German Beginner A2

Instructor: Ulrike Harnisch
Times:  Monday, 13:30-15:00
        Tuesday, 17:00-18:30
        Friday, 9:00-10:30
Location: P98a.U.04 (Office of Dirk Deichfuß)
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Course Description
This course is designed to start you on the road to communicative competence in German. By “communicative,” we mean that you will learn 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. Our goal is not simply a list of rules and words, but real communication between speakers.

To achieve these goals, you have to engage in as many communicative exchanges as possible.

The course will give you ample opportunity to do so: in small groups 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.

- Most 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 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.
The learning goals of this beginner’s class A 2 are in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment (abbreviated as CEFR). CEFR is a guideline used to describe achievements of learners of foreign languages across Europe. It describes what a learner is supposed to be able to do in reading, listening, speaking and writing at each level. Our class fulfills the requirements of the “A2 Waystage or elementary” level. What this means is that once you have completed the class successfully you are able to

- understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment).
- communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters.
- describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.

**Attendance**

Since interaction is critical for language learning, we take class attendance very seriously. You will be allowed no more than three unexcused absences during the semester. (An absence counts as excused only if you can provide a doctor’s note or a note from the Dean of Bard College Berlin, Prof. Catherine Toal.)

***Any additional unexcused absence will result in automatic failure of the course.***

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.

**Course Materials**


- Delfin *Lehrbuch*
- Delfin *Arbeitsbuch-Lösungen*
- Delfin *Glossar Deutsch-Englisch*

**Note:** You only own the Delfin *Arbeitsbuch*. The other three books (Lehrbuch, Arbeitsbuch-Lösungen, and the Glossar Deutsch-Englisch belong to the Bard College Berlin library and need to be returned at the end of the semester. Try to avoid writing in these loaned books. If you have to, however, make sure to use a pencil and erase your notes prior to returning the books).
Recommendation

I strongly encourage you to make use of the language learning materials on the Bard Center for Foreign Languages and Culture website at cflc.bard.edu/germanlanguage.

If you are in for a challenge, you can tune in on Deutsche Welle radio or TV at http://www.dw-world.de/ and Info Radio at http://www.inforadio.de/livestream/inforadio_hoeren.html.

Learning and Testing

About every two weeks, you will take a test of the "Lektion" 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 the CD's in the back of your Delfin Lehrbuch
- study the "Wortschatz" for each "Lektion" that you find in your "Glossar" and the Delfin Arbeitsbuch
- go to the Delfine textbook homepage and do the exercises that accompany each "Lektion." www.hueber.de/shared/uebungen/delfin/lerner/uebungen/index.php

Grading

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

- Class Participation 25%
- Homework, Quizzes (announced or unannounced) 25%
- Chapter Tests 25%
- Final Exam 25%

Schedule of Classes

Each "Lektion" of Delfin will always be accompanied by additional exercises. "Lektionen" tests will take place about every two weeks.

Week 1 (Sept. 02 – Sept. 08)  Delfin Lektion 8
Week 2 (Sept. 09 – Sept. 15)  Delfin Lektion 8
Week 3 (Sept. 16 – Sept. 22)  Delfin Lektion 9
Week 4 (Sept. 23 – Sept. 29)  Delfin Lektion 9
Week 5 (Sept. 30– Oct. 06)  Delfin Lektion 10
Oct. 03 Federal Holiday

Autumn Break
Week 6 (Oct. 14 – Oct. 20)  Delfin Lektion 10
Week 7 (Oct. 21 – Oct. 27)  Delfin Lektion 11
Week 8 (Oct. 28 – Nov. 03)  Delfin Lektion 11
Week 9 (Nov. 04 – Nov. 10)  Delfin Lektion 12
Week 10 (Nov. 11– Nov. 17)  Delfin Lektion 12
Week 11 (Nov. 18 – Nov. 24)  Delfin Lektion 13
Week 12 (Nov. 25 – Dec. 01)  Delfin Lektion 13
Week 13 (Dec. 02 – Dec. 08)  Repetition
Week 14 (Dec. 09 – Dec. 15)  Model Test A2
Week 15 (Dec. 16- Dec. 22)  to be announced

Dec, Date Exam: probably Dec. 17 2013  Final Exam/A2 Test