-19-001206-0
Sicher! B1+ . Deutsch als Fremdsprache. Arbeitsbuch mit Audio-CD. München: Hueber Verlag (2012)
- b) Recommended books and literature: Reference grammar
Übungsgrammatik Deutsch als Fremdsprache – publisher: Hueber
(ISBN 978-3-19-001657-0)
- c) Other materials: Students are responsible for acquiring all assigned reading individually. Most of the course's assigned articles are available through Utrecht University. The remaining book chapters and articles are available through the Zeeuwse Bibliotheek, other libraries or online (e.g. Google Books, Projekt Gutenberg).

V. Course organization and requirements

- a) General format of class meetings
- ✓ Language classes are interactive. Students must show up in more than a physical sense. They will need to be prepared and actively engaged in the classroom-dynamics, positively contributing to a learning-experience that allows everyone to reach their fullest potential in this course. This means a respectful and safe classroom environment where everyone feels comfortable to practice their language skills and dares to make inevitable mistakes, feeling the support of the others, a place where we cheer each other on. It means actively preparing for class in order to learn and grow together, such as through engaging in conversations, solving problems and explaining concepts to fellow students. Making 'mistakes' or stumbling is part of the ultimate (language) learning experience, but no matter what your language level, everyone can engage and will be expected to do so to help create a dynamic, safe and fun learning experience.

- ✓ Homework reminders will be send after each session outlining what to prepare for the next class.
- ✓ All four skills (speaking, writing, listening and reading) are practiced, supported by the necessary grammar and vocabulary.
- ✓ Every week, units of the book are studied. Students are expected to study and prepare relevant parts of the appropriate unit as indicated by the instructor. Only part of each unit will be dealt with in class, other parts are to be worked on as homework.
- ✓ If and when students feel they lack certain knowledge or skills prerequisite for the more advanced structures of this course, they are expected to proactively address potential gaps they may have and indicate help they may need in this.
- ✓ Every week the instructor provides office hours (see top of this document) to help students with questions and/or concerns. Once every semester the instructor will invite each student for a short personal conversation to discuss their progress. This one-time meeting is mandatory.

b) General expectations

- ✓ No phones or laptop computers can be used during class time other than for didactic purposes and when indicated by the instructor.
- ✓ Students need to bring their textbooks to class every time.
- ✓ Students are expected to prepare for each session, be it through reading, preparing exercises or preparing for an in-class activity

c) Rules for missing classes and missing deadlines

- ✓ Students must attend at least 80% of all classes to obtain credit. Valid reasons must be given in advance by e-mail for any absence, including a cc to the personal tutor.
- ✓ If students miss a test due to health reasons, they will be obliged to take that test on the last Friday of classes of the semester.
- ✓ If a student misses a presentation due to health reasons, they are required to, and be prepared to, give their presentation in the very next class when back. They must however hand in their notes for the presentation on the day of their absence via email in addition to the powerpoint presentation they already had to hand in before.
- ✓ All work that is handed-in late (both Moodle submission & hardcopy) will be docked by one letter grade per day. No work will be accepted more than one week after the deadline.
- ✓ Students can only pass the course if their portfolio includes all items outlined below. The portfolio must be handed in hardcopy including the originally marked work, as well as potentially corrected versions of writing assignments as discussed in class.

d) Procedures for communication and use of Moodle

- ✓ The course's virtual classroom will contain the links and documents used in class as well as to prepare the following classes. Students are required to check the homework-assignments outlined in 'announcements' after each class to prepare for the next class.
- ✓ Students will use Moodle to share the visual aids of their presentations.
- ✓ In addition to a hardcopy-version, students will use Moodle to hand in the digital version of their assignments.
- ✓ Plagiarism is strictly forbidden, breaks the honour code (see Student Handbook) and can result in severe punishment. Plagiarism is copying the work of another student or using a text from another source word for word. Students are required to use official APA-style citations and referencing in line with official academic guidelines, such as outlined in for example

Hacker, D. & Sommers, N. (2016). A Writer's Reference (2016). Eighth edition. Bedford/St.Martin's.

It is acceptable for students to ask for help from others but every assignment should always be their own work! Students should be able to demonstrate that the achieved level of a handed in assignment represents their own level of skills and knowledge.

This course is subject to UCR academic rules and procedures. Both students and instructors are required to know and follow these rules and procedures.

VI. Assessment

a) Distribution of marks

Writing assignment I	15%
Writing assignment II	15%
corrected versions of writing assignments:	+ (assignment grade)
Participation	10%
Presenting I	15%
Presenting II	15%
1 st test (selected topics)	15%
2 nd test (selected topics)	15%
At least 6 vocabulary sheets: required	
Portfolio with [self-corrected!] homework assignments: required	

b) Deadlines

All individual assignments are due **by 4pm** on the determined due-dates. These are outlined both in the course handbook as well as in Moodle.

By this deadline, you must:

- 1) Upload one electronic copy to the relevant assignment-drop box on Moodle.**
- 2) Submit one hard copy to the teacher's office or teacher's pigeonhole.**

The work must be typed in Arial font size 12 with 1.5 lines spacing and securely contained in a plastic folder. The assignment must clearly state at the top the student's name, the course name, the word count and the date so that each hard copy is clearly identifiable.

b) Assessment criteria

- ✓ Writing assignments (of approximately 400-600 words on an assigned topic; no more than 10 % deviation on word count allowed) on a relevant subject-related topic will be assessed on grammar, vocabulary, content and style. The instructor will take into account if and how a student has successfully integrated new structures learned in the course as well as imperative more basic structures previously acquired and necessary for a course on this level. Students are required to take initiative to work on any gaps they encounter in their previous knowledge as well as to ask help when they need guidance in this or when perhaps in need of a recap of certain structures.
- ✓ Presentations will be assessed on linguistic aspects as well as on content and delivery. Again, successful integration of new structures learned in the course as well as imperative more basic structures will be taken into account.
- ✓ Tests will take place around mid-term and at the end of the semester. The tests assess various skills (listening, reading, grammar and structure) relevant to the target language level and will focus on the newly learned structures and advancing skills.
- ✓ Participation will be marked according to the criteria mentioned below (Rubric for Class Participation Grade).
- ✓ New vocabulary must be acquired throughout the course. Students create their own individual vocabulary lists. These lists will consist of newly acquired words with an example sentence incorporating the word in German, as well as an English translation of the word. The list must be complete, using the document provided on Moodle, and correct in order to be accepted as a completed assignment.

Rubric for Class Participation Grade

A) Always engaged in class. A person who receives an A as a participation grade turns in assignments on time and shows initiative. People in this category voluntarily contribute to class discussions and those contributions are always positive and valuable. They are respectful of others' opinions.

B) Engaged in class. A person who receives a B as a participation grade turns in assignments on time and although not as active as people who receive an A, they are still a positive element in the class. They show potential and are respectful of others' opinions.

C) Generally engaged. A person who receives a C as a participation grade normally turns in assignments on time, though they might cite technical problems. They are not leaders but are faithful soldiers. A person who receives this grade might be the kind of person who turns in assignments on time and is present in class, but their active involvement is sometimes limited.

D) Not engaged very much. A student who will answer questions but never volunteers.

F) Generally not engaged

	WEEK	TOPIC	ASSESSMENT
1	AUG 28	Introduction & Thema	
2	SEP 4	Thema	
3	SEP 11	Thema	REFERAT 1
4	SEP 18	Thema	
5	SEP 25	YESC: Energiewende Deutschland	AUFSATZ 1
6	OCT 2	Q&A/ Revision & Thema: 30 Jahre Mauerfall	
7	OCT 9	DDR/Das Leben der Anderen	MIDTERM-TEST (selected topics)
MIDTERM BREAK			
8	OCT 23	Thema: Utopie (Referat/Aufsatz 2)	
9	OCT 30	Thema	
10	NOV 6	Thema	
11	NOV 13	Thema	REFERAT 2
12	NOV 20	Thema	AUFSATZ 2
13	NOV 27	Q & A/ Revision & Thema	
14	DEC 4	Thema: Weihnacht & Co.	FINAL-EXAM (selected topics)
15	DEC 11	Test results, feedback, evaluation, cake & games:)	
> Hand-in vocab-sheets & revised essays by 4pm!			

VIII. Student learning outcomes

Period	Teaching activities	Student Learning Outcomes
Period 1 (Weeks 1-3)	Activity 1: exercises improving syntax and vocabulary Activity 2: exercises aimed at formal use of the German language and register	SLO 1 Students are aware of their grammar and vocabulary problems SLO 2 Students are able to write an essay about a topic related to their own academic interests.
Period 2 (Weeks 4-7)	Activity 3 exercises working on general grammar knowledge (word formation and subordinate clauses) Activity 4 introduction to German history Activity 5 reading of literary books for topic-related reading	SLO 3 The student is able to master more complex linguistic patterns. SLO 4 The student is able to explain his own ideas about beauty in relation to other points of view. SLO 5 The student is able to discuss relevant literature based on historical and cultural knowledge.
Period 3 (Weeks 8-11)	Activity 6 improvement of linguistic knowledge and pronunciation skills Activity 7 discussion about historical, political and cultural issues	SLO 6 The student can use their knowledge of the German language to discuss ideas about the history of literature in the 20 th century and the development of post-war Europe. SLO 7 The student can critically evaluate literary texts as well as articles about history and literature.
Period 4 (Weeks 12-15)	Activity 8 conventions in formal language and writing of short essays. Activity 9 work on pronunciation, appropriate diction and conversational skills Activity 9 discussion of books and films	SLO8 The student can use formal language and write short essays about literature and films. SLO9 The student can spontaneously discuss topics related to their academic interests or to their lives. SLO10 the students can express their thoughts regarding historical and cultural backgrounds in literary works.

