German B1

Instructor: Silke Hilgers
Times:  Monday, 13:30-15:00
       Thursday, 9:00-10:30
       Friday, 10:45-12:15
Location: P98a Seminar Room 4
Email: s.hilgers@berlin.bard.edu

Course Description

This course is designed to develop your communicative competence in German. By “communicative,” we mean 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.

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 the group 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.

- The 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 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 "B1 Threshold or Intermediate" level. What this means is that once you have completed the class successfully you are able to:

- understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc.
- deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken;
- produce simple connected texts on topics that are familiar or of personal interest;
- describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes & ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

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.

Please be punctual and considerate. Switch off your mobile phone before each class, and keep bathroom breaks to a minimum. Interruptions are impolite, and bad for everybody's concentration.

Course Materials


Autoren: Anne Buscha, Szilvia Szita

Schubert-Verlag, Leipzig, 2. Auflage 2013

Note:

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

Every two to three weeks, you will take a test of the chapter 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 Lehrbuch
- study the “Wortschatz” for each chapter that you find in your Lehrbuch (“Rückblick”)

**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 chapter of the Lehrbuch will always be accompanied by exercises. Chapter tests will take place about every three weeks)

Week 1 (Sep 01 – 07) Kapitel 1
Week 2 (Sep 08 – 14) Kapitel 1
Week 3 (Sep 15 – 21) Kapitel 1
Week 4 (Sep 22 - 28) Kapitel 2
Week 5 (Sep 29 - Oct 5) Kapitel 2
Week 6 (Oct 6 - 12) Kapitel 2
Week 7 (Oct 13 - 19) Kapitel 3
Fall Break
Week 8 (Oct 27 - Nov 2) Kapitel 3
Week 9 (Nov 3 - 9) Kapitel 3
Week 10 (Nov 10 - 16)  Kapitel 4
Week 11 (Nov 17 - 23)  Kapitel 4
Week 12 (Nov 24 - 30)  Kapitel 4
Week 13 (Dec 1 - 7)  Kapitel 5
Week 14 (Dec 8 - 14)  Kapitel 5
Week 15 (Dec 15 - 19)  Completion Week

Date Exam: Dec 16: 10:30-12:00 Final Exam/B1 Test