German B1

Instructor: Ulrike Wagner
Times: Monday: 15:15 – 16:45
       Tuesday: 15:15 – 16:45
       Friday: 10:45 – 12:15
Email: u.wagner@berlin.bard.edu
Location: P98 Seminar Room 2

Course Materials


Strongly Recommended:


   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 language learning materials on the Bard Center
   for Foreign Languages and Culture website at cflc.bard.edu/germanlanguage

   You should also 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

Course Description

This course is designed to bring your communicative competence in German to an advanced level. By
“communicative,” we mean that you will learn to refine expressing your own ideas orally and in
writing, and to develop advanced 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.

   • 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 B1 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.

**Course Requirements**

**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.

**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. The only acceptable means of rescheduling a test are: (a) prior arrangements with me in the case of religious holidays, 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 Begegnungen
- study the “Wortschatz” for each “Kapitel”
- go to the Schubert-Verlag textbook homepage for online exercises at: http://www.schubert-verlag.de/auflagen/

**Grading**

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

**Schedule**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Material</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 (Jan 27 - Feb 2)</td>
<td>Kapitel 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2 (Feb 3 - 9)</td>
<td>Kapitel 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3 (Feb 10 - 16)</td>
<td>Kapitel 2&lt;br&gt; *Jacob und Wilhelm Grimm, „Die Bremer Stadtmusikanten“</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4 (Feb 17 - 23)</td>
<td>Kapitel 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5 (Feb 24 - Mar 2)</td>
<td>Kapitel 3</td>
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<td>*Jacob und Wilhelm Grimm, „Der Froschkönig“</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6 (Mar 3 - 9)</td>
<td>Kapitel 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7 (Mar 10 - 16)</td>
<td>Kapitel 4</td>
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<td>*Jacob und Wilhelm Grimm, „Die sieben Raben“</td>
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<td>Week 8 (Mar 24 - 30)</td>
<td>Kapitel 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9 (Mar 31 - Apr 6)</td>
<td>Kapitel 5</td>
</tr>
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<td>*Jacob und Wilhelm Grimm, „Hans im Glück“</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10 (Apr 7 - 13)</td>
<td>Kapitel 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11 (April 14 - 20)</td>
<td>Kapitel 6</td>
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<td>*Jacob und Wilhelm Grimm, „Dornröschen“</td>
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<td>Week 12 (Apr 21 - 27)</td>
<td>Kapitel 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13 (Apr 28 - May 4)</td>
<td>Kapitel 7</td>
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<td>*Jacob und Wilhelm Grimm, „Schneewittchen“</td>
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Week 14 (May 5 - 11)  
Week 15 (May 12 - 18)  
May 20  

Kapitel 7  
Review  

10:30 – 12:00 Final Exam (all groups)