GERMAN A2

Instructor: Dr. Ulrike Wagner
Course Times: Monday: 13:30 – 15:00
              Thursday: 09:00 – 10:30
              Friday: 10:45 – 12:15
Room: Platanenstr. 98, Seminar Room 2
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Office hours by appointment

Course Description and Goals
This course is designed to bring your communicative competence in German to an advanced beginners’ 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.

- All 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.

You will have to compose two versions of each of the longer written assignments. Based on your instructor’s feedback on version one, you’ll have to correct your essay and thereby improve your first grade by half a grade. Example: if your first essay version received a B+ your
corrected second version will receive an A-. The second grade will count toward your final
grade.

The learning goals for this class 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 Way Stage or Elementary” level. What this means is that once you
have completed the class successfully you

- Can 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).
- Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of
information on familiar and routine matters.
- Can describe in simple terms aspects of your 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 absences during the semester.

Course Materials
A2+ Begegnungen. Integriertes Kurs- und Arbeitsbuch. Deutsch als Fremdsprache. Eds. Anne Buscha,

Strongly Recommended
ISBN: 0-934034-31-1
or:
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

You might also want to consider getting hooked on “Deutsch lernen Extr@ auf Deutsch” on youtube:
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=extra%40+auf+deutsch
extr@ is a language education television series scripted in the format of a Friends-esque sitcom which
was in production from 2002 to 2004 – check it out!
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/aufgaben/

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

- Class Participation 25%
- Homework, Essays, 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.

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 (Sep 1 - 7) Kapitel 1
Week 2 (Sep 08 - 14) Kapitel 1
Week 3 (Sep 15 - 21) Kapitel 2
Week 4 (Sep 22 - 28) Kapitel 2
Week 5 (Sep 29 - Oct 5) Kapitel 3
Week 6 (Oct 6 - 12) Kapitel 3
Week 7 (Oct 13 - 19) Kapitel 4

**Fall Break**

Week 8 (Oct 27 - Nov 2) Kapitel 4
Week 9 (Nov 3 - 9) Kapitel 5
Week 10 (Nov 10 - 16) Kapitel 5
Week 11 (Nov 17 - 23) Kapitel 6
Week 12 (Nov 24 - 30) Kapitel 6
Week 13 (Dec 1 - 7) Kapitel 7
Week 14 (Dec 8 - 14) Review

*December 16* 10:30-12:00 Final Exam (all groups)